

Punchy's brings the pizza on wheels

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well, to salads and pasta, more than just pizza.”

For now, the success of Punchy's has been based on its unique brick-oven pizzas and ability to roam around Albuquerque and Rio Rancho.

Since Punchy's tours local breweries, Marchi said he likes to take whatever IPA (India Pale Ale) that brewery makes and infuse it in the dough to offer an even more one-of-a-kind pizza experience for whatever location the food truck is visiting.

“Another authentic thing I like to do is toss the dough for each pizza,” he said. “Each spin makes it rounder and gives the dough a better consistency.”

Marchi said he only burns oak in his unique oven, which customers can witness as he stands in front of the flame holding a homemade peel, a long handle with a flat stainless-steel



STEPHEN MONTOYA/ RIO RANCHO OBSERVER

Punchy's Pizza co-owner Aaron Marchi tosses pizza dough in the back of the food truck.

plate attached.

“I have been doing this as kind of a retirement thing, but it's caught on well and I am excited

to see what we can do in the future,” he said.

For more information, go go punchys.biz.

SBIR officials in town to explain their grants

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companies need to secure SBIR contracts.”

Participants can also learn about local resources to assist them in applying for federal grants. That includes the FAST program at NMSU, which has received \$125,000 annually since 2015 from the SBA to help businesses across the state. NMSU has provided assistance to some 120 companies to date to develop, write and submit proposals, Catron said.

The state's Economic Development Department also offers matching grants for companies that win SBIR or STTR awards, providing \$25,000 for businesses that achieve a

federal phase I grant and up to \$100,000 for phase II recipients. To date, the state has pumped \$825,000 into 15 startups to further leverage the money those companies received from the federal agencies, said EDD spokesman Bruce Krasnow.

Conference participation costs \$45. Individuals can pre-register at <http://bit.ly/SBIR-ABQRoadTour>, or just show up at the event, which runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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