



Business

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MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Levante's Ivan Lopez (center) battles for the ball in February. Suns executive Robert Sarver is hoping to buy the team.

SARVER SETS SIGHTS ON SOCCER CLUB

RUSS WILES
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Arizona's top basketball executive is taking another corner kick on a European soccer club.

Robert Sarver, managing partner of the Phoenix Suns and chief executive officer of Western Alliance Bancorporation, confirmed that he's leading a small group of investors interested in purchasing Levante, a club in Valencia, Spain, that plays in the nation's top league.

Sarver previously made a failed bid to buy another European soccer team, the Rangers franchise of Glasgow, Scotland, for nearly \$30 million.

Without discussing details of the Levante proposal — which European media sites have pegged at around \$60 million — Sarver said he enjoys soccer and sees long-term business opportunities in the sport. Sarver's investor group reportedly includes former Suns All-Star Steve Nash and the team's vice chairman, Andy Kohlberg.

Spain's Primera division, which includes some of the world's best players and teams, counts roughly 350 million followers worldwide, Sarver said. Basketball and soccer both are sports played globally in which both boys and girls compete, and the audi-

ences skew younger than those for many other sports.

"I believe the long-term futures of both basketball and soccer are very bright," he said.

Sarver, who said he has traveled to Spain on several occasions recently, said the timing is good. The strong dollar against the euro would make an offer for Levante a bit more affordable. He also indicated the Spanish economy, which struggled through a severe slump in which unemployment climbed to 27 percent, appears to have turned a corner. Western Europe's fifth-largest economy is growing again, though the jobless rate remains above 23 percent. Valencia, a Mediterranean seaport, is the country's third-largest city.

Sarver's proposal would include adding capital to improve Levante's stadium and lure talented players. Following his experience with the Suns, he also sees the potential to bring additional sports-management expertise to enhance marketing, player conditioning and other areas.

Levante plays in the shadow of city rival Valencia CF, as well as more prominent Spanish teams such as Real Madrid and Barcelona — which rank among the world's most valuable soccer franchises, in the \$800 million range, according to a recent

study by Brand Finance.

The research group estimates Valencia CF is worth about \$107 million, placing it among the 50 most valuable global soccer franchises. Levante didn't make the list. Shares of the top global soccer club, Britain's Manchester United, trade on the New York Stock Exchange.

Increasingly, top soccer clubs are developing global fan bases and sponsorship deals, said Brand Finance's CEO, David Haigh, in a statement.

The proposal for Levante could go before the club's board of directors soon. If the deal went through, Sarver said the acquisition wouldn't be a distraction for him as head of the Suns or Western Alliance, which has enjoyed steadily rising profits coming out of the recession.

Sarver also serves as a director of Phoenix-based Meritage Homes Corp. and has other business interests. He said sitting on the boards of different companies and entities provides valuable business insights.

In the most recent season, Levante finished in 14th place, with a losing record, of the 20 teams in Spain's top league.

Forbes pegs the value of the Suns at \$910 million, slightly below the average franchise value of \$1.1 billion for NBA teams.

Restaurants planned for SkySong complex

'Farm to table' theme would anchor new building at ASU hub

PARKER LEAVITT
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

South Scottsdale's iconic SkySong complex — an office and residential hub known for its pointed, tentlike canopy — wants to become a destination for local food enthusiasts with plans for three or four new restaurants to open by fall 2016.

Wetta Ventures, the local developer that brought Postino and Snooze to Arizona State University's Tempe campus last year, wants to anchor a new Sky-Song restaurant building with a locally owned "farm to table" concept.

The restaurant would be surrounded by a 3,000-square-foot garden producing fruit, vegetables and flowers and a 7,500-square-foot covered patio and open space for diners and the public to enjoy, developer David Wetta told *The Republic*.

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HARVEY MACKAY

Best advice from fathers



Several weeks ago, I used this column to share lessons I learned from my parents in recognition of Mother's Day and Father's Day. My intention

was to honor mothers and fathers everywhere for the wisdom they impart to their children.

The column apparently struck a chord, because I had a record response from readers about similar advice they received from their parents. And with Father's Day fresh on my mind, I can't think of a better time to pass some of it on to you.

One person said her father taught her the difference between needs and wants. There are items that we need in order to live and there are items that we want but can live without.

Another writer mentioned character. He said it wasn't something his parents taught him but rather showed him in the way they lived their lives. In other words, want a good kid? Be a good adult.

One reader even sent a link to a video that was made as a tribute to his own father as well as a legacy for his sons that explained his philosophy of life. It was so inspirational, as well as an enduring gift that many of us can imitate.

And on and on the responses went. How gratifying that so many chose to share their own experiences of the tremendous wisdom gleaned from their parents. Here are some of the dozens that I received.

» All choices have consequences. Stop and think about what you are doing and what might result. And then accept responsibility for your actions, even if it hurts.

» Appreciate what you have. It's more important to want what you have

See MACKAY, Page 11A

Top soccer teams

Shown below are the world's 10 most valuable professional soccer brands, according to Brand Finance. Also shown are estimated values for other Spanish-league teams in the top 50.

Rank	Team	Country	Value
1	Manchester United	England	\$1.2 billion*
2	Bayern Munchen	Germany	\$933 million
3	Real Madrid	Spain	\$873 million
4	Manchester City	England	\$800 million
5	Chelsea	England	\$795 million
6	Barcelona	Spain	\$773 million
7	Arsenal	England	\$703 million
8	Liverpool	England	\$577 million
9	Paris Saint-Germain	France	\$541 million
10	Tottenham Hotspur	England	\$360 million
23	Club Atletico de Madrid	Spain	\$151 million
39	Valencia	Spain	\$107 million
47	Sevilla	Spain	\$81 million

NOTE: MANCHESTER UNITED SHARES, WHICH ARE TRADED ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE, ARE WORTH \$2.9 BILLION.

Comcast Spectacor unifies management services for 14 Arizona venues under one brand, Spectra

JUSTIN SAYERS
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

University of Phoenix Stadium and Gila River Arena patrons might start noticing changes under a new management-services merger.

Comcast Spectacor announced in early June that its three divisions — Global Spectrum, Ovations Food Services and Paciolan — will now operate as Spectra. The new brand handles management services for 14 Arizona sports and entertainment venues.

Spectra will consist of three divisions: Venue Management, Food Services & Hospitality, and Ticketing & Fan Engagement, according to the release.

"Spectra is all about creating unforgettable moments for fans," said Dave Scott, president of Comcast Spectacor, in the release. "We can do that best with all services under one umbrella to provide end-to-end solutions for venues, redefining fan experiences everywhere."

Some Spectra venues in Arizona

- » Arizona Sports Foundation (ticketing, fan engagement)
- » Arizona State University (ticketing, fan engagement)
- » Gila River Arena (venue management)
- » Goodyear Ballpark (food services, hospitality)
- » The Hohokam, Arizona Museum of Natural History (food services, hospitality)
- » Lone Butte Casino (food services, hospitality)
- » Salt River Fields at Talking Stick (food services, hospitality)
- » Sloan Park (food services, hospitality)

SOURCE: SPECTRA

The Philadelphia-based Comcast Spectacor is part of the Comcast Corp. The company also owns and operates the Philadelphia Flyers and the Wells Fargo Center venue.

Year-to-date results

	Dow Jones +1.1% 18,015.95		NASDAQ +8% 5,117		S&P +2.5% 2,109.99
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USA TODAY MONEY

A last-ditch meeting today may be Greece's final chance to avert a default that could shake global financial markets and result in the debt-plagued country's exit from the euro. **4B**

Gas prices

The average price of a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline Friday (left) compared with a month earlier:

AREA	DAY	LAST MONTH
Phoenix	\$2.73	\$2.82
Scottsdale	\$2.83	\$2.88
East Valley	\$2.73	\$2.80
West Valley	\$2.75	\$2.81

SOURCE: AAA ARIZONA (WWW.FUELGaugEREPORT.COM/AZMETRO.ASP)

Business



RENDERING BY WETTA VENTURES

A rendering shows the proposed design of a new restaurant building at SkySong in Scottsdale, expected to include a farm-to-table eatery and a large garden area.

SkySong

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The 12,000-square-foot building, planned for Scottsdale and McDowell roads, could also have space for a coffee or juice shop, a specialty restaurant and a fast-casual option, Wetta said. The garden will be professionally installed and maintained and will likely yield more than enough produce for the adjacent restaurants, Wetta said. The structure itself will feature a modern design built with steel, concrete and glass. "Any of these projects that have a sense of place — that special feeling when you walk in — it's all in the detail," Wetta said. "People want to go to interesting places ... they want something unique." Construction is scheduled to begin in

January, with the restaurants open by the following September or October, Wetta said. While a big-name restaurant tenant would likely attract "foodies" from around the Valley, the complex will also benefit from a built-in customer base with around 1,600 employees working at the SkySong complex. Developed by Plaza Cos. in partnership with Scottsdale and Arizona State University, SkySong opened its first two buildings in 2008 and is currently in the midst of a growth spurt. Scottsdale owns the 42-acre property but has entered into a long-term ground lease with the ASU Foundation, which subleases property to master developer Plaza Cos., Plaza CEO Sharon Harper said. A third office building opened at SkySong this year and is about 90 percent leased, Harper said. The first two buildings are about 99 percent leased, she

said. An announcement on the fourth SkySong office building is likely to come within a month, she said. The 325-unit SkySong Apartments complex was finished early last year and is now home to nearly 500 residents. SkySong currently offers about 450,000 square feet of office, but that figure could climb to about 1.2 million square feet once the project is completely built out. Over a 30-year period, the complex could generate more than 5,000 jobs, nearly \$300 million in taxes and fees within Maricopa County and more than \$9 billion in total economic impact, according to a 2013 study from the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. The development's success has drawn national attention, with groups coming from cities such as Las Vegas and Orlando to see what's happening and to scout ideas for projects back home, Harper said.

What is SkySong?

Overview: A mixed-use complex on the southeastern corner of Scottsdale and McDowell roads, SkySong is a 42-acre project being developed by Plaza Cos. in partnership with Scottsdale and Arizona State University. Employment center: Roughly 1,600 employees work at SkySong each day in a variety of fields, ranging from technology development to e-commerce to marketing. ASU maintains a strong employee presence there as well. Eventually the project could have about 1.2 million square feet of office space. Economic incubator: ASU offers business incubator space at SkySong, which gives start-up companies a place to grow with access to university programs and organizations. Dining destination: The restaurant element is next up for development at SkySong, with three or four eateries expected to share a single building along Scottsdale Road. Construction begins in January, with the restaurants expected to open by fall 2016.

Mackay

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than to have everything you want. » Trust your instincts, but always do your homework. The time it takes to do a little, or a lot, of research to confirm your hunches is time well-spent. » Almost doesn't count. Don't settle for almost right, almost finished or almost good enough. » Hard work means no shortcuts. Work efficiently, but do the job right. Cutting corners doesn't cut it. » Always have a contingency plan. Life is full of surprises. Sometimes you have to change your plan or your strategy to deal with those events. I call this making mid-course corrections. » Embrace life's choices head-on. It's your life, so live it to the fullest. You never want to look back with regrets about the "what ifs?" » Hope springs eternal. When you give up hope, you give up. I am grateful that I can still hear my father's advice when I need to make a tough decision. I learned not only from his words but also from his example.

My good friend Lou Holtz said the best advice he ever got about marriage and raising a family is that the most important thing you can do as a father is to show your children that you love their mother. And here's what Martha Stewart wrote about her own dad, in a post on the LinkedIn networking site: "The best advice I've ever received was from my father when I was 12 years old ... He told me that with my personal characteristics, I could, if I set my mind to it, do anything I chose. This advice instilled in me a great sense of confidence, and despite the fact that sometimes I was a little nervous, I stepped out and did what I wanted to do when I wanted to do it. I think it really often is up to the parents to help build confidence in their children. It is a very necessary part of growing up." **Mackay's Moral:** Parents teach lessons, even when they think no one is watching. *Harvey Mackay is the author of the New York Times best-seller "Swim With the Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive." He can be reached through his website, www.harveymackay.com, or by e-mailing harvey@mackay.com.*

Find more Dilbert online at comix.azcentral.com

EPA proposes tougher mileage standards for trucks, vans

MATTHEW DALY
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON — The Obama administration on Friday proposed tougher mileage standards for medium and heavy-duty trucks, the latest move by President Barack Obama in his second-term drive to reduce pollution blamed for global warming. The Environmental Protection Agency issued new rules that would lower car-

bon dioxide emissions from trucks and vans by 24 percent by 2027. It would cut fuel costs by about \$170 billion and reduce oil consumption by up to 1.8 billion barrels over the lifetime of vehicles sold under the rule. The long-expected rules come one day after Pope Francis issued a teaching document calling for the world to take action to slow climate change. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said in a statement that the new

rules would help the environment and the economy, as trucks use less fuel and shipping costs go down. He called the rules "good news all around." Gina McCarthy, chief of the Environmental Protection Agency, said the rules would deliver "big time" on Obama's call to cut carbon pollution. "With emission reductions weighing in at 1 billion tons, this proposal will save consumers, businesses and truck owners money," McCarthy said. At the same

time, the rules will "spur technology innovation and job-growth, while protecting Americans' health and our environment over the long haul," she said. The proposed standards would cover model years 2021-2027 and apply to semi-trucks, large pickup trucks and vans, and all types and sizes of buses and work trucks, officials said. Once completed, the rules are expected to lower carbon dioxide emissions by about 1 billion metric tons.

Obituaries

To place a funeral announcement email your request to obits@pni.com (include your name, address and phone number) or go to azcentral.com. Deadlines to place your notice are before 12 noon Monday - Friday for the next day's publication, and before 2:00 pm Friday for Sunday & Monday's publications. Custom/Display obituary deadline is 10 am Monday through Friday. Call classified Customer Service at 602-444-8774, for pricing and details.

Family and friends are encouraged to share memories and condolences by visiting the on-line Guest Book at www.obits.azcentral.com

CARTER, Rebecca
CASALE, Father Charles B.
DORRIS, Laura Marie
FLACK, Eddie Dean

HASSLINGER, Dennis Joseph
HOUSEWRIGHT, Lester K.
JOSEPH, Maureen Nkky

Carter, Rebecca L.
64, of Phoenix, AZ, passed away June 10, 2015. If you have any information regarding this person, please call Legacy Funeral Home 480-725-9696.

If You Just Want Cremation

- Make Cremation arrangements online, in your home, or in our office
- No appointment needed
- We can ensure your loved one is well cared for at all times, because we own the crematory

Cremation Society of Arizona
www.csfaz.com
623-209-0770 or 928-350-3333

Casale, Father Charles B.
75, passed away June 17, 2015 in Mesa, Arizona. Father Casale was born December 9, 1939 in Newark, NJ and was ordained to the Priesthood for the Grey Franciscan Friars of Charity on June 7, 1969. He was preceded in death by his loving parents Joseph Jay and Grace V. Casale. After many years of active ministry with the Grey Friars and then the Diocese of Fresno, Father Casale retired to Arizona in 2010. He continued to serve in various parishes in this diocese. In lieu of flowers Fr. Casale has requested memorial contributions be made in his name to the Carthusian Foundation of Vermont. Liturgy of The Hours for the Dead will be recited by The Most Rev. Eduardo A. Nevares at 6p.m., Thursday, June 25, 2015 at Queen of Heaven Catholic Mortuary Chapel, 1562 East Baseline Road, Mesa, AZ 85204. Interment will follow at Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery. Memories and condolences may be made by visiting the online obituary guestbook at www.queenofheavencatholicmortuary.com Arrangements entrusted to Queen of Heaven Catholic Mortuary, Mesa, AZ 480-892-3729.

Hasslinger, Dennis Joseph
loving husband and devoted father, died peacefully at his home on June 17, 2015. He was born in Seattle on August 21, 1940 and was educated at Seattle University and the University of Washington. He taught elementary school in Mill Valley, California from 1968 to 1981. Dennis moved his family to Yakima, Washington in 1981 where he began his 32 year career as a State Farm Insurance agent. He was a member of St. Paul Cathedral. An avid hiker, Dennis especially enjoyed winter walks with the Cascadians. He retired in 2013 and moved to Scottsdale, AZ. He leaves behind his wife of 45 years, Marge, daughters and their spouses Suzanne (Rich) Garcia of Phoenix; Melanie (Karsten) Fontenot of Denver; son Tom of Kauai, Hawaii; and three grandchildren, Ryan, Savannah and Clarissa. He was preceded in death by his parents Leona and Joe and his sister Ann Hasslinger. He is survived by brothers Jim (Pat) Hasslinger; Bob (Kathy) Hasslinger; and Tom (Pam) Hasslinger. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower St., Phoenix, AZ 85014. A Memorial Service is scheduled for 11 am, Wednesday, June 24th at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, 25150 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale. A luncheon will follow.

Dorris, Laura Marie
64, of Sun City West, AZ, passed away May 27, 2015. If you have any information regarding this person, please call Legacy Funeral Home 480-725-9696.

Housewright, Lester K.
57, of Phoenix, AZ, passed away June 8, 2015. If you have any information regarding this person, please call Legacy Funeral Home 480-725-9696.

Flack, Eddie Dean
61, of Mesa, AZ, passed away May 30, 2015. If you have any information regarding this person, please call Legacy Funeral Home 480-725-9696.

Joseph, Maureen Nkky
51, of Phoenix, AZ, passed away May 28, 2015. If you have any information regarding this person, please call Legacy Funeral Home 480-725-9696.