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Today, shelves are filled with those types of products, organic food is plentiful in grocery stores, and eco-friendly and sustainable are commonly used descriptions for everything from kitchen items to clothing to furniture to cars. Actually, pretty much everything.

This month, in honor of Earth Day (April 22), we themed some of our stories around eco-friendly or sustainable topics. Check out some of the latest home products, and take a road trip to see a marvel in the desert—Biosphere 2—which was created with a mission to serve as a place of research, teaching, and learning about the planet, its living systems, and its place in the universe. The couple of CoupleFit leads a healthy lifestyle, and shares how you can, too. And, we showcase some amazing public art around town.

As for me, I'm long through with all the toddler dining needs, but I'm still "greening" my kitchen. My latest eco-friendly find? Reusable silicon storage bags to replace disposable plastic bags. They save money *and* the environment.

Yours,

Michelle Glicksman, Editor

# CHANDLER

LIFESTYLE™

APRIL 2021

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**Proverbs 3:5-6**

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**ON THE COVER** *Journey to Downtown*

*Chandler* by Such & Champ Styles

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BUGG**

CityLifestyle.com/Chandler





# JUNE 2021

# Men of Chandler

## NOMINATIONS REQUESTED



2020 Men of Chandler Recipients

Now taking nominations for men who live and/or work in Chandler having a positive impact on our community.

Think...

*entrepreneur, animal advocate, community leader, first responder, artist, educator, charity contributor, philanthropist, dad, etc.* Gentlemen will be featured in our June 2021 issue.

Please send name, phone, email and brief description to **[chandler@lifestylepubs.com](mailto:chandler@lifestylepubs.com)**

Nominations accepted through **4/20/21**.

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## GOOD TIMES



## Chandler Black History Month Celebration

During the Chandler Black History Month Celebration celebration, mayors from Chandler, Scottsdale, and Tempe came out to speak with words only great leadership can deliver at West Alley BBQ. **PHOTOGRAPHY SUSIE WONG**



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### **AJI SPA AND KAI AGAIN AWARDED FORBES TRAVEL GUIDE'S FIVE-STAR AWARD**

Forbes Travel Guide, the world-renowned and global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants, and spas, recently unveiled its annual Star Rating list, awarding both Aji Spa and Kai restaurant at Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass with its highest rating, the Five-Star Award.

This marks the second year that Aji Spa has received the Five Star honor, along with Kai, which has maintained the Five Star accolade for 13 years. Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass remains the only resort in Arizona with both a Five Star spa and Five Star restaurant within its collection of luxury amenities. [Marriott.com](http://Marriott.com)

+

### **OCOTILLO VILLAGE HEALTH CLUB & SPA HOLDS FOOD TRUCK NIGHTS**

Head over to Ocotillo Village Health Club & Spa every Wednesday evening from 4:30-7 p.m. to pick up dinner from Tommy's Wood Fired Grill Co. truck. Tommy Duncan and his wife, Jennifer, are owners of the Gilbert-based Whiskey Ranch BBQ.

Tommy's name sound familiar? He's appeared on shows such as *Chopped*, *BBQ Crawl*, *Smoked*, *BBQ Pitmasters*, and others. Menus of almost all styles of food are available. [VillageClubs.com](http://VillageClubs.com)

+

### **BARRO'S PIZZA AWARDS \$10,000 TO LOCAL STUDENT**

Family- and locally-owned Barro's Pizza announced that local Glendale student Reyes Rendon was the winner of its 2020 Arizona Dr Pepper Tuition Giveaway. The \$10,000 prize money was available to one local resident to help pay college tuition or any related educational expenses.

Rendon is currently a freshman, studying nutrition at Estrella Mountain Community College.

With 44 restaurants throughout Arizona and 40 years in business, the Barro family prides itself on finding ways to support and improve the communities they serve.

"Having a college degree will open a lot of doors for students like Reyes, but it is also a huge financial burden for families," says Mike Barro, co-owner of Barro's Pizza. "We are proud to support Arizona students as they pursue their dreams through our continued partnership with Dr Pepper."

Submissions were open to all Arizona residents 18 year or older, and a winner was chosen at random out of approximately 20,000 online and text-to-win entries. The winner can use the money to pay for current expenses such as tuition and books, or to pay off outstanding student loans. [BarrosPizza.com](http://BarrosPizza.com)

+

### **PITA JUNGLE LAUNCHES JUNGLE VINO, ITS OWN PRIVATE LABEL WINE**

Cheers! Pita Jungle recently expanded its bar menu and retail offerings with its own private label wines called Jungle Vino. The two varietals—Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay—are available at all Pita Jungle locations throughout Arizona. They can be enjoyed while dining in, or bottles are available for purchase to-go.

Both wines are produced and bottled by Matchbook Wines, a family-owned winery tucked away in Northern California's gently rolling Dunnigan Hills. Be sure to visit their newest Chandler location on the southeast corner of Gilbert and Chandler Heights. [PitaJungle.com](http://PitaJungle.com)

+

### **LIBRARY GRANT KICKSTARTS COLLECTION OF BLACK CHANDLER RESIDENTS' ORAL HISTORY**

Collecting the history of Chandler's residents goes well beyond searching old books and newspapers. For the latest project, Chandler Museum, in partnership with Chandler Public Library, took a more innovative approach to gathering important stories from the City's Black residents.

Using state-of-the-art audio recording equipment in the Library's soon-to-open public makerspace, the teams have begun work on a project bringing the oral histories of Black community members to life.

The makerspace—dubbed The Makery—houses three rooms of high-tech digital and physical production equipment within the



Chandler Downtown Library. From a laser cutter to a 3D printer to a fully equipped audio/visual recording studio, The Makery offers unique access to tech tools makers may not otherwise be able to use. Teams at the Museum and Library began using this space to record oral histories last month.

The Library applied for the federally-funded LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant to better equip The Makery to serve this project, as well as future creators at the Library.

The project will collect oral histories from new and long-time Black residents in Chandler. Eventually, it will create a digital collection of audio files and transcriptions detailing the stories of family, business, life, and legacy of Chandler's Black residents. **ChandlerAZ.gov**

## + STATE FORTY EIGHT EXPANDS CHANDLER HEADQUARTERS AND RETAIL LOCATION

Chandler-based apparel and lifestyle company State Forty Eight recently took over the suite next to its Chandler retail location on Arizona Avenue and Elliot Road, to make it the company's official headquarters. The move is part of State Forty Eight's mission to expand operations and amplify its newly launched screen printing and embroidery services.

The expansion adds a total of 5,500 square feet to the current facilities, and includes additional offices, a boardroom, a dedicated creative space for the design team and any photo or video production, as well as a warehouse. **StateFortyEight.com**

Would you like to get in touch with us? We would love to hear from you! Contact us at **CityLifestyle.com/Chandler** using the Get In Touch link and let us know what you think.





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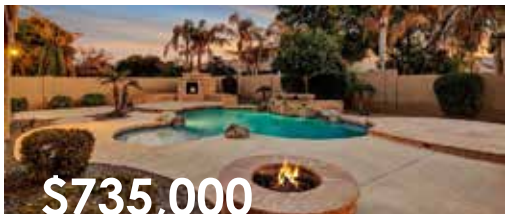
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# Healthy Together

ARTICLE SUE BALDANI  
PHOTOGRAPHY LINDSAY BORG

**COUPLEFIT, SAYS DEANNA MANGUM, MEANS TWO OR MORE FEELING BETTER TOGETHER.**

After she and Kurt were married, friends started to ask questions about their personal wellness journey.

"It started out very organic and kind of sprouted from that," she says. "Our mission, with CoupleFit, is to create generational health."

So, instead of just passing down material items, they want families to pass down the gift of a healthy lifestyle.

To simplify their approach to wellness, the couple developed S.W.A.N.™ (Sleep, Water, Activity, Nutrition), which is what a body needs every day to be physically healthy. But, in addition to exercise and nutrition, the couple also knew it was important to focus on emotional and mental health.

"Even when you get the physical component together, if you don't focus on the mental, there's a disconnect," says Kurt. "Bringing it all together and feeling your best allows you to give your best, not only to yourself and at home, but also to your community."

To hear their personal health testimonials, tune in to their podcast, The Magnetism of Optimism.

"Our faith plays a really big part in this because we want that to be the foundation," says Kurt. "There's so much negativity out there, but here is where you can hear something uplifting, something positive that can keep you going." **CoupleFit.com**







## A COUPLE'S HOLISTIC (AND TEAM) APPROACH TO WELLNESS

### AVOCADO SPRING ROLLS

- + 1 package rice paper spring roll wrappers
- + 1 (5 oz.) bag baby spring lettuces
- + 2 oz. Vermicelli rice noodles
- + 1 red bell pepper, cut into strips
- + 1 cucumber, sliced
- + 1 avocado, peeled and sliced
- + 1 cup shredded carrots
- + 1 cup thinly sliced purple cabbage
- + fresh mint and basil

Fill a wide bowl with at least an inch of warm water. Dip one rice paper wrap in the water and let soften for five to 10 seconds. Remove from the water and lay on your work surface. Place a handful of the greens toward one end of the soaked wrap. Top with the other veggies, noodles, and herbs. Pick up the end of the rice paper closest to your mound of veggies and tightly wrap it over the veggies. Grab each end and fold over like a burrito. The paper will stick to itself. Continue wrapping the roll until sealed. Continue making the rolls this way until you've made all you want or are out of ingredients. Store the rolls covered in the refrigerator until ready to eat, then cut in half. Enjoy with Thai peanut sauce.

### THAI PEANUT SAUCE

- + 1 Tbsp. garlic
- + 1 Tbsp. ginger, fresh
- + 2 Tbsp. lime juice
- + 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- + 2 Tbsp. low-sodium soy sauce
- + 2 Tbsp. rice vinegar
- + 1 Tbsp. hoisin sauce

Combine all ingredients in a medium-sized bowl and whisk until smooth. Serve immediately as a dipping sauce with the spring rolls. Store the sauce in the refrigerator for up to five days.

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# Arizona's Reliable Transmissions is Definitely a

# family affair

FATHER AND SON JR AND INTEAZ RAZACK  
OPENED THEIR BUSINESS IN THE FALL OF 2020

ARTICLE ALISON STANTON  
PHOTOGRAPHY LINDSAY BORG

## IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT IN THE RAZACK FAMILY, TRANSMISSION FLUID RUNS THROUGH THEIR VEINS.

Jr and his son Inteaz—who goes by Sean—opened Arizona's Reliable Transmissions in October 2020.

Jr has been building transmissions since the early 1980s, Sean says, and five of Jr's brothers are also in the transmission business.

"Our family has multiple shops in the Valley and also along the East coast and in Toronto, Canada," Sean says, adding that his brother has a transmission shop in Goodyear.

"I have always been around the business since growing up in New York, whether I was at my dad's shop or one of my uncle's shops."

As the business name implies, Sean and Jr focus mainly on transmission-related work. Both men bring a great deal of experience to their new business.

"As long as it has a transmission, we can work on it—either foreign or domestic, automatic or manual," Sean says.

"We also work on transfer cases and differentials, and we can do conversions going from automatic to manual or the other way around, and also performance transmissions."

No matter what brings customers into Arizona's Reliable Transmissions, Sean says they can count on getting high-quality work at fair prices.

"There are not too many family-owned transmission shops in the East valley but there are a lot of franchise-owned shops which tend to charge an arm and a leg more than what we would," Sean says.

In fact, Sean says, knowing that he is able to help his customers get back on the road in a cost-efficient manner is something he especially enjoys about his work—in addition to getting to spend the days with his dad.

"Of course, working with such a close family member we are going to butt heads from time to time, but overall it's great and goes smoothly the majority of the time."

Sean says he and Jr are happy with the number of repeat customers they get at their shop, as well as how pleased people are when they learn their transmission can be repaired.

"Customers are always happy when we are honest with them and most importantly save them quite a bit of money. In most cases your transmission will not need to be rebuilt, a repair will get you taken care of, whether it be an electrical issue, valve body, or even cable related issues.

*Arizona's Reliable Transmissions, 6615 W. Chandler Blvd., 480.5976237, [AZReliable-Transmissions.com](http://AZReliable-Transmissions.com)*











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Dr. Higgs



# NEW STADIUM RISING

PHOENIX RISING BRINGS SOCCER  
AND SERVICE TO CHANDLER



*Owner Didier Drogba*

ARTICLE ANGEL FUCHS | PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED

**BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENING FOR PHOENIX RISING FOOTBALL CLUB, ARIZONA'S HIGHEST-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL SOCCER TEAM.** The club broke ground on a new stadium last fall with an expected opening date of on or around May 1—just in time for the start of the next United Soccer League (USL) championship season.

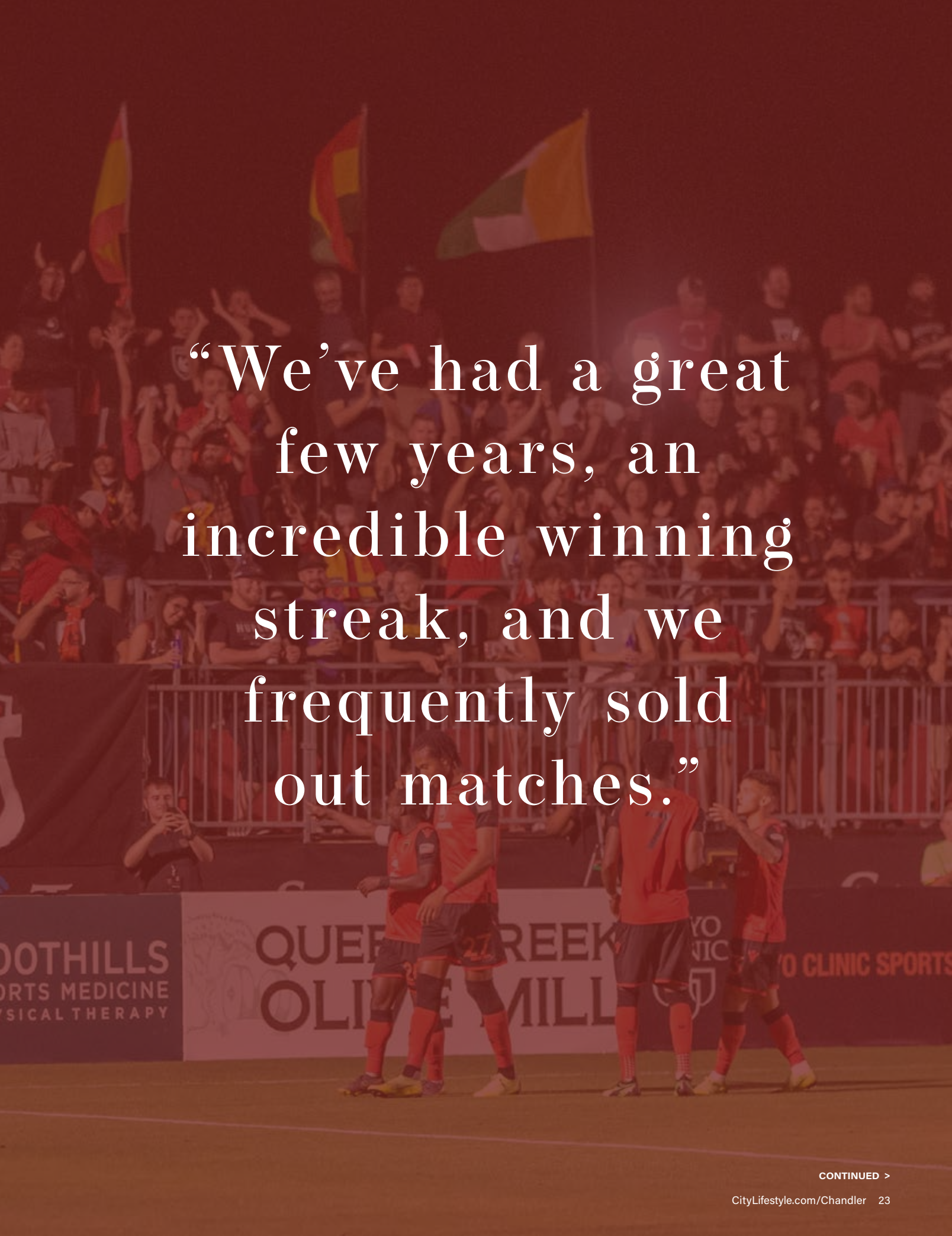
The club is making the move from its former home near Tempe on the Salt River Reservation to a new facility located near Wild Horse Pass within the Gila River Indian Community. Prior to COVID-19, Phoenix Rising regularly sold out home games at its former 6,200 capacity stadium. Upon completion, the new stadium will hold around 10,000, making for a 40% capacity increase.

"We've had a great few years, an incredible winning streak, and we frequently sold out matches," says Bobby Dulle, Phoenix Rising general manager. "The next step is to increase capacity and improve the fan experience."

With input from fans, the new stadium will improve upon areas where the former lacked. Like the old stadium, the new one will be modular in design, allowing for more flexibility and cost effectiveness—but that's where the similarities end.

In addition to the increased capacity, the new stadium will include an enhanced video board, a larger press box, improved sound, permanent restrooms, and a new family-friendly general admission section opposite the rambunctious supporters group seating area. It will also have two practice fields, permanent locker rooms, and improved entry and exit points, allowing for smoother access. Additionally, there will be a permanent ticket office and an on-site administrative office.





“We’ve had a great  
few years, an  
incredible winning  
streak, and we  
frequently sold  
out matches.”

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CONTINUED >

Funding and cost details for the build are not available, but Dulle confirmed that the stadium is a private investment and does not utilize public funds.

The new stadium will not only help generate revenue to the City of Chandler and surrounding areas, but will also open up many philanthropic opportunities in the community, as well. The players are actively involved in various community service projects, ranging from tree planting initiatives to reading to students while online during the pandemic.

According to Director of Communications and Marketing, Jason Minnick, the team is currently looking for community partners to work with for those types of projects.

Prior to selecting Wild Horse Pass for its new stadium and training facility site, Phoenix Rising spent the past four years discussing possible stadium locations with several local governments, including Maricopa County, Mesa, Phoenix, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Scottsdale, and Tempe. The Wild Horse Pass locale was particularly attractive due to its proximity to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport and the accessibility the new section of the 202 Loop offered. Minnick says the location is just a short 18 minute drive from the West Valley.

"The new location for the stadium is fantastic," Dulle says. "It has an existing infrastructure with paved roads, and is more centrally located, in close proximity to everything."

The club currently plays in the USL Championship, with aspirations to become an expansion team in Major League Soccer (MLS), the highest level of pro soccer in the United States. The new stadium is a step in the right direction.

"Our goal is to take soccer to the highest level in Arizona, and we're very excited about what we've done and the progress we're making," Dulle says. "MLS is very competitive, and there are a lot of markets trying to get there. This move will allow us to check our goals and make room to expand down the road."

Phoenix Rising will be going into its fifth season as a team, and prior to COVID-19, the club had impressive statistics—including selling out 23 consecutive matches. They also won the 2018 and 2020 Western Conference Championships, and in 2019, the team won 20 consecutive matches. That's the longest winning streak in American professional soccer history.

The pandemic definitely slowed down the momentum, but also influenced some decisions in regards to the new stadium.

"The health and safety of everyone was a priority and top-of-mind in the planning," says Dulle. "We will open with limited capacity in line with the recommended guidelines at the time, but we remain cautiously optimistic."

The fan experience is a top priority for Phoenix Rising FC. The new stadium was designed with that in mind, and according to Dulle, there won't be a bad seat in the house. Season ticket prices start as low as \$200 for the upcoming season.

"We are so excited for what's in store for our fans and the community," Dulle says. "We want to bring together Arizona and rise as one!"

For season tickets or more information, call 623.594.9606 or visit [PhxRisingFC.com](https://PhxRisingFC.com).

*Rising midfielder Jon Bakero, forward Rufat Dadashov, defender Joey Calistri, defender Darnell King, and goalkeeper Zac Lubin*



### INTERESTING FACT:

One of Phoenix Rising's owners is the legendary Chelsea and Ivory Coast striker, Didier Drogba. Drogba was the first player-owner in football history. He played a pivotal role in helping to end a civil war in his home by using his platform to make an impassioned speech, which resulted in a cease fire.





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— [US.Kohler.com](http://US.Kohler.com) | \$981

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— [HiNeighbor.com](http://HiNeighbor.com) | \$900

4

## 3-PIECE RIPPLE SET



*The molds for all of Haand's creations, including this dinner set, are carved by hand, and each piece contains reused scraps from past products. The company's proprietary dip-glazing application process produces zero waste.*

— [Haand.us](http://Haand.us) | \$114

# HOME

ARTICLE MICHELLE GLICKSMAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED





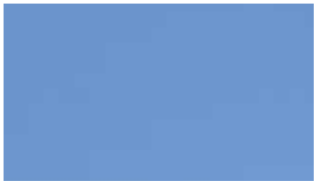
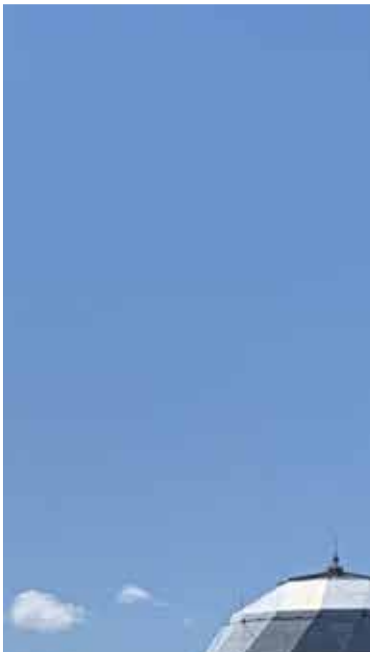
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# A MARVEL—

## I N T H E D E S E R T

**JUST 20 MILES NORTH OF TUCSON LIES A PLACE CALLED ORACLE.** It is there where, in 1987, construction began on a sophisticated model of planet Earth. Once constructed, it would be considered one of the 50 must-see wonders of the world (*Time Life Books*), and draw both researchers and visitors from around the world.

But though there are now daily tours available, it wasn't always open to the public.

Biosphere 2 was created with a mission to serve as a place of research, teaching, and learning about the planet, its living systems, and its place in the universe.

It was designed to be a marvel in the desert; a science experiment like no another. Here, 3 acres of biomes under a glass roof form a living laboratory; a closed ecological system with a mature rainforest that houses more than 90 tropical tree species, an ocean with a coral reef, a savanna grassland, forested swamps with mangrove trees, and a coastal fog desert.

It is the largest earth and environmental laboratory, offering a place to study how ecosystems respond to changes in temperature, moisture, and more. It was the largest attempt—and is still the largest facility—that was designed and constructed to understand, in part, how earth systems function.

"The mission of Biosphere 2 is to advance our understanding of the natural and man-made environment

through unique experimentation, training of interdisciplinary scientists, science education and public outreach, and organization of meetings to address grand challenges that affect the quality of life and the understanding of our place in the universe," the website explains of its mission.

Why was it built in Oracle, Arizona? The area's 200 sunny days and relatively stable geologic area (no earthquakes) were the main draw, offering stability to the destination and its large glass structure.

Biosphere 2 was built with the biomes and living spaces, and technical infrastructure built under the facility.

Beginning in September 1991 through September 1993, four men and four women lived closed-in at Biosphere 2 (named "2" as the Earth itself is considered the first biosphere) for a much-publicized closed-system experiment, testing a sustainable planetary ecosystem. For various reasons—including low food and oxygen—it failed. Still, researchers did glean insights from it.

A second mission was held in 1993, and then, throughout the years, Biosphere 2 changed hands.

In 2007, the University of Arizona (UofA) assumed management of Biosphere 2, "with a vision of understanding complex environmental systems by engaging both the

**CONTINUED >**

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**ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHY MICHELLE GLICKSMAN**



scientific community and the public, integrating large-scale experimentation with computational modeling and advancing awareness of the environmental and resource challenges.”

In 2011, UofA was gifted Biosphere 2’s campus and facilities.

Today, Biosphere 2 is used for research by scientists from all over the world, as well as the public. Through 2019, it drew more than 110,000 visitors a year. The Biosphere 2 Experience is

currently offered in-person, and takes visitors around the exterior and portions of the interior.

It’s a unique place to visit, as there is no other place in the world where the research and experiments that are and have taken place can be conducted. While you can study the rainforest, you can’t put the entire rainforest under glass—but here is one on a smaller scale, along with other of the Earth’s biomes.

**Biosphere2.org**





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*Artist Ariana Enriquez with  
her work, Hum of the Desert*

ARTICLE ALISON STANTON  
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED

# Art Around Town

WHAT'S ON VIEW





“We picked five artists who teamed up with students from ICAN to create designs that were then printed and installed along Chandler Boulevard.”

**ART FANS OF ALL AGES CAN ENJOY THE LOVELY SPRING WEATHER AND NUMEROUS PIECES OF PUBLIC ART AS THEY STROLL AROUND THE CITY OF CHANDLER, BURNING CALORIES, AND NOT FUEL, DURING THIS EARTH MONTH.**

As Peter Bugg, visual arts coordinator for the City of Chandler notes, the City has about 200 pieces in its collection.

While many of these are wall pieces on display in offices and conference rooms throughout Chandler, Bugg says there are dozens in public locations.

For instance, the following seven pieces can be enjoyed during leisurely walks around town.

*Monuments to Us:* This mural is located in the Downtown Breezeway and was created by artists Cam DeCausin and Joey Salamon. The north side of the mural features images of

Chandler's roots; moving south, the images highlight iconic contemporary buildings.

*Turbulent Shade:* This shade structure is on the outside of the City Hall Building. The stainless-steel shade structure by Ned Kahn Studios was completed in 2010. It is made up of individual, perforated panels that pivot, creating a wind-animated effect. The piece was completed in collaboration with architecture firm Smith Group.

*Infinite Wave:* Artist Jeff Zischke created this eye-catching shade structure made of metal; it can be found on the outside of Chandler Museum.

*Sun Slides:* coLAB studio created this piece, which is made from metal and is located on the outside of the Oregon St. parking garage.

**CONTINUED >**



“All of the artists have some local ties, although some of them have moved away since the project began. Most still live in the Valley, and a few right in Chandler.”

*Cubizm:* These colorful metal benches featuring different patterns were made by artist Jeff Zischke, and are also on the outside of the Oregon St. parking garage.

*Journey to Downtown Chandler:* This mural on the west side of SanTan Brewery was created by Such & Champ Styles. It features colorful images of cacti and some of the plants used in the brewing of beer, along with the brewery and San Marcos hotel in the background, set against a blue sky with palm trees.

*Hum of the Desert:* Artist Ariana Enriquez created this colorful mural on Commonwealth St., just north of SanTan Brewery. Enriquez was inspired by the idea of

water as a vital part of the desert. The mural features flowing water, flowering cacti, hummingbirds, bees, and the king protea flower.

In your travels, you might notice that there is also colorful and often whimsical art alongside and on top of some of the utility boxes throughout Chandler.

Bugg explains that the City arranged for artwork to be added to 10 utility boxes in 2019, and another five in 2020.

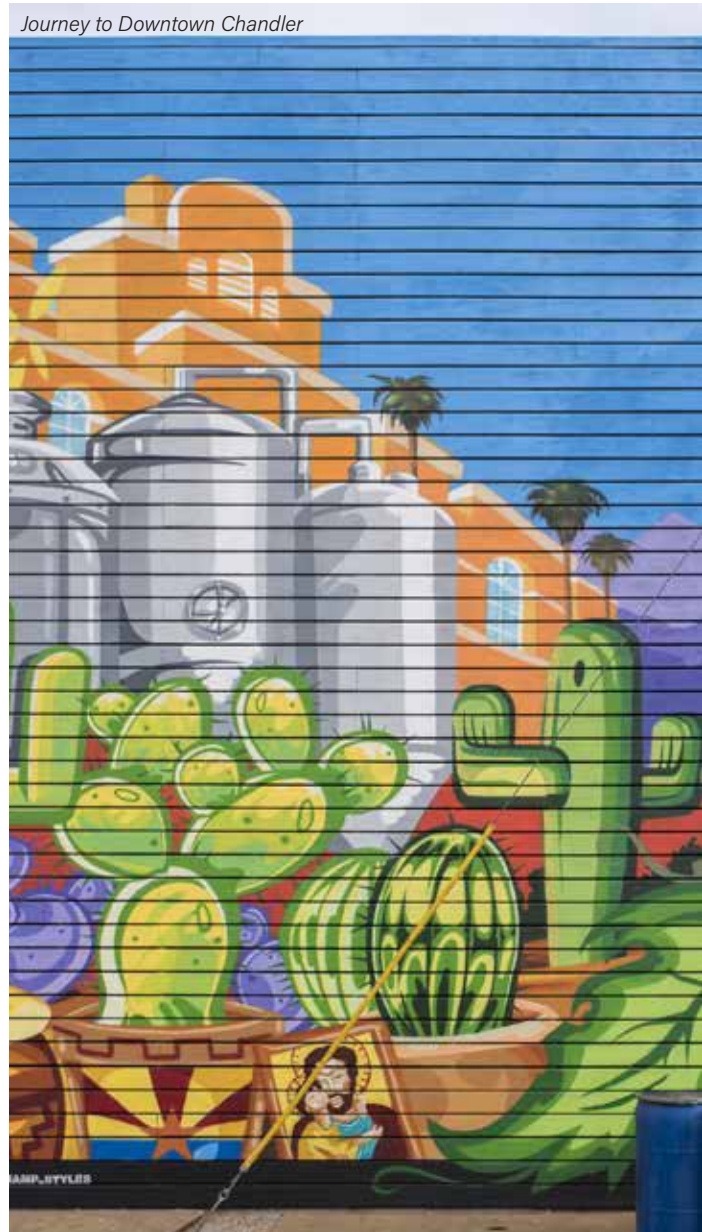
“We teamed up with economic development in 2019 to help Uptown Chandler create more of a sense of place. After we did the 10 along Arizona Avenue and Alma School Road, we had such great feedback we wanted to



Photo by Bill Timmerman



Journey to Downtown Chandler



do it again," Bugg says, adding that the Arts Commission decided to work with ICAN for the next round.

"We picked five artists who teamed up with students from ICAN to create designs that were then printed and installed along Chandler Boulevard."

The designs are all printed on vinyl and then adhered to the sides and tops of the utility boxes.

The images include a cartoonish and humorous interpretation of the wires and other internal workings of a utility box; birds, insects and botanical elements; pieces of juicy fig; and a gila monster and iguana on the back of a friendly tortoise.

People can find the 15 "artistic" utility boxes on Chandler Boulevard between Hamilton and Hartford streets, on Arizona Avenue between Ray Road and the canal, and on Alma School Road between Ray Road and Summit.

"All of the artists have some local ties, although some of them have moved away since the project began. Most still live in the Valley, and a few right in Chandler," Bugg says.

For more information and the locations of many of the public works in Chandler, visit [GIS.ChandlerAZ.Gov/PublicArtTour](https://gis.chandleraz.gov/publicarttour).

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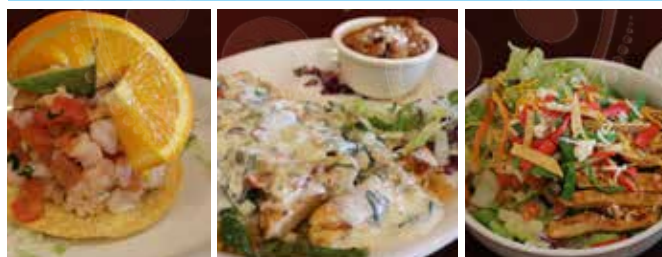
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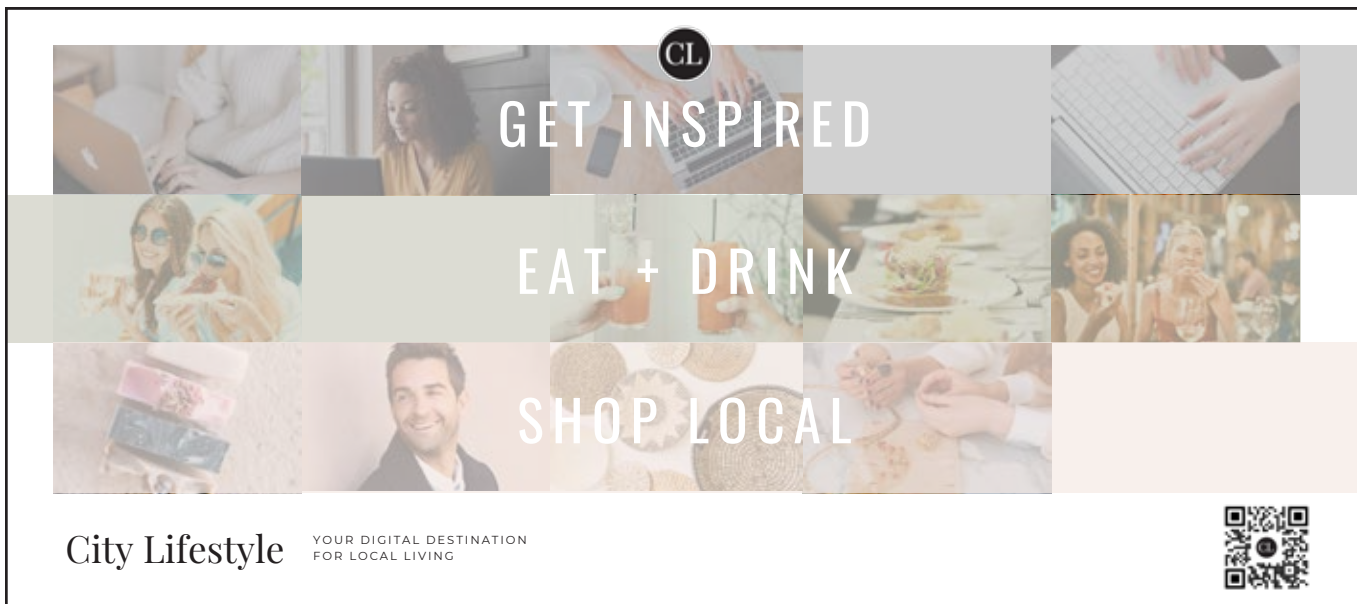
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## LIFESTYLE CALENDAR

**1-10**

### APPROACHING THE NATURAL: ARTWORK BY MARY MEYER AND AIMEE OLLINGER

*The Gallery at the CCA*

For millennia, humans have tried to replicate nature through scientific and artistic means. However, the fallible nature of human hands never allows us to fully capture the intrinsic beauty of nature. Artworks by Mary Meyer and Aimee Ollinger continually approach the natural, with their splendor lying in the artists' reinterpretation of the organic forms. Meyer creates reliefs and wall sculptures; Ollinger embroidery and mixed media work. [VisionGallery.org](http://VisionGallery.org)

**3, 10, 17, 24**

### DOWNTOWN CHANDLER FARMERS MARKET

*Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West*

Head Downtown and support dozens of local vendors offering fresh produce, prepared food, beverages, and unique goods at the Downtown Chandler Farmers Market. This year-round market takes place every Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. October through May, at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West. There are extra safety precautions to ensure both market vendors and customers are following strict COVID-19 guidelines. [ChandlerAZ.gov](http://ChandlerAZ.gov)

**3, 10, 17, 24**

### YOGA IN THE PARK

*Dr. A.J. Chandler Park*

Yoga in the Park will start at 10 a.m. in the parklet of Dr. A.J. Chandler Park by Crust Restaurant. This free, 45-minute class is perfect for beginners and experienced yogis alike.

**APRIL**



Just bring a mat, sunscreen and water. COVID safety precautions will be observed. [ChandlerAZ.gov](http://ChandlerAZ.gov)

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## 3

### FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION

*Tumbleweed Park*

No bunny does Easter like Chandler's Family Easter Celebration, especially when it's re-imagined! Families will be able to stroll through one of two Easter trails to see the decorations, capture a family moment, and let little bunnies pick-up some goodies along the way. Kids 12 and under will receive a goodie bag. Both trails are the same in features and decorations. [ChandlerAZ.gov](http://ChandlerAZ.gov)

---

## 3-MAY 8

### PLAY HARD

*Vision Gallery*

For this exhibition, Melissa Sclafani and Ellie Richards examine what it means to play, and who has the ability to do so. This lighthearted exhibition with serious themes will inspire you to reconsider an element of our lives that we take for granted. Lace up those sneakers and get ready to play! [VisionGallery.org](http://VisionGallery.org)

---

## 6-MAY 25

### ONCE UPON A PLAYGROUND

*Chandler Museum*

The classic metal and wood structures that have populated playgrounds for most of the 20th century—metal slides, jungle gyms, merry-go-rounds, seesaws—have become beloved artifacts of childhood. Part of the personal histories of many over the age of 30, they are a tangible piece of the country's cultural and industrial design heritage.

CONTINUED >



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[ChandlerMuseum.org](http://ChandlerMuseum.org)

8

**SONORAN SIPPIN'***Desert Botanical Garden*

Wrap-up your week with a floral-inspired welcome drink and an evening out in nature at the Garden. This event nights features music, socially-distanced fun, and an after-hours look at Waterlily Pond Studio. Bars are located throughout the Garden, and the Patio Café and Gertrude's Restaurant will be open. Online reservations are required.  
[DesertBotanicalGarden.com](http://DesertBotanicalGarden.com)

10-18

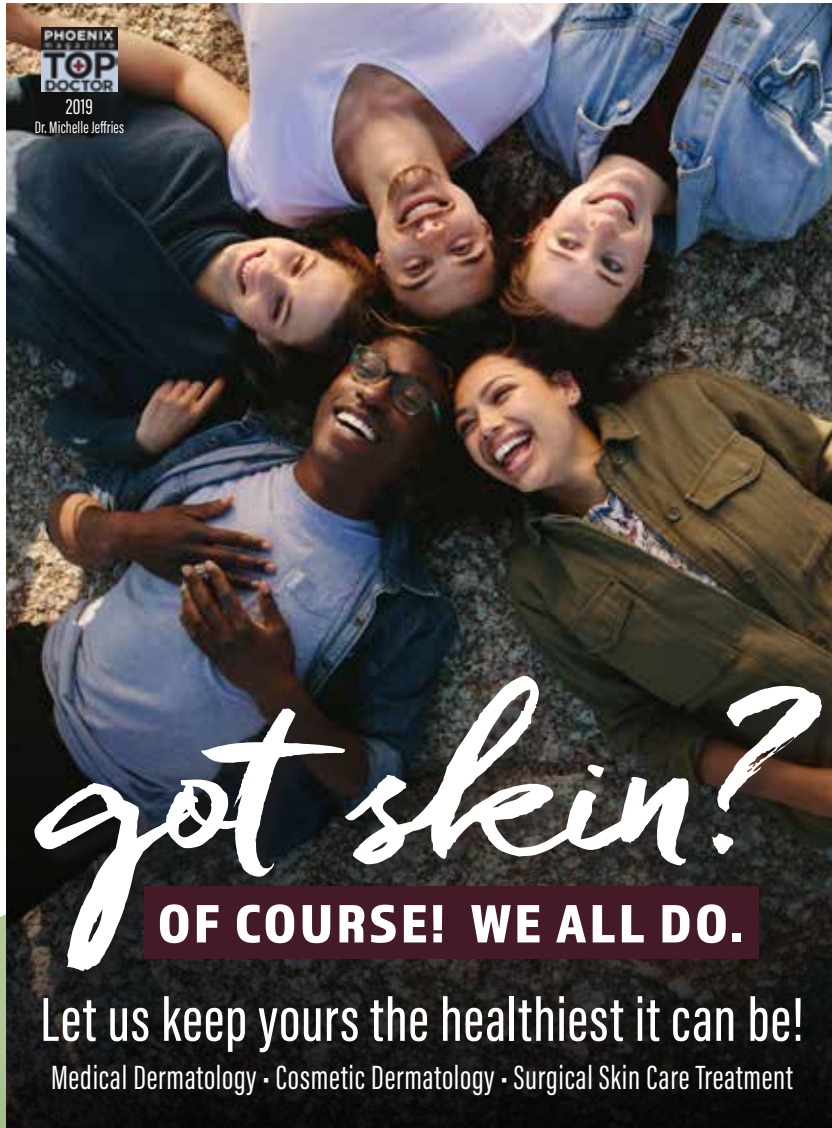
**2021 CHANDLER FAMILY BIKE RIDE***Virtual*

This event encourages the community to get out and get moving on City bike paths, trails, and streets for fun and healthy exercise. As with the 2020 event, this year's Family Bike Ride encourages participants to enjoy one or more bike rides and share their experience with the community through their personal social media accounts and the event page on Facebook. Register at [ChandlerAZ.gov/familybikeride](http://ChandlerAZ.gov/familybikeride).

14-MAY 6

**CUSD 2021***The Gallery at CCA*

Chandler Unified School District's most gifted artists put their work on display for the community to experience in this annual showcase. The burgeoning artists from Basha, Hamilton, Perry, Erie, Casteel and Chandler high schools display their talents and viewpoints through paintings, drawings,



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sculptures, jewelry, and photographs. With over 100 works on display, there is always something for everyone in this exhibition. [VisionGallery.org](http://VisionGallery.org)

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## 16

### 63RD HASHKNIFE PONY EXPRESS ARRIVAL

*Scottsdale Stadium*

This annual ride of the Hashknife Pony Express, the oldest officially sanctioned Pony Express in the world and a part of Old Town's legacy, is something to behold. At noon, the Hashknife Pony Express will arrive at Scottsdale Stadium and deliver more than 20,000 pieces of U.S. Mail. [HashKnifePonyExpress.com](http://HashKnifePonyExpress.com)

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PHOTOGRAPHY LINDSAY BORG

## SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

A CHANDLER TEEN  
EARNS STATEWIDE RECOGNITION  
FOR HER DEDICATION TO  
COMMUNITY SERVICE

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**TEENS LIKE HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ANIKA ATTALURI REMIND US THAT THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT.**

Attaluri was just named one of Arizona's top youth volunteers of 2021 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. As a state honoree, she won a \$2,500 college scholarship—and will find out this month if she is one of America's top youth volunteers of the year. While she volunteers with a variety of non-profits, it's her role with the My School Votes (MSV) program that landed her the national honor.

"As a 17-year old first-generation American, I understand how daunting the voting process can be for first-time voters," she explains. "So, I was ecstatic to join My School Votes to institutionalize this sustainable program in Arizona communities. We were able to break down the voting process and help voters, especially in areas of low voter turnout rates, to register to vote. Furthermore, I created a variety of non-partisan, educational resources to promote civic engagement in communities. As a result, there is now a paved path so first-time voters can vote with confidence, ensuring accurate political representation. Due to COVID-19, we had to create a model from scratch in order to reach young people where they are."

With the national election over, she continues to work with the MSV team to keep communities engaged. She graduates next month and plans to study biomedical engineering and continue to volunteer.





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