This Week’s Top Dining News

A truck theft at Haydel’s, Coming attractions & more

by Gwendolyn Knopp | Jan 20, 2017, 10:30am CST

METAIRIE— Some crazy person stole a truck belonging to Haydel’s and now the bakery is asking for help recovering the vehicle with promises of one free king cake/week for a year, Ann Maloney reports. Yes, this is for real. [NOLA.com]

LAKEVIEW— The family behind Jester Daiquiris and Magazine Street pizza spot Amici are taking over the recently shuttered Tony Angello’s with a new concept (yet to be named), according to Ian McNulty, as well as opening a new Creole-Italian spot in the Quarter called Creole Carre. [Advocate]

FRERET— Village Coffee & Tea Co., former java hub at the corner of Freret and Jefferson, is going to be a Starbucks. Two more chain concepts, Halal Guys and Blaze Pizza, are also headed to the street. [NOLA.com]

MID CITY— Healthy and fast grab-and-go option Sweg’s Kitchen is now open daily (7 a.m. to 9 p.m.) at 231 N. Carrollton, Helen Freund reports. The restaurant—which features wraps, gluten free pizzas, a juice bar and the like—has locations in Metairie and Mandeville. [Gambit]

NOLA— Early bird tickets are now available for what’s certain to be New Orleans’ hottest new festival of 2017, Top Taco (March 23 at the Riverwalk). Discounted prices until February 14 are as follows: $50 general admission tix, $75 First Tasting tix with early entry, and $110 for VIP tix which include fun times on the Paddlewheel Creole Queen. Purchase tickets here. [NOLA.com]

UPTOWN— City planners have approved rezoning plans for a soul food spot C&L Restaurant at 8638 Hickory Street with plans for “red beans and rice, fried chicken, pork chops, ribs, gumbo, fish platters, wings and po-boys.” [UptownMessenger]

NOLA— Boiled crawfish are hovering at $5.59/lb very early on this season, per Todd Price: “That price is close to what we paid at the start of 2016. And it’s about 30 cents less than the cost of crawfish around this time in 2015.” [NOLA.com]