

WEDNESDAY

MAKE THE MOST OF IT

LISTEN TO IT

Dave Matthews Band

Who knows why some bands — think Grateful Dead — develop cultlike followings? Ponder the question tonight, when the Dave Matthews Band, noted for its devoted fans, brings its summer tour to the Valley. 7 p.m., Cricket Pavilion,

Join ranger Mark Lansing tonight for a 2-mile wellness hike. The pace will be easy to moderate. You'll be in the shade of the mountains, but it'll be warm, so bring water. 6-7 p.m. Waddell Trail, White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Waddell. \$5 per vehicle park entry fee. www.maricopa.gov/parks or (623) 935-6056.

— Compiled by John Stanley

SUDOKU

Puzzle on Page E2

We know you love to do the Sudoku puzzle every day, but have a difficult time because of its size. Beginning today, you'll find the Sudoku on Page 2 in a larger size. Look for it there Monday through Saturday in Arizona Living.

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Sealed with a kiss

Hilda and Carl Stidsen (right) are together for the long haul: They celebrated their 41st anniversary this year. **Love Story, E3**



Life lessons fr

Oprah Winfrey of leadership school poor South Africa **People, E6**

ARIZONA LIVING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2006

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

LIVING.AZCENTRAL

Knit 1, hurl 2: Stitching at the ballpark

By Scott Craven
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

If any sport lends itself to a leisure activity known to involve rocking chairs, it is baseball.

The game's deliberate pace has always been perfect for those who like to relax, chat and flag down the beer guy. Now knitters are getting in on the (lack of) action, gathering their yarn for Stitch 'N' Pitch, an event weaving together baseball and the fiber arts.

Knitters (and those who crochet, do needlepoint or work with fiber in artful ways) are invited to the Arizona Diamondbacks' Sept. 9 game against the St. Louis Cardinals. There, they will be part of one major-league knitting circle, as more than a thousand yarn enthusiasts are expected to attend.

Jonelle Raffino will be there in a purple knitted baseball cap (yes, anything is possible, with yarn, needles and talent). Raffino, president of the Southwest Trading Co., a yarn supplier helping to organize the event, said the Stitch 'N' Pitch is another sign that knitting isn't just for grandmothers.

Knitting has become far more social, Raffino said. Participants love to swap stories as much as projects, conversing as they count stitches. That dynamic is drawing fresh blood into the hobby, Raffino said.

In fact, she said, the fiber community (her words) has changed greatly over the past few years, attracting younger knitters who create hip and funky designs.

That's right. "Hip" and "knitting" now go together as the hobby heads into new areas.

Baseball games, for example. This allows for a much-needed public display of knitting, which can unravel stitching stereotypes.

"We want to show knitting can be fun and it can be out there," Raffino said. "Young and old can have a great time."

Stitch 'N' Pitch

What: Those who knit, crochet, do needlepoint or are otherwise involved in fiber-based art are invited to gather at an Arizona Diamondbacks-St. Louis Cardinals game.

When: 6:40 p.m. Sept. 9.

Where: Chase Field, 401 E. Jefferson St., Phoenix.

Tickets: \$15, includes admission to the game and a tote bag with needle-arts accessories. Participants will be seated in sections 318-322.

Details: (602) 514-8400, diamondbacks.com/ticketspecials.



Arizona is one of 12 teams hosting a Stitch 'N' Pitch, and the inaugural event in Seattle earlier this year drew about 15,000 participants, said Diamondbacks spokeswoman Catherine Herman.

The team will temporarily suspend the rule against bringing long pointy objects to the game, though all knitting bags will be inspected, Herman said.

Participants may assemble in the Upper Left Field Beer Garden, where knitting veterans will demonstrate various techniques and assist as needed. Vendors also will be selling knitting accessories.

Be warned, however, that knitting and drinking don't mix (very well).

"You don't count so well when you're drinking," Raffino said. "It can definitely show in your work."

Tickets are \$15. That includes admission to the game, a tote bag with three balls of yarn, two knitting magazines and various coupons. Retail value of the supplies is about \$70.



LifeLines is the o Valley mothers

'Pearls: Mott Unstrung'

When: Sept. 8 th 7:30 p.m. Thurs Saturdays; 10 a.m. days; 2 p.m. mat

Where: Stable A 7610 E. McDona Scottsdale.

Cost: \$25 for eve ances, \$20 for m counts available seniors and stud

Tickets: raisinga click on the Pearl

Details: www.m write.com/pearl (602) 620-0044

'LifeLines' re and signing

When: 7 p.m. Sep **Where:** Changin store, 6428 S. M Tempe.

Cost: Free. The b **Details:** lifelinesv