Spanish Rhythms Move Tucson

By Fernanda Echávarri

In the middle of downtown Tucson, Melani “Melé” Martinez is bringing the defiant and emotional dance of flamenco to the small Spanish community in town.

“Tucsonans are becoming interested in learning about this traditional and empowering dance,” Martinez says.

“This town is very connected with its Mexican heritage, and as a Mexican-American myself I see the similarities in the Mexican and Spanish cultures,” she says. “At first, because of my background, the connection between these two cultures was one of the things that attracted me to flamenco.”

Flamenco del Pueblo Viejo, the dance company started by Martinez and her husband Jason, offers classes at Casa Vicente, a Spanish restaurant on Stone Avenue.

“Flamenco is the most challenging dance where you not only use your feet, arms, hips and shoulders, but you learn to use the feeling of the song, get lost in the rhythm and let it take you away from it all,” says Danielle Mouw, a 19-year-old student at the University of Arizona, who is taking Martinez’s class. “Nothing can compare to this.”

Vicente Sanchez, president of Club España of Tucson and owner of Casa Vicente, teamed up with the Martinezes to turn the small rooms behind his restaurant into a colorful dance studio. Mirrors on the bright red and yellow walls surround dancers as they stretch to get ready for class.

“I really want to make this a place where anyone can join and the Spanish community can grow,” Sanchez says.

Flamenco dance forms began in the 1500s by the gypsies of Andalucia, Spain who were oppressed, had no money or jobs and had only their families to count on, Martinez said. Flamenco was a way to express themselves and tell their stories through movement, lyrics and music.

This combination has been passed down over generations as an important element of Spanish tradition and is also being explored by cultures all over the world.

“This is the dance of the people,” Martinez says. “You don’t need a specific place or expensive props. You can just dance on the streets.”

When Martinez started dancing as a young girl, she took jazz, ballet and folklorico classes, but it wasn’t until she was 15 that she first danced flamenco. Now, seven years after receiving a bachelor’s degree in creative arts from the University of Arizona, she teaches flamenco to children, teens and adults at Casa Vicente.

Since the beginning of the year, she has also been teaching flamenco to first-grade students at White Elementary School.

“It is amazing to see how much these kids, who come from all different backgrounds, have learned in the past few weeks,” Martinez says. “They came into this not knowing anything about flamenco and almost nothing about Spanish culture, but now they are more curious about the Spanish community.”

Though many people may think of flamenco dancers as tall, thin women wearing the traditional red and gold dress, Martinez has built a business caring for places to eat and shop and that will be a good boost for South Tucson, Eckstrom said.

The development will also introduce the University of Arizona to the south side, with the help of the proposed 65-acre Arizona Bioscience Park.

“That’s positive as well,” Eckstrom said. “Maybe when some of the younger kids have the opportunity to step foot on campus, it will encourage them to check out the university.”

The Bridges site is near the Pueblo Gardens, South Park, Western Hills II and Las Vistas neighborhoods, across from the Quinncie Douglas Center.

Tucson City Council approved the development agreement Feb.
La Promesa de Educación: ASU Da Ayuda Financial
Por Meghan Martin
Traducido por Derrick Del Pilar

La Promesa de los Sun Devils es un compromiso de Arizona State University (ASU)—ayudará a cualquier estudiante sin respecto a su origen cultural, socioeconómico.

Para los que califican, ASU garantiza cubrir los gastos de enseñanza, libros, alquiler y comida. Los fondos recaudados no se necesitaron devolver.

Todos los estudiantes que se gradúan de la secundaria en el estado de Arizona son candidatos para esta ayuda. Los interesados deben pedir ingreso a ASU y cumplir la Free Application for Federal Student Aid (Solicitud Gratis para Ayuda Estudiantil Federal - FAFSA). Los estudiantes que califican para ayuda federal recibirán fondos de ASU Advantage (Ventaja ASU).

"Básicamente, no queremos que el costo sea una barrera para la continuación de la educación," dijo Anita Tarango, directora de relaciones comunitarias de ASU.

La Ventaja ASU se introdujo en el 2005. El programa de apoyo mo- netary ayudó a familias cuyo ingreso anual total era de $18,850 o menos. Este año marca el primero en que la Promesa de los Sun Devils extenderá su ayuda a familias con un ingreso total de $25 mil o menos.

"Pudimos ayudar a 100 estudiantes con el límite de ingresos anterior," dijo Tarango. "Con el aumento del nivel máximo de ingreso a $25 mil para el otólogo de 2007, anticipamos que los números en total sean más grandes este año.

La aseosra de Pueblo Magnet High School, Kata Mapes, dijo que en el pasado muchos de sus estudiantes desanimaban a asistir a ASU porque aun si recibieran alguna ayuda, les sería imposible juntar más dinero para cubrir los costos de alquiler y comida.

"Muchos estudiantes beneficiarían, sin duda, si se cubrieran otros gas- tos," dijo Mapes.

ASU acogerá a todos los estudiantes que califican, dijo Tarango. La universidad no impone límites en el número de estudiantes que ayudará.

"Nuestra misión es ser accesible a toda la gente, todos los estudiantes de Arizona," dijo Tarango. "La Promesa de los Sun Devils es nuestra promesa a asegurar y preparar la educación de los estudiantes y los padres para el otoño de 2007, anticipamos que los números en total sean más grandes este año.

Alentado por el éxito de FAFSA, el programa prometía ayudar a cualquier estudiante que calificara. "No hay límites en ASU," dijo Tarango.


Tech District Gives Students More Choices
By Ellen Ranta
High school students in South Tucson will soon be able to enroll in classes such as hospitality management and auto repair due to the creation of a new school district in Pima County.

The Pima County Joint Technological Education District, JTED, will give students the option of taking technical and vocational courses for elective credit in an effort to improve job training and increase graduation rates, said Robert DeBerry, Sunnyside Unified School District representative to the JTED board.

The expansion was originally supposed to be com- pleted this summer, but it most likely won’t be done until the beginning of 2008.

This phase will include an 18-screen Harkins Theatre, Best Buy, JCPenney, Bed Bath and Beyond, Sports Authority, Old Navy and Shoe Pavilion.

The new construction, which is south of Airport Wash, will be connected to existing stores by three bridges, according to the site.

Gardner said more retail stores were added because the existing stores have done well in this location.

"The expansion was sparked by the success of the current tenants," he said.

The Barclay Group hopes to tap more into “one of Tucson’s leading new submarkets,” and take advantage of the “80,000 vehicles traveling past the site daily” on I-19, according to its Web site.

The company estimates that the project, including construction, will provide about 1,000 jobs.

Because JTED is so new, the district does not yet have its own campus, so students may have to travel to various high schools for classes.

A student from Tucson High, for example, will be able to take her math and history courses at Tucson High, but may have to travel to another school to take nursing classes.

"Things are still in the works, but the program will offer great opportunities for job training for students who may not be ready for college," DeBerry said.

"It will be a good alternative.

El Río Ofrece Clase Gratis por Diabetes
Por Uma Goyal
Traducido por Anders Peterson

El Río ofrece clases gratis para el público en la clínica central de El Río, clases sobre la diabetes. Las clases son gratuitas y abiertas para el público en la clínica en la clínica de El Río cuando tratamientos de la glucosa en la sangre, dietas saludables y medicación para la diabetes.

"Siempre decimos genes más ambiente causan diabetes, pero la persona puede terminar una serie de cuatro clases en un mes.

"Es difícil permitir que la enfermedad aparezca primero y luego trabajamos al revés," dijo Martínez. "Muchos de los pacientes que van a las clases también son a uno-a-unos (consejo) y son más capaces de con- trolar la diabetes porque son más informados y saben las consecuencias posibles."

Sesiones de consejos de uno-a-uno no están abier- tas para el público y son específicamente para los pacientes de El Río. Farmacéuticos y especialistas en dietética trabajan con los pacientes para fijar metas para la diabetes.

Actualmente el programa de El Río tiene dos far- macéuticos clínicos. El programa fue proyectado para aumentar el contacto de los pacientes con el farmacéutico, combinar tratamientos para enfermedades relacionadas y educar y normalizar tratamientos de la diabetes.

El programa también pone a los pacientes en con- tacto con un especialista en dietética para que los dia- beticos puedan recibir consejo nutricional sobre la medida de la glucosa en la sangre, dietas saludables y cuidado de pie.

Los pacientes son referidos al programa por su doc- tor de cuidado principal de El Río cuando tratamientos diabéticos usuales fallan. El programa es diseñado para ayudar a los pacientes de cómo controlar su diabetes y sus complicaciones tal como una falla de los riñones y ceguera.

Para más información: Dirección: 839 W. Congress St. Número telefónico: (520) 792-9890

Clases gratuitas sobre la diabetes: Clases en inglés los lunes a las 10 a.m. y clases en español los miércoles a la 1:30 p.m.

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**Restoration Plans Continue; Historical Church Rebuilds**

By Megan Brigode

Santa Cruz Church stands as a gateway into South Tucson and appears to be a cool respite from the hustle and bustle of South Fourth Avenue and East 22nd Street. Passers-by would never guess that the towering white building actually traps a lot of heat over the day. As stifling summer days approach, church officials are fundraising to buy an air conditioning unit as fast as they can.

“At any noon mass in the middle of summer, it is so hot,” said Oscar Patino, long-time parishioner and volunteer. “People have been known to pass out in the pews.”

Air conditioning has been on Santa Cruz’s wish list for years and almost came to fruition but engineers, who inspected the building, found cracks in the chapel’s trusses.

The Santa Cruz Roof Restoration Fund, which began in November 2006, will continue to raise money for a new roof at Santa Cruz Church, 1220 S. Sixth Ave. Just over six months ago church officials found that the roof of the main building would have to be restored before the air conditioning units could be installed because cracked trusses would collapse under major pressure.

“Originally we were raising money for the air conditioner units and while figuring out what we had to do to install them, we found out about the fractured trusses,” said Rev. Fernando Pinto, the church’s pastor. “Now it is a whole new thing. The roof cannot withstand the installment of the units without some repairs.”

The ceiling and truss operation will cost more than $500,000 and the estimated cost of the air conditioning and central heating unit is $70,000. Over a decade ago Santa Cruz began basic renovations to the church when it received recognition for being placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Pinto said.

Many parts of the church have been restored over the last decade. The problem with the broken trusses was that they were not identified until Tucson architect Rob Vint completed his study on Santa Cruz. Vint was commissioned by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tucson to aid in the renovations. After an 11-year study of the building and its history, Vint concluded that the broken trusses were a result of a dynamite blast in the early 1920s and heavy traffic rumbling through the area.

Santa Cruz is the largest standing building in Arizona built with unstabilized adobe (mud made from cactus juice). A similar technique was used at the San Xavier del Bac Mission but on a smaller scale.

“The building is of historical significance because it was literally one of the only churches to serve Southwest Arizona and is especially significant because of its design aspects,” Vint said.

Tucson’s second bishop, Father Granjon, was not an architect but he made the original designs for the church with influences from Spain and Africa, according to Vint. During a copper-miners strike in the early 1920s, a group from the Industrial Workers of the World Union blew up sticks of dynamite in the front doorway of the church. Several trusses near the entryway were broken and the plaster ceiling splintered.

Miners stopped the Carmelites priests from opposing the formation of unions by using dynamite as a political statement. The Descalced Carmelite Order found refuge at Santa Cruz after fleeing from Spain and Africa, according to Vint.

The ceiling restoration began in November 2005, the church has raised almost $60,000 from parishioners alone.

Santa Cruz is one of two of the poorest parishes in Tucson, said Pinto. The church raises money by holding events the community will support, like the Familia de Fiesta last February.

The event, hosted by the Angel de Santa Cruz Council of the Knights of Columbus, raised about $18,000. Plans for a June festival are under way.

“The replacement of the roof is very important to us,” said Dan Barrios of the Knights of Columbus. “Our group serves the church by heading the fundraisers and making sure all parts of church life are taken care of.”

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**City Council Elections: Meet the Candidates**

**South Tucson’s Primary Picks**

By Maayan Katz

In the March 13 primary election, seven candidates vied for four open South Tucson City Council seats. No Republicans ran. These are the primary election winners. South Tucson’s General Election is Tuesday, May 15. The council is made up of six elected members, including a mayor. For election and voting information, call the city clerk at (520) 792-2424.

**Jennifer L. Eckstrom**

*Age: 30*

*Party: Democrat, incumbent*

*Years lived in South Tucson: 30 (12 years on city council)*

*Occupation: Executive Assistant to County Supervisor Ramón Valadez*

*Political platform:*

• Economic growth
• Affordable and sustainable housing
• Collaborating with other governmental entities and tribal governments in Pima County

**Why are you running for City Council?**

“I live in South Tucson and I believe the work I do on behalf of the citizens makes a difference.”

---

**John R. Garcia**

*Age: 59*

*Party: Democrat, incumbent*

*Years lived in South Tucson: 59 (37 years on city council)*

*Occupation: Maintenance Department, Sunnyside School District*

*Political platform:*

• Affordable housing and economic development
• Elderly and child services

**Why are you running for City Council?**

“I have always felt that the need of service to our community is important and it is my goal to continue that dedicated service.”

---

**Miguel E. Rojas**

*Age: 62*

*Party: Democrat, incumbent*

*Years lived in South Tucson: 36 (Two years on city council)*

*Occupation: Retired*

*Political platform:*

• Training and youth programs
• Services for the elderly
• Promoting safe environment, including lighting and street improvements

**Why are you running for City Council?**

“I think I can continue the progress in this city. I’d like to be part of a team that continues to make progress and I can continue the diplomatic dialogue.”

---

**Mary H. Soltero**

*Age: 65*

*Party: Democrat*

*Years lived in South Tucson: 41*

*Occupation: Retired*

*Political platform:*

• Economic development
• Affordable housing
• Public safety and public works

**Why are you running for City Council?**

“To serve as a voice for the people of South Tucson. I want to look into the concerns of the people and employees of the city.”

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March 30 / 30 de marzo 2007
Cada Año Violencia Doméstica Va Sin Reportarse

Por Laura Haas

Tradicuado por Guadalupe Zamora

Aunque Tucson tiene más crímenes documentados que otras áreas en los Estados Unidos, cuando se trata del abuso doméstico, las estadísticas sugieren que la persecución de violencia doméstica es mucho más baja en Tucson que el promedio nacional. Los defensores locales dicen que no les creen necesariamente a las estadísticas y piensan que los números pueden estar equivocados.

El U.S. Department of Justice (Departamento de la Justicia de los Estados Unidos) reportó que las tasas de violencia no fatal de pareja íntima han bajado al nivel nacional de 5.8 persecuciones por cada 1,000 residentes esta- dosunidenses en 1993 a 2.6 persecuciones por cada 1,000 res- identes en 2005. Es cierto que las estadísticas son débiles.

El Departamento de Justicia clasifica la violencia de pareja íntima como homicidios, violaciones, robos y agresiones cometidos por esposos, esposas, novios o novias actuales o anteriores. Esto incluye relaciones entre personas del mismo sexo.

En Tucson en 2006 las estadísticas para la violencia doméstica sugieren que solamente uno de cada 1,900 per- sonas en la ciudad de Tucson han sido abusadas en las manos de una pareja íntima, según el Tucson Police Department (Departamento de Policía de Tucson o DPT). En 2005 y 2006, DPT hizo 294 y 256 arrestos de parejas íntimas respectivamente. Esto representa un porcentaje de la población mucho más bajo que el promedio nacional.

Esperó sorprendida escuchar un número tan bajo,” dijo Diane Asch, la jefa de casos de alcance de Tucson Centers for Women and Children (Centros de Tucson para Mujeres y Niños). “Eso es muy extraño porque he trabajado en el refu- gio durante 60 años y en mi experiencia, creo que el censo se ha hecho doble desde que yo comence.”

En su estudio, el Departamento de Justicia reportó que la violencia entre personas íntimas es difícil de medir porque varias veces ocurre en privado y las víctimas son reacias a reportar los incidentes a alguien por vergüenza o temor de venganza.

“Mucha gente no pide ayuda porque creen que solamente pueden recibir ayuda cuando hay abuso físico o que su problema no es tan malo como el de otras per- sonas,” dijo Asch. “Esto no es cierto y previene que reciban la ayuda que necesitan.”

El Departamento de Justicia reportó que al nivel nacional, sólo el 21 por ciento de víctimas mujeres y el 10 por ciento de víctimas hombres se pusieron en contacto con una agen- cia exterior para recibir asistencia.

“Muchos hombres no llaman para reportar el abuso porque les da vergüenza,” dijo Michael Westby de los Centros de Tucson. “Es lo mismo con las mujeres, solo que para agregarle, muchas mujeres sienten que no tiene opciones o simplemente no saben qué hacer.”

Los Centros de Tucson ofrecen dos refugios con sitios confidenciales en el área de Tucson donde las mujeres y los niños pueden ir a escaparse de la violencia doméstica.

“Las personas pueden venir aquí con absolutamente nada y nosotros cuidaremos de ellos,” dijo Asch.

Eloise Lopez, la portavoz del refugio Casa Amparo dijo que a pesar de disminución en los arrestos de DPT por vio- lencia doméstica, este tipo de abuso aún sigue siendo un problema muy grande que va sin reportarse en el área.

“Siempre hay una lista de espera para las camas aquí, y las personas que tienen que llamar diariamente,” dijo Lopez. “En las calles hay gente que lleva trabajando hoy, ya ha recibido llamadas de cinco personas nuevas además de personas que solamente llaman para ver si su nombre ha subido en la lista de espera.”

Casa Amparo, un refugio bilingüe que ofrece 14 camas en el sur de Tucson, es un refugio con 30 camas que aloja a personas que hablan inglés y español.

Las dos facilidades siempre están abiertas. Mientras están en le refugio, las mujeres y los niños reciben comida, ropa y otras necesidades básicas y también asistencia en planear para su futuro.

Casa de los Niños, otra organización de Tucson, ofrece refugio para niños hasta los 8 años de edad. Según la por- tavoz Mary Dilzer, el programa cumple con las necesidades físicas, emocionales y de desarrollo de niños quienes han sido víctimas de la violencia familiar.

Casa de los Niños ofrece camas, tres comidas diarias y ropa junto con servicios médicos y de desarrollo. El centro también proporciona educación y servicio de apoyo familiares.

Agencias como los Centros de Tucson y Centro Brewster dijeron que creen que es importante que las personas sepan que hay servicios disponibles para las víctimas de la violencia doméstica.

“Tiene que haber mucha publicidad para dejarle saber a las personas que hay ayuda gratuita disponible al alcance para las víctimas,” dijo Asch. “Muchas personas tienen miedo de recibir ayuda pero probablemente si hay mucha publicidad las personas tan siquiera llamarán al servicio de llamadas de 24 horas y darse cuenta que cuando se habla con nosotros no damos miedo.”

Si Necesita Ayuda

Si usted está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Si usted es víctima de violencia doméstica y busca refugio:

• Casa Amparo: refugio bilingüe con 14 camas (520) 795-8000
• Casa del Oeste: refugio bilingüe con 30 camas (520) 622-6347
• Centros de Tucson para Mujeres y Niños: (520) 795-8000
• Casa de los Niños: Alojamiento para niños hasta los 8 años: (520) 624-5600

Líneas de crisis con asistentes las 24 horas del día, siete días a la semana:

• Centros de Tucson para Mujeres y Niños: Ester es un teléfono gratuito y puede ser utiliza- do de teléfonos de cabina de teléfonos dentro de la ciudad y también fuera de Tucson: 1- 888-428-0101

• Servicios de Violencia Doméstica del Centro Brewster: (520) 622-6347

Colonial Peruvian Artistic Styles Reflected in Today’s Local Art

By Rachel Allocco

Art has long been used to remind people of where they came from and what their ancestors strove for. The Tucson Museum of Art is offering the Latino community a chance to better understand the history of the art seen daily in their communities. The exhibition, which runs until April 29, displays exampl es of pre-Columbian and colonial painting techniques.

The curator, Linda Bercht, said the exhibit was a way of helping people cultivate the presence of God and of good.”

said Edlynne Sillman, a museum docent. “The Quito painters were much more like the Europeans and their work looked more like statues.”

The exhibit, which runs until April 29, displays exam- pl es of pre-Columbian and colonial painting techniques.

The museum’s “The Virgin, Saints and Angels” exhibit focuses on two Peruvian styles of painting and etching: Cuzco and Quito. The exhibit, which runs until April 29, displays exampl es of pre-Columbian and colonial painting techniques.

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Tucson City Council to Consider Restricting Sales on Glass Etching Materials to Curb Vandalism

By Caitlin Attendorf

The growth of a new breed of vandalism has business owners, schools, and public officials worried. The council is considering a proposal that would put the city on a course to curb the practice of etching glass, which has caused damage to businesses and homes.

The ban or restricted sales to minors of the glass-etching product, Etchall, could prevent potential vandalism in Tucson. Currently, both New York City and California have a ban on the retail sale of Etchall.

In January, after South Tucson police arrested a 16-year-old boy accused of vandalizing several businesses in and around South Tucson, Erica Koerber, financial officer at Ventana Research Co., and her partner, J.L. Koerber, spoke with the council about the problem.

According to councilwoman Karin Uhlich, the council staff has been gathering information about the product and has contacted businesses to inform them of the potential restricted sale of Etchall to minors.

“Prohibiting the sale of Etchall to minors will help curb the financial consequences for the city and businesses,” said Koerber. “We don’t want it banned, but we want it controlled.”

Council members will vote on whether to prohibit the sale of Etchall to minors during one of their weekly meetings in early April.

As a business owner it’s a gigantic financial impact,” said Koerber. “It’s a good preventative measure for preventing vandalism from students, and it’s cost-effective.”

Ventana Research was suspected of etching Ventana Research with Etchall.

“I can’t keep walking around the mall,” said Koerber. “I have a family, and I don’t want to be in a place where people are going to see Etchall on my window.”

Business owners have been reporting an increase in vandalism, particularly in South Tucson. Koerber and Lombarde said they are concerned about the cost of replacing glass.

“aration.

According to Lombarde, who has a degree in chemistry, the ammonia bisulfate in Etchall is water soluble. This means that it is not enough to travel through skin and can dissolve bones. It is also painless and odorless.

“It’s a healthy problem,” said Lombarde. “There are no side effects that are related.”

El Independiente:

EI: Have you always been a pitcher?

JL: No, originally I was a football fan and just decided to play baseball because my classmates were, and they talked me into it. I didn’t start playing as a 6-year-old like most kids, but I started playing when I was 12.

EI: Have you always been a pitcher?

JL: Again, no. I started out as a right fielder because that’s generally where they put the worst player on the team. I knew nothing about baseball, I was the last pick of the Little League draft because no one wanted me. I’d never played before.

EI: Tell us a little bit about what baseball did for you growing up.

JL: Basically, growing up, it’s always a good thing to be involved with a sport. Baseball was the key. It kept me and my friends off the streets and kept us doing something constructive — and it was a step to get me to where I am now.

EI: What was your upbringing like and how has your success influenced the Latino community?

JL: Where I grew up, in south Waco, it’s predominately Hispanic. I’m the only one to play professional baseball, so when I go home, all the little kids know who I am and they kind of look up to me when I come to their games. It’s pretty cool.

Here in Tucson, though, yeah, I feel like I’m representing Latinos everywhere, I guess.

EI: How has your family impacted your baseball career?

JL: My family is basically the whole reason why I play and wanted to keep playing. They’ve backed me in every decision I ever made. When I get to the big leagues, I just hope I can help them the way they helped me.

EI: Is this your first time in Tucson?

JL: Yes, it’s my first time. I think it’s a very welcoming group to be a good team.

EI: What do you like about doing your spare time? Have you gone a chance to try the Mexican food in Tucson, particularly in South Tucson?

JL: I mainly play video games. There’s a lot of downtown. Sometimes I walk around the mall. (Laughing) I haven’t gotten to try the Mexican food yet — but if anybody sees me, they are welcome to come and make suggestions where to go.

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The Arizona Center for Disability Law Fights for Equal Rights

Pictured: Nery Martinez, 53, a flamenco dancer and singer. Martinez says most people aren’t interested in broadening their experience every time they attend class. She believes involvement in flamenco is fun, “There are young girls, teenagers, grandmothers and even men taking these classes. Being involved in flamenco is something I can do forever,” Martinez says.

Besides dancing, flamenco involves guitar players, singers, cajón players and palmas. The Peruvian cajón is a hollow wooden box that makes the beat for the dancers. Palmas, the hand-clapping that accompanies guitar players in the songs, serves as a drum beat. The zapateado, or rhythmic foot stomping, accompanied by highly expressive arm movements, can be aggressive and fast or subtle and emotional.

“Once you start dancing flamenco, it takes over your life, it’s amazing to be able to express yourself through dance,” says Claire Conrad, a student at the University of Arizona. “This tiny dance studio is becoming a big part of Casa Vicente, which has been a focal point for the Spanish community in town for a while now.”

Martinez says she hopes to see Tucson’s flamenco community grow in a more dedicated direction and hopes to offer dance scholarships for low-income people interested in joining her classes. “I wish everyone could get a chance to take these classes, so Tucson can connect its Mexican heritage with its Spanish history,” Martinez says. “Because once you learn flamenco, you just can’t wait to share it with your family and friends.”

Know you if you go

Flamenco de Pueblo Viejo at Casa Vicente Studio offers
Two 8-week sessions
January 31 - March 31, and April 10 - June 2
Children ages 6-8: Wednesdays and Saturdays
Adults and teens: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
Single class are available for $25, or reduced charges for whole session
Located at 375 S. Stone Ave. For more information call (520) 309-8762 or email jason@meelmartinez@gmail.com

The Sun Devil Promise is a commitment from Arizona State University to help students regardless of their economic, social or cultural background.

For students who meet all qualifications, ASU guarantees to cover the costs of tuition, books, and room and board. The funds given at enrollment do not need to be repaid.

All Arizona high school graduates or eligible for this aid. Applicants must apply to ASU and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students must qualify for federal financial aid in order to receive funds from the ASU Advantage.

“Basically, we don’t want cost to be a barrier to continue education,” said Anita Tarango, ASU director of outreach.

The ASU Advantage was introduced in 2005. The financial aid program helped families whose total annual family income was $18,840 or less.

This year marks the first year that the Sun Devil Promise will extend aid to families with a total household income of $25,000 or less.

“We were able to help 300 students with the previous income limit,” said Tarango. “With the income threshold level increasing to $25,000 for fall 2007, we anticipate that the numbers overall will be even greater this year.”

Pueblo High Magnet School counselor Kata Mapes said that in the past many of her students were discouraged to attend ASU because even if they did get a tuition waiver or some federal aid, coming up with additional funds for room and board and other costs was often impossible.

“Many of those students would benefit, no doubt, if other fees were covered,” said Mapes.

ASU will accommodate all students that qualify for this aid. The university does not set caps on the number of students it will assist.

“Our mission is to be accessible to all people, all students of Arizona,” Tarango said. “The Sun Devil Promise is our promise to ensure and prepare students and parents’ education and be there for them to continue and prepare resources for students to be successful.”

Students can get more information and apply for the program online by visiting www.asu.edu/edunew/roll/promise/index.html.

27 sending it to the city’s zoning examiner for evaluation.

With the rezoning now approved, developers have the go-ahead to begin planning and construction.

The vote also meant the council would have its “big-box” ordi-

nance that bans from city property any “mega mall-style” retail store larger than 100,000 square feet, in which more than 10 percent of the floor area is devoted to grocery products.

City Council member Steve Leal said he was confident the ordinance would be waived, so long as it didn’t set a precedent for future developments.

Under the agreement, developers will give Tucson $2 million for neighborhood and economic betterment projects. The city Council member Steve Leal said he was confident the ordinance would be waived, so long as it didn’t set a precedent for future developments.

The city will then contribute up to $4.7 million, the amount the city is expected to generate from the project’s construction tax, for the same projects.

Leal said approximately 15,000 square feet will be set aside for job training programs with the remainder directed at business assistance programs for existing local businesses, both a pedestrian bridge and a new children’s community arts center.

Without the allocation for neighborhood development, Leal said, the project would have been a “hollow hope.”

The job training programs will come in handy when it comes time to dole out the $900 jobs expected to come post-construction in the retail and research fields.

“It doesn’t guarantee them a job, but it does increase the likelihood that they’ll be more competitive for when the jobs do come,” Leal said.

In addition, hundreds more jobs will be needed to fill for construction, KB Home’s Bremond said.

Bremond said KB Home plans to build around 700 new homes ranging from affordable housing to high-end houses in the $400,000 range.

“Many people are going to be able to live and work in close proximity to their homes,” Bremond said.

But more houses mean more families. “For school-aged children who have to walk for all cramp space in nearby schools unless the city works on building a new school,” Leal said.

Leal said there is a 10-acre sec-

tion on the property where a school could go. He said developers are already working with Tucson Unified School District to strike a deal for a new school.

KB Home will also work with Tucson Urban League to create affordable housing for first-time homebuyers, according to Jacque Howell, the League’s financial officer and senior vice presi-

dent for community economic development.

“How many people a lot of people who want to live in that neighborhood but there’s never been a housing stock there. That’s the present, Howell said, “Now they’ll be able to do that.”

Although no period has been established, Leal said with the council’s approval, the project could begin within two years.
Right now, there are 18 nursing-maintenance workers with disabilities who work at Desert Survivors under a Tucson branch.

The ASU Advantage was introduced in 2005. The financial aid program helped families whose total annual family income was less than $25,000.

The program, much harder to get, is called the Arizona Early Intervention Project.

The vote also meant the council had given up control over one of the most important economic issues in Tucson.

The Center for Disability Law can help everybody with every problem; it doesn’t discriminate by race, sex, or gender. The Center has the resources to meet every need of every person with a disability.

For example, if someone has a healthcare question, the Center will focus its efforts on people with disabilities who receive Medicare or Medicaid.

If someone calls with a question about a private insurance company, the Center can give a self-advocacy guide to help the person deal with their private insurance company.

Nearly 833,000 people in Tucson over the age of five have a disability, according to the 2005 Census.

Leal said that to set up a child development center for adults with disabilities is difficult to navigate.

People don’t know what to do and they often don’t understand the appropriate executive action. The Tucson branch of the Center for Disability Law can help get parents and services through the system and the issues they are facing.

The residential care model is successful for those who are identified as having developmental delays, which include pre-mature babies and children with mental disabilities.

The new school district is expected to generate from the project’s construction tax, for the same projects.

Leal said approximately $1.5 million is available for job training programs with the remainder directed at bus assistant programs, road enhancements, a pedestrian bridge and a new children’s community arts center.

Without the allocation for neighborhood betterment, Leal said, the project would have been a “hollow hope.”

The job training programs will come in handy when it comes time to complete the 900 jobs expected to come post-construction in the retail and research fields.

It doesn’t guarantee them parents’ education and be there for them to continue and prepare students for careers. Bechtold said “their time, they will feel good.”

Bechtold said that patients with the last letter of Desert Survivors, be they old or young, will have a place to belong.

Starr Pass Blvd. is located at 375 S. Stone Ave. 2000 report by the City of Tucson Department of Urban Planning.

There are many people disappointed when they come to one of the many long, glass-walled greenhouses at Desert Survivors Inc., an organization that is part of normal working society.

Director Richard Bechtold, who has been a UA graduate who worked during the 1970s in the Next-Stage Project, said early intervention of children with development.

The job training programs will help build around 700 new homes ranging from affordable housing to high-end houses in the $400,000 range.

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**Diabetes Education: El Rio Helps the Growing Problem**

By Uma Goyal

Latinos are two times more likely to have diabetes than the general population and Native Americans are three times more likely. Diabetes needs to be managed by normalizing their blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol.

To reach these goals, El Rio Community Health Center offers diabetes education. The classes are free and open to the public at El Rio’s Main Clinic, 839 W. Congress St.

“You just have to show up,” said Leticia Martinez, El Rio dietician and teacher of the class.

Through a series of four classes patients learn about diabetes management, what the disease is, what to eat and the medications involved. English classes are on Mondays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Spanish classes are on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

“Even though you have diabetes, it is something that can be controlled,” Martinez said. “But just to have knowledge doesn’t make things better. Actually doing something does.”

Diabetes is a preventable disease if patients are more active and eat healthier. People with relatives who have diabetes are more at risk. Type II diabetes has also doubled in children due to obesity, Martinez said.

Type II diabetes is also called adult-onset diabetes. It occurs when blood glucose levels are above normal because diabetics have problems converting food into energy.

“We always say genes plus environment cause diabetes. It doesn’t just come from eating sweets,” Martinez said.

“Anyone can start the public diabetes classes at any time. If the class is not understandable the first time around, they can repeat the class as many times as they’d like. A person can finish one [counseling] and are able to better control their disease and avoid complications such as kidney disease.”

Currently El Rio’s program has two clinical pharmacists. The program was designed to increase patient contact with the pharmacist, combine care for related diseases and educate to standardize diabetes treatments.

The program also puts patients in contact with a dietician so that diabetics can get nutritional counseling on blood glucose monitoring, healthy diets and foot care.

Patients are referred to the program by their primary care physician when usual diabetic treatments fail. The program is designed to educate patients on how to control their diabetes and avoid complications such as kidney failure and nerve loss.

For more information call (520) 792-9890.