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**Exclusive interview** Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke shares his story with Wrangler News. **Page 15**



**Tempe Olympians** Marcos and Corona alumni compete in Tokyo Olympics on U.S. rugby team. **Page 11**

# WRANGLER NEWS

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Covering Tempe & West Chandler for 30-plus years

**COOL WAY to beat the heat and help fellow veterans combat the worrisome surge of service-related suicides.** Page 18



— Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

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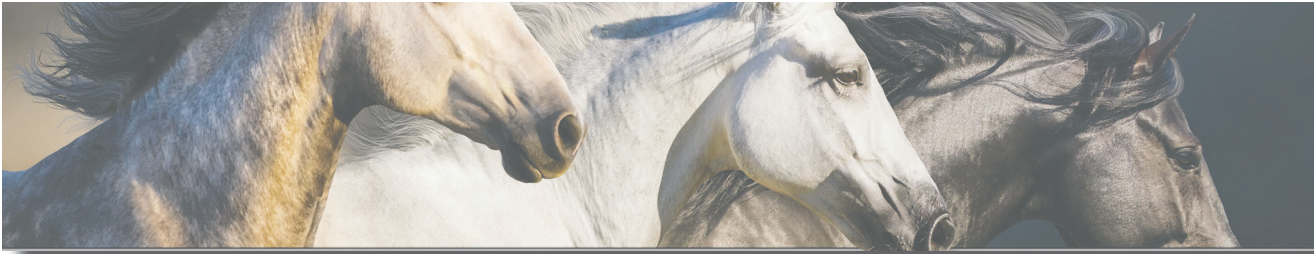


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## Coyotes to submit bid for arena, entertainment complex in Tempe



WranglerNews.com  
KyreneCorridor.com

Could Tempe finally be on the verge of landing the professional sports franchise it has sought for years, as the centerpiece of a new arena and entertainment district on 46 city-owned acres at the northeastern corner of Priest Drive and Rio Salado Parkway?

The Arizona Coyotes of the National Hockey League say they plan to respond to a Tempe request for proposal at the site, which likely would be a multibillion dollar package.

The city has placed an Aug. 19 deadline for responses to its RFP, in which it seeks a project incorporating a professional sports franchise and

entertainment district for two parcels at the site.

The Coyotes play at Gila River Arena in Glendale, where their relationship with that city, which owns the building, has been rocky for years. While it is adjacent to State Farm Stadium, where the Arizona Cardinals play, as well as Westgate Entertainment District, an dining/shopping venue owned by Bob Parsons of PXG Golf and Go Daddy fame, the hockey team is only a tenant.

In this venture, it could enjoy profits from ancillary development.

“Based on the site’s location, the Coyotes are highly interested in this development opportunity and will be responding to the City of Tempe’s

— COYOTES, Page 30

The Arizona Coyotes will respond to Tempe’s request for proposal for a sports venue-entertainment complex at Loop 202 and Priest Drive, their first step in a possible move to Tempe.

— National Hockey

## City housing unit offers relief for families, landlords

West Chandler residents and their citywide neighbors concerned about the loss of rental-property income are receiving some good news from Chandler’s Housing and Redevelopment Division.

The office recently expanded its Increasing Rental Opportunities in Chandler, or I-ROC, program, which previously provided assistance to the owners of properties rented to a Housing Choice Voucher, or Section 8, participant, in the amount of \$400 for each new property rented. The new allotment is \$1,000.

Existing landlords who renew

leases to Section 8 families are also now eligible to receive the \$1,000 incentive.

In addition, the program has been expanded to include families participating in Emergency Housing Voucher and Tenant Based Rental Assistance programs. According to Amy Jacobson, housing and redevelopment manager, more than 80 families are currently involved with the affected programs.

“It is becoming increasingly difficult to find low- to moderate-income housing within city limits and we’re hopeful, with this enhanced program,

more landlords will see the benefits of renting to our qualified families,” she said.

Under the original I-ROC incentive program, Jacobson said, eight landlords initiated new lease agreements.

Notably, she said, there are several benefits to landlords participating in these programs, including steady monthly cash flow, payment stability (tenants pay a designated percentage of their income toward rent and utilities, while Chandler Housing pays the remainder directly to the landlord) and tenant stability. Information: chandleraz.gov/landlords.

## Acting city manager appointed to fulltime Chandler post

Joshua Wright, Chandler’s acting city manager since Marsha Reed resigned in March, has been promoted to the position permanently, the city announced.

Chandler City Council will vote on terms of Wright’s contract at its Aug. 12 meeting, marking the completion of a national recruitment.

“I am honored by the mayor and council’s confidence in me to serve as Chandler’s city manager and am excited about our community’s bright future,” Wright said. “As an East Valley native, I have always admired Chandler’s visionary leadership and couldn’t be

— MANAGER, Page 23

## Connecting with Gilliland kids

# Free haircuts viewed as a way to gain confidence among peers

Story & photo by Gabrielle Dunton

Students getting ready to go back to classes in the Tempe Elementary School District had an opportunity for a free haircut courtesy of TaylorMade Phades during the school's Meet Your Teacher event July 29.

TaylorMade is a family-friendly multicultural barber shop that specializes in the holistic hair care of men, women, and children.

Located at Tempe Marketplace, the shop is close to Gililand Middle School, and one of its owners said he jumped at the chance to help connect with students.

"Kids want to go to school and look good, just like everyone else. They want to have that confidence of coming into a new grade, or new school, feeling good about themselves," said Andre Taylor, the shop's co-owner.

"It was a no-brainer to come in and help because we want the Tempe community to know that we support them and will be sticking around for a long

time."

Cat Hoth, eighth-grade science teacher at Gililand, made the connection with Taylor to offer the opportunity to her school.

She said she thought of the idea after a few of her students asked if she could cut their hair, because they knew she had a pair of clippers for trimming her husband's hair.

It got her thinking that it would be a good opportunity to reach out to local barbers to see if they would be willing to offer their services at the beginning of the school year.

Taylor gave free haircuts to students and announced plans to partner with Gililand again at next year's Meet Your Teacher event.

Hoth said she believes that community engagement is essential to building a strong school community.

"I just want everything for these kids," said Hoth.

"I think it's important for our students to see people from their community reach out to them to see that there are others who care about them outside of the school environment."



Tempe barber Andre Taylor offered free back-to-school haircuts to students at Gililand.

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## We remember the day... So does our photographer.

The time was 6 a.m. and the date was July 29, 2020. Photographer Billy Hardiman was on the 27th floor of his downtown Tempe condominium that overlooks a corner of Town Lake, as well as the sprawling expanse of the city's west side.

In the foreground and within a bird's-eye view lies the century-old bridge over which Union Pacific trains have ferried cargo for many of the structure's 100-plus-year history. It was the ear-shattering crash of that morning's southbound train derailed that awakened Hardiman, who raced to the lofty balcony just in time to see some of the train's 97 cars still tumbling into the void for which even a year later investigators haven't been able to determine an official cause. Camera and telephoto lens in hand, Hardiman captured an unforgettable cover photo with a truly high perched perspective on breaking news.

"I was drinking my coffee when I heard a cascading rattling from the train tracks," Hardiman said. "Then it stopped, which seemed odd. When I ran to see what had happened, the train was billowing black smoke and flames, with train cars derailed and falling off the bridge. After that, the chaos down there lasted through the rest of the week."

— Billy Hardiman file photo for Wrangler News



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**Commentary** ♦ ♦ ♦ By Joyce Coronel

## How local news brings us together

The words of an old friend from college popped up in my Facebook feed the other day and made me smile and reminisce about times gone by.

Cindy and I met in Tempe at Arizona State University back in the '80s when preppies and punks ruled the day. I'm not making this up: The girl in the dorm room next to me sported bright pink, spiked hair and wore a shiny safety pin through her ear. The "music" that blasted us daily was ear-splitting, a definite clash to the mellow sounds of Dan Fogelberg drifting from my stereo. In my topsiders and polo shirts, it was clear Ms. Punk and I were from different universes, but unlike today's atmosphere, our differences didn't lead to shouting matches and hurled insults.

My friend Cindy moved across the country several years ago but we still stay in touch, mostly through Facebook.

In one of her posts, Cindy acknowledged that she was hesitant, at a time fraught with so much animosity, to make any kind of social commentary.

"I try to avoid political posts on Facebook, so it is with some hesitation that I write this, but I hope it's not controversial. I thought this morning about how our country seems so polarized, and it occurred to me that one negative effect of the internet is the decline of local news sources and newspapers."

Be still my heart! Someone was speaking up for local newspapers like Wrangler News?

Cindy went on to point out that she gets along well with her friends, neighbors, coworkers and acquaintances. "It is much easier to avoid the suspicion of bad intentions of people we see and know more closely. This idea made me decide to support a local paper with an online subscription."

She expressed her hope that

others would agree and support local news in order to stay more in touch with their community.

Cindy was definitely on to something. A recent article in Axios, an online news source, pointed to the ever-growing disparity between national news and local news:

"While national journalists covering tech and politics on the coasts reap the benefits of booming businesses and book deals, local media organizations, primarily newspapers, continue to shrink. The disparate fortunes skew what gets covered, elevating big national political stories at the expense of local, community-focused news," the Axios piece lamented.

To my way of thinking, both Axios and my old friend Cindy were pointing out what we've said all along here at Wrangler News. We take great pride in our devotion to telling the stories about Tempe and West Chandler that most other outlets won't or simply can't. Whether it's a disputed bridle path, a turf war over artificial grass, an assisted living home in a neighborhood or the super-smart kid who won the district spelling bee, we're on it.

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# Federal law broke barriers, opened doors, but ADA no cure-all for disabled, pair say

By Joyce Coronel

WranglerNews.com  
KyreneCorridor.com

Susan Deaton was a doctoral candidate at ASU in 1994, out riding her bike with her husband one ordinary evening when tragedy struck. In the aftermath of a horrific accident, her left leg had to be amputated.

She's been in a wheelchair ever since.

Deaton recently moved into a home in Tempe that has been modified to be more accessible for her. A ramp up to the front door, a microwave oven in a lower cabinet and a kitchen island she can reach while seated in her wheelchair help make life a little easier.

That's because even with the Americans with Disabilities Act, passed into law 31 years ago last month, it's anything but easy navigating life with one leg from a seated position. From having to be carried off of an airplane to bathroom stall doors in restaurants that don't close all the way, Deaton has experienced firsthand the obstacles and indignities those without disabilities may never stop to consider.

Her dream of obtaining a Ph.D. was dashed because of her disability.

"The worst thing was I couldn't complete my degree because I had to go to the developing world to do the work," Deaton said. From Africa to Latin America and throughout less prosperous nations, accessibility was an obstacle.

"Basically, I ended up having to drop out."

Randall Howe knows all too well the difficulties of surmounting those obstacles. Born with cerebral palsy

decades before the ADA, Howe underwent numerous surgeries and didn't learn to walk until he was 9 years old. He also has a speech impediment.

The ADA, he said, has made a big difference for him on two fronts: accessibility and employment.

When Howe was very young, he had extensive therapy and underwent multiple surgeries.

"You would think that hospitals would have ramps, but as a small child, I remember what a big deal it was that the hospital finally got a ramp."

Before that, he moved about on a walker his father outfitted with wheels.

"I could get around pretty fast on it," Howe said. Eventually, he learned to walk with a forearm crutch. His parents would sometimes have to carry him up stairways. If there was a left-side railing, he could pull himself up, step by step.

"It wasn't easy," Howe said.

The local school wouldn't allow Howe to enroll, even after he scored 129 on an IQ test, so his mother drove him across town to attend class elsewhere. She reminded him to study hard because, unlike other kids who might not apply themselves to their schoolwork, he couldn't dig ditches for a living.

When Howe began his college degree, he told his academic advisor his plan was to major in history and then go on to ASU's law school. She doubted the wisdom of such an endeavor and encouraged him to get a business degree instead so as to improve his job prospects.

Today, those kinds of discriminatory attitudes and scenarios seem unthinkable, but they weren't so unusual prior to the



Tempe's Susan Deaton, who lost her leg in 1994, appreciates the ADA but said it isn't a cure-all.

— Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel



ADA. The sweeping civil rights law enacted in 1990 prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities, assuring them of equal opportunity, full community participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency.

Howe, who graduated first in his undergraduate class from ASU, did indeed go on to law school where he excelled. Even so, he had trouble securing a job after graduation. He looked good on paper, but once prospective employers noted his disability, they lost interest.

At the time, it didn't seem so unusual to Howe. He says he'd bought into the idea that he could never be in the courtroom.

"The attitude that I had and that was cast down to me was that I was lucky to get as far as I did because people with disabilities weren't viewed as capable employees," Howe said.

He was finally hired by a firm but even there,

**'They had a completely different attitude. They gave me a case and told me to go do it.'**

*— Judge Randall Howe*

there were demeaning comments, such as a partner telling Howe he wouldn't meet with prospective clients initially since they would need to be "prepared" regarding his disability. When the firm went belly-up, Howe had to go job hunting again. He interviewed with a national law firm.

"The partner who interviewed me said, 'How are you going to get around your disability in the courtroom?' That was not an inappropriate question before the ADA," Howe said.

Howe then applied to the Arizona Attorney General's Office where the culture was more open-minded.

"They had a completely different attitude. They gave me a case and told me, 'Go do it,'" Howe said.

"It ruined the idea that I couldn't be in the courtroom that I couldn't do litigation."

In 2001, Howe was named chief counsel of the criminal appeals section at the AG's office. He hired four attorneys to work for him, each with various physical disabilities. Two had multiple sclerosis, one was deaf, and the fourth had muscular dystrophy.

"They were all more than capable of doing the job," Howe said. "I think that before the ADA, those people would have had a lot harder time finding jobs. I know that I did."

To understand how seemingly unsurmountable a barrier Howe has overcome, he has argued a case

before the U.S. Supreme Court, a complete vindication for a man others doubted could ever hold forth in a courtroom.

The fact that the ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities and also requires that public facilities are accessible to the handicapped has been life-changing for Howe and millions of other Americans.

As a younger man, Howe was active, going to school and out into the community, he says, 'but if it was somewhere unfamiliar, I would have to call ahead. I would have to plan how I would get around the various physical obstacles.

"It's a great thing for me that I don't have to think about that."

For the last 15-20 years, he's used an electric scooter to get around. And to those who might complain that handicapped parking spots takes too much space or seem like overkill, he offers this:

"For most people, if they have to walk a little bit from their parking space to the store or the door, it's really not that big of a deal," Howe said. For him to be able to park close enough to the door very often determines whether he goes in at all. If he really needs to buy something and he can't park close to an entrance, he said he has to weigh how much he's willing to exhaust himself to get inside.

"The more accessible a building is, the more apt people with disabilities are going to go into the building and patronize it."

For Susan Deaton, who became disabled four years after passage of the ADA, the view from a wheelchair is a bit different than Howe's. An observer wouldn't necessarily describe Deaton as "confined to a wheelchair," for starters. Energetic, articulate and assertive, she wheels around her new Tempe digs with gusto, navigating piles of boxes and cartons of belongings that still need to be unpacked, while chatting on her cell phone about an insurance matter. She's a woman of deep faith who doesn't feel sorry for herself and isn't afraid to speak her mind.

She can't get to the pool pump in her backyard because the cool deck is too narrow to allow for her wheelchair.

Deaton said that the little things like ramps, handicapped parking and accessible bathrooms make a big difference but they're not a cure all. She mentioned difficulties shopping at a grocery store in Tempe where she's been told all the checkout lanes are handicapped accessible.

"Oh no, they're not," Deaton declared. Just listening to her description of the ordeal of placing her items on the belt for checkout is exhausting:

"I can barely get my wheelchair going in there. In order to unload my groceries, I have to go in backwards, pull the front of the cart in, unload as much as I can, push my cart back out into the main aisle, turn my cart around, turn my wheelchair around, and then push the cart in and push me in to be able to unload the back part of the cart.

"It's a nightmare."



**Judge Randall Howe of the Arizona Court of Appeals became an attorney before the ADA.**

— Photo courtesy Randall Howe

She's asked to speak with the store manager several times, but he or she is "never available."

Pausing to consider the various difficulties she's encountered as a person with disabilities throughout the last 27 years, she recalls the day her cohort of fellow patients at a local rehabilitation center were to make their first foray in public.

"I learned that day that I became a non-person," Deaton said.

While pedestrians who pass each other on the street are normally cordial, nodding or exchanging a greeting, she noticed that things were different after the amputation.

"When you are disabled and in a wheelchair, they turn their heads away from you. They deliberately make sure that they can't see you," Deaton said.

"I am certain that has to do with their fears of disability."

And as for handicapped accessible restrooms in bathrooms, they're not all they're cracked up to be. She's found instances where she can get her wheelchair into the stall but then the door won't close.

"I have just as much right to privacy as the next person," Deaton said. People mean well, she said, but they don't quite get what life is like for the disabled.

"I think everybody ought to spend a day in a wheelchair where you cannot use your legs."



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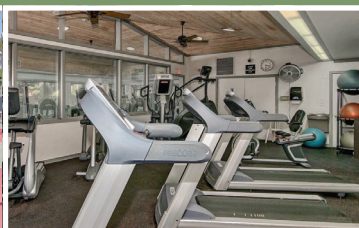
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# SPORTS

## Pair of Tempe ruggers on U.S. team shine a spotlight on the sport during their debut in Tokyo Olympics

By Lee Shappell

As the hulking figure thundered toward the U.S. goal line toting something resembling an oversize football, Brett Thompson was epitomizing what it's all about in the sport of rugby sevens: Try.

Thompson, who turns 31 on Aug. 17, had been trying for some time. And trying some more.

And on this 15-meter jaunt for the U.S. in a pool-play game against South Africa in the Tokyo Olympics last week, he had to try especially hard as three South African players caught up to him and attempted to tackle him about 5 meters from the goal. The 6-foot-4,



Brett Thompson, formerly of Marcos de Niza High and the University of Arizona, and son of legendary Hall of Fame rugby coach Salty Thompson, scored for the U.S. against South Africa in the Olympics in Tokyo. — Atlantis Rugby photo

225-pound Thompson, looking like a U.S. football fullback on a dive play, dragged them all in and scored, which in rugby is known as a "try" and counts 5 points.

"What a run! What a try!" the NBC-TV crew gushed.

Thompson is from Marcos de Niza High. He has been on the U.S. senior national rugby team for nine years, although sidelined by injuries for four of them. Repair of torn anterior cruciate ligament. Both knees. Reconstruction of a shoulder. Foot injury. And he's back.

Pads and helmet? Meh. Those are for the high-priced prima donnas in American football. These guys mix it up with only shorts, shirts and cleats, pounding, blocking and tackling with no protection in a physical, collision sport that is not for the weak or for anyone with a low tolerance for pain.

Thompson initially was selected to the U.S. Olympic team as an alternate but was promoted to the active roster for the Games in early July after teammate Ben Pinkelman's lingering back injury required surgery.

So there he was for the whole world to see.

Among those tuned in at 2:30 a.m. Arizona time for the quarterfinal game against Great Britain was his dad, Wilbert "Salty" Thompson, who is among the most-noted rugby coaches in the country and a 2021 inductee into the U.S. Rugby Hall of Fame. Salty and his wife still live in the same South Tempe house near Kyrene and Guadalupe where he raised Brett.

A few days earlier, Salty Thompson had been in Salt Lake City at a youth-rugby tournament and snuck away to watch the Olympics opening ceremonies.

"It's hard to describe the feeling," Salty Thompson said. "I was watching, and then there was Brett. I thought, oh my God, this is happening.

"Then he took the field and played really well. How often does this opportunity come, especially at his age after what he went through to get there? There are only about 600 U.S. Olympians in a country of about 300 million."

Another of them is Maceo Brown, 25, a Corona del Sol High graduate, who played two years on the club rugby team at Grand Canyon University and

— RUGBY, Page 12

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now is a starter on the U.S. Olympic team.

The U.S., while not yet a world power in the sport, true to rugby gave it a try. It won its first two games in Olympics pool play last week, over Ireland and Kenya, before falling to South Africa, still reaching the quarterfinals and needing a win there over defending silver medalist Great Britain to play for a medal.

The U.S. roared to a 21-0 lead and appeared headed for a monumental upset. Then, Great Britain scored with 10 seconds left in the first half and in the second got two quick, easy scores en route to a 26-21 comeback victory.

The Americans then beat Canada to reach the fifth-place game, where they fell again to South Africa.

The U.S. team's sixth-place finish was an improvement on its ninth place in the Rio Olympics in 2016.

"We were all looking to bring a medal home," Brown said in Tokyo in an interview with USA Rugby.

"The experience was great, amazing, coming in and seeing all the athletes everywhere, all the flags in the village, getting in some sightseeing, the opening ceremony. It's a great experience."

Salty Thompson coached both Tempe Olympians.

Who knew that Tempe was such a national hub of rugby?

It's a well-kept secret, but the emergence of Brown and the younger Thompson coupled with the legendary coaching and administration of the elder Thompson has put the area on the rugby map.

"It's a quiet amateur sport but we have nurtured quite a lot of top-level players here over the years," Salty Thompson said. "Tempe Rugby has been around since 1980. We get them started. It's unfortunate that they then have to go somewhere else to develop. We just export them. But we do have a really, really strong youth program, and (coach) Hal Morgan has taken them to the high school national tournament."

Thompson, 66, was soccer and cross-country coach for nearly 23 years at Westview High in Avondale. He has coached numerous U.S. national rugby teams in all age groups. He now is director of Eagle Impact Rugby Academy in Tempe, where he identifies and develops the next generation of young American players who continue to close the gap on world leaders in the sport. He has coached 45 All Americans and sent more than 40 players on to U.S. national teams.

A native of Ireland, Thompson came to the U.S. to get his master's degree at Arizona State, where he played on and coached the club rugby team. Before that, he played rugby at Loughborough University in England, where he also ran the 400 meters on the track team with middle-distance Olympic medalist and world recordholder Sebastian Coe.

"We're a nation that loves our medals, and when

we fall short it's disappointing," Salty Thompson said. "But the Olympics is great exposure for our sport. The culture of the sport sells well to the public. And there's curiosity. Kids see it and say to themselves, 'I wouldn't mind having a go at that.'"

Rugby sevens, for men and women, is in the Olympics for only the second time, having made its debut in Rio in 2016. Rugby, with 15 players to a side in an 80-minute game of two 40-minute halves — also known as rugby union — was in the Olympics until being discontinued after the 1924 Games in Paris.



Maceo Brown, formerly of Corona del Sol High and Grand Canyon University.

GCU photo

Rugby sevens is seven players per team in a 14-minute game of two 7-minute halves, but played on a regulation-size field. It is faster and more free-flowing than rugby union, requiring speed, which is why the U.S. team nearly reached the medal round.

And that's what makes the speedy Brown, a multi-sport player while at Corona, valuable.

"He's a talented guy, but he wasn't the easiest kid to coach," Salty Thompson said. "We joke about that now."

Brandon Thompson, who is no relation to Salty or Brett, but who played rugby with both of them as well as with Brown, takes it a step further.

"Instantaneously, his talent really showed," Brandon Thompson said of Brown. "What Maceo really needed was a mentor within the rugby community. A lot of times, being polished and being disciplined are two different things. Salty really steered Maceo, really encouraged him, sometimes redirected him and really pushed him in his rugby career."

Brown, at 6-foot-1, 200 pounds, quickly drew the attention of national and international scouts while on the Grand Canyon club team. During his senior year at GCU, he took online classes while preparing full-time with the USA Development Team.

"It's an honor to be selected as one of the lucky few representing this great country," Brown said. "There have been so many ups and downs on this journey to becoming an Olympian, but one thing that never wavered was my faith in God, in humanity and, most importantly, in myself."

Brandon Thompson and Brown played on the 2018 national championship team together.

"Now, I'm a fan of Maceo like everybody else," Brandon Thompson said. "Maceo is highly competitive and he has a deep desire to succeed, and that's what pressed him forward."

Brandon Thompson, 41, is an English teacher as well as cross-country and soccer coach at Tempe

High. He also is director of player development at Tempe Rugby Club.

"We are not a tier 1 rugby nation yet," Brandon Thompson said. "But the nice thing about sevens is its only 14 minutes long. So is it possible for the U.S to make a run? Absolutely, because it's more of a free-flowing game and we do have a fair amount of speed on that team. That's the great equalizer in every game."

It's still a physical game, too. That's what makes Brett Thompson valuable.

On his twitter page, he describes himself as "half human, half robot." He made his point with that brute-force finish for a try in the first game against South Africa that left the NBC-TV commentators aghast.

"Join the party," Salty Thompson said. "He's just so big and strong. He's healthy for this Olympics, which is fantastic since he missed the last one. I'm very proud of him. But my wife has a rule: We don't talk rugby over dinner. When it comes to Brett, I'm just dad."

Brett Thompson went from Marcos to the University of Arizona as a preferred football walk-on, recruited by former coach Mike Stoops. After two seasons playing special teams, Thompson shifted his focus back to rugby.

"I've known Brett since he was a little boy," said Brandon Thompson, the Tempe High teacher-coach. "I watched him grow up and I was his teammate for a while. He was a wonderful football player, just a great athlete. He always had rugby on the back burner."

"With Salty as his father, Brett is a real student of the game. He's very hard working but very coachable. Now, he pops in on our youth camps when he comes back. He has worked himself into being one of our country's best rugby players."

Seeing successes like those of his son and Brown keep Salty Thompson going at 66.

"It's the possibilities and the character development in the sport," he said. "It takes a certain mentality to even want to play rugby."

For Brandon Thompson, it's the humility and camaraderie that are the hooks.

"Honestly, all the wonderful things in my life came from rugby," Brandon Thompson said. "I met my wife. She played. Salty became my coaching mentor. He coached soccer and cross-country, and now that's what I do."

"In rugby there is no real showboating. These guys push themselves. They're willing to work hard. I honestly think rugby is one of the greatest team sports in the world."

"It is a wonderful outlet for physicality, for speed and then for community. Afterward, you hang out with your opponent and talk to each other. We play this physical, almost violent, sport all these minutes and we still get together and respect each other as human beings. You belong to something greater that builds positivity rather than negativity."

"That's really what draws all of us to it."

# Coaches view camp as way to evaluate volleyball prospects

By Alex Zener

Tempe Union High School District students started their first day of classes Aug. 2, signaling that fall sports tryouts and competitions in badminton, cross country, football, golf, freshman tennis, swim and dive and girls volleyball will be starting soon.

Corona's team volleyball camp was due to run through Aug. 5, when the coaches, including head varsity coach **Ben Maxfield** and his assistants, should have had a chance to see, in some cases for the first time, the freshman and other players new to Corona.

The camp should also give coaches a chance to start to evaluate all players who may be trying out for Corona's freshman, JV and varsity teams, including the players who may have improved their skills over the past nine months playing club volleyball.

The Aztecs hope to improve on their 2020 season, when they had an overall 9-7 record, had to play in the 6A Conference Play-In to qualify for the state tournament, and lost in the first round of the 2020 6A State Volleyball Tournament to Xavier.

In all fairness, 2020 could only be called a rebuilding year after Corona, in 2019, went 34-9 and made it all the way to the semifinals before losing to Basha. This 2019 team was an experienced group that included 10 seniors, several who had been playing varsity for three or more years.

Corona's 2019 team also included one freshman, **Ella Lomigora**, who led in blocks with a total of 134, playing in 126 of the possible 129 sets that season.

Lomigora, still playing the middle blocker position last season, turned into a hitter. She finished the season as the second leading hitter on the team with 141 kills in 56 sets or an average of 2.5 kills a set, hitting .321.

In addition to Lomigora, Corona

should return nine players from last season who gained experience that should carry over to this season.

One such player is senior outside hitter **Kacie Webb**, who played in 56 sets where she had 85 kills, third on the team; 138 digs, second on the team; and 22 aces.

Fellow senior **Sydney Meyer** should also return as an outside hitter. She only played in 20 sets last season but had 57 kills or 2.9 kills a set. Meyer averaged 1.4 blocks a set.

Senior **Reese Manross** should be another returning opposite or outside hitter who played in 46 sets, had 40 kills, and 31 digs last season.

In the past, including last season, Corona has usually run a two-setter system. Utilizing this approach, freshman **Julia Owens** and junior **Taylor Erickson** often were on the court at the same time with the player in the back row setting the ball.

Owens played in 56 sets earning 299 assists or 5.3 assists per set while Erickson played in 52 sets earning 214 assists or 4.1 assists a set.

If both setters return, it will give the Aztecs more options to block and hit the ball from the front row and two players on the court who have shown they can dig the ball as well as set. Owens had 102 digs last season, while Erickson averaged close to one dig a set.

The libero position has become one of the most important in volleyball. Last season, **Angie Bour** played in 48 sets as the libero, amassing 217 digs in 48 sets for an average of 4.5 digs a set. She hopefully is returning her senior season to anchor the back row.

Bour should be joined on defense by junior **Maddie Kamolz** who played in 51 matches digging the ball an average of 1.6 digs a set or 80 digs her sophomore year.

Last season, freshman outside hitter **Maggie Beauer** played in 22 sets where she may not have had



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## Tempe offers some handy back-to-class tips for kids, families

The new school year is underway and Tempe is teaming up with local schools and community partners to ensure students from preschool through graduate school are prepared. Tips and information on COVID-19, student safety, mental wellness, educational resources, transportation options and opportunities to get involved in the community are available on the [Tempe Goes Back to School](http://Tempe Goes Back to School) website.

**Youth Transit Pass** — Tempe students looking for a new way to get to school can pick up a free Youth Transit Pass and ride the light rail and all buses for free. Get one at the Tempe Transit Store, 200 E. Fifth St., weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in person at Tempe, Compadre, Marcos de Niza and McClintock high schools.

Saturday registration, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 7, at the Transit Store.

**College Connect** — Free resources that provide everything needed to build an achievable plan that works for you. Services include a workshop series, one-on-one mentoring and access to college experts from schools across the state.

Get answers about school options, career paths, financial aid, class choice and more.  
[Tempe.gov/collegeconnect](http://Tempe.gov/collegeconnect)

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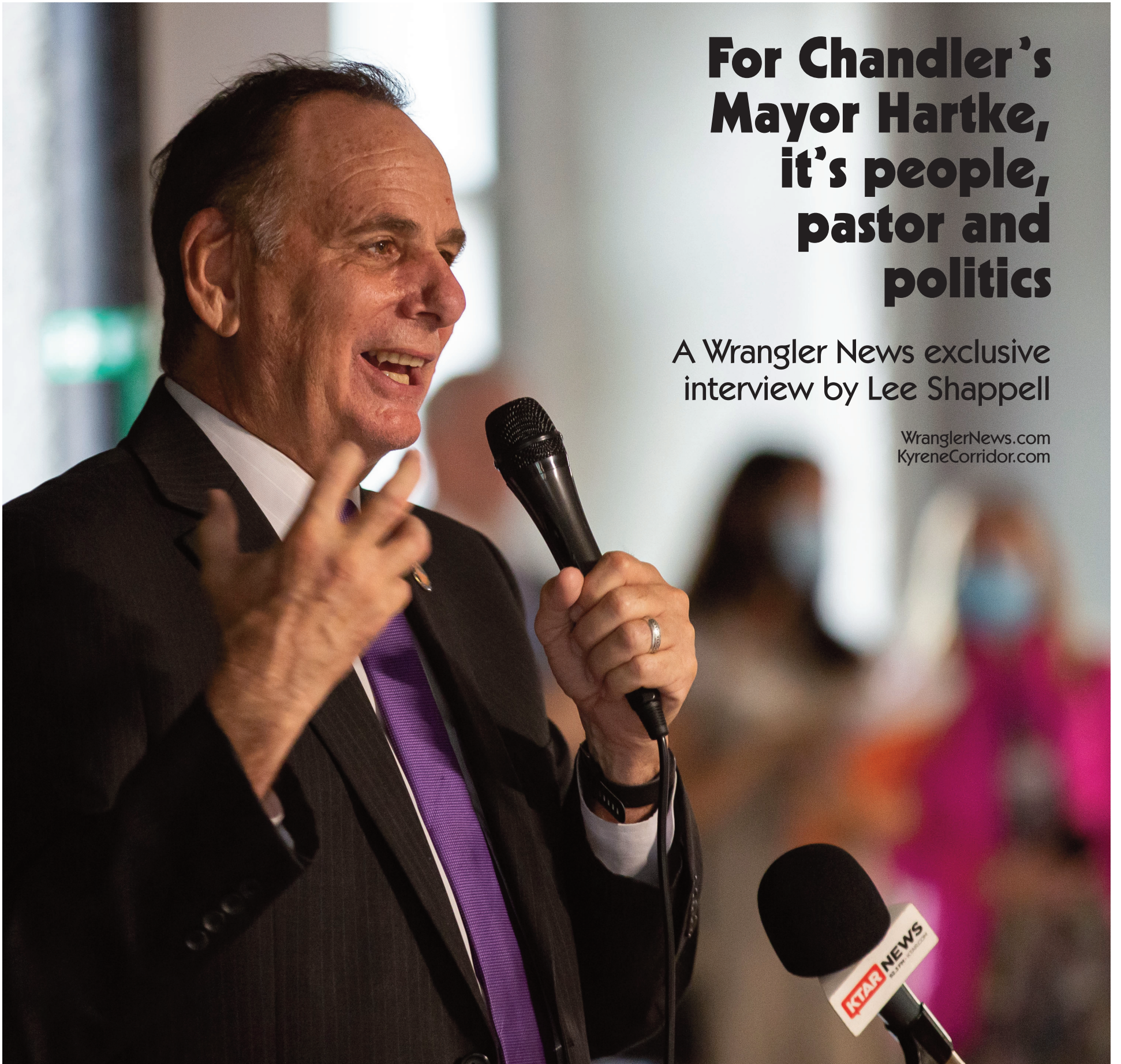
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In Tempe

# For Chandler's Mayor Hartke, it's people, pastor and politics

A Wrangler News exclusive interview by Lee Shappell

WranglerNews.com  
KyreneCorridor.com



**A**spiring medical student. Snowmobile repairman. Sled-dog musher. Working with indigenous people in Canada. Man of the cloth. They're all part of his life's journey that shaped him and step by step brought Kevin Hartke to be mayor of Chandler.

He was lead pastor at Trinity Christian Fellowship from 1992 to 2018 and remains an associate pastor. He was appointed to fill a remaining term on Chandler City Council in 2008 and then elected to consecutive terms and served from 2011 to 2019. He has been mayor for two years.

Wrangler News/wranglernews.com was granted an extensive interview with Hartke, which will be presented in two parts. In the first today, we get to know Hartke, 65, the person. In the next, we'll look at Hartke the politician.

**Question:** Is it easier to deal with a City Council or a team of sled dogs?

**Answer:** Oh boy, there's a lot more comparisons than you would think, but sled dogs. Definitely. What I found with sled dogs is once they know where they're going and heading home, they're all in agreement. Before then, not so much.

**Q:** Oldtimers will know this about you but Chandler is such a growing city that there probably are thousands who would be surprised to know that you are a pastor. A pastor who is in politics. That might seem incongruent. How do you make it work?

**A:** You know, the first election I was in, that became an issue that one of my opponents, in particular, brought up. His concern was that somehow I didn't belong despite my efforts to remind him that one of our founding constitutional penners was Witherspoon (John Witherspoon signed the Declaration of Independence and was a member of the Continental Congress), who was a pastor as well as one of our early leaders of our Constitution. There's always been a place for people of faith and passion to serve in leadership anywhere and everywhere. In Chandler, I'll be honest with you, it's kind of fun because the city in some ways is a larger parish that you have to listen to people, you solve problems and you build things for the greater community. There's really a lot of similarities between the two.

**Q:** So you grew up in St. Louis, went to Missouri as a biochemistry undergrad. What were you going

to do with that?

**A:** I was heading for med school. And I had applied for med school. I had a season of time (while waiting) so I moved up to northern Minnesota to work at a camp, kind of an Outward Bound wilderness camp in the middle of the boundary waters on the Canadian border. I was going to do it for a summer and I got involved in it and decided that I was going to linger for a while longer. And I lingered for a little while, moved across the street, proverbially, I met my wife and I spent the next five years living on Indian reserves in northern Canada serving Ojibway and Cree people.

**Q:** That's where you encountered snowmobiles and sled dogs?

**A:** Exactly. There was so much snow. It's not quite what you get in Alaska but several folks who had dogs up there were training for the Iditarod in Alaska. I was helping someone else who had dogs. I never had my own teams.

**Q:** So if I had an issue with my snowmobile could I call you to come fix it?

**A:** You know, I moved down here with two. I would do stuff with kids. In the winter and we would go up north and we would ride them and I was pretty good at fixing them. I could tear apart a carburetor. I had a piece of cardboard so I didn't lose things in the snow. That's a skill I look back on fondly but I wouldn't trust my abilities now.

**Q:** What did you learn managing sled dogs, being on the sled with them and developing a relationship with the animals?

**A:** They're all individuals. There's definitely a lead dog. At times, they squabble and you've got to break up fights. I still think one of my favorite memories was of a sunset on an icy road, in which you could see their puffs of steam and you could hear their feet clapping and the sliding of the rails. I have really fond memories of being able to do those things.

**Q:** Was it working with those indigenous people, helping them, that convinced you to go into the seminary?

**A:** I was involved with faith groups at the University of Mizzou for quite some time. When I moved up there, the wilderness organization was taking out treatment groups — alcohol groups, drug treatment or church groups — and taking them into the boundary waters. So it was decidedly faith-based. Then the organization I moved across

**'I'm a relational guy  
and I love helping  
people and I love  
staying in  
relationships to  
see how people are  
continuing to thrive.'**

*— Chandler Mayor  
Kevin Hartke*

the street with was definitely a Christian organization. We would fly up and stay in Anglican mission bases, these old log cabins up there. It was very interdenominational type of work. One of the villages was, at the time, the suicide capital of Manitoba. A lot of kids would soak their gloves in gasoline and just sniff. Certainly you could see some manifestations of heavy-metal deposits in brains and other tissue. So it was a pretty sad place. If you have 40-below-zero nights and you fall asleep outside either because you were intoxicated or under the influence of gasoline it's pretty unforgiving.

**Q:** Was completing Fuller Theological Seminary the next step that brought you down here?

**A:** I actually started Fuller after I came down here. They have an extension campus here in Phoenix. I started Fuller thinking I just want to expand my education. I took a class on youth ministry. After about 2-3 years of that, I thought let's just go finish my masters here. A good experience.

**Q:** So what was it that did bring you to Chandler?

**A:** Sometimes with nonprofits you have a strong, dynamic founder. When they start turning over because of their age or health to new leaders there



can be a lot of upheaval in the organization. We saw that up in Manitoba. We wanted to open a second base for this mission organization up in Thompson, Manitoba, closer to where we were working with other Cree villages. The organization wasn't ready for it. We were invited to stay but I just didn't see a future with that particular organization. So we started looking elsewhere. At one point, I was looking at building houses up in Minnesota or moving to an organization in Dallas. In fact, when I got the call to come visit here I was in Dallas visiting some teams I had served on a medical mission. I got this call. When I went back and talked with my wife it was about 40 below zero up there and I thought Arizona sounds good.

**Q:** Had you ever been to Arizona before?

**A:** Never had. Never had been to the Grand Canyon or a lot of things.

**Q:** What did you think when you saw this place?

**A:** The first thing I noticed was no coat racks in buildings. So that was pretty interesting. I found myself taking pictures of saguaro cactus. Swimming pools in the winter were an unusual thought coming from there. In January it wasn't that big of a deal to go jump in a pool. We were pretty awed by this, as most northerners are when they come down here. We love the people. We decided that if they asked us we would move down here.

**Q:** Can you share some of the memorable experiences in your work at Trinity Christian Fellowship?

**A:** They're great people. I always feel I have something I can learn from someone. From there, I think I better learned how to be a leader. My lead pastor there, Tom Ewing, is still alive in his 90s. I learned a lot from him. I learned how to be a better father from some of the men in the church. They are very community oriented so it's an extension of family. It's still that way today. It's been a support base. When I first was asked to consider running for Council I went to my family there and asked for them to pray and what they thought. That was a big decision for me and I really needed their input.

**Q:** Do you have a memory that you are proudest of helping people there?

**A:** I've led a lot of teams on mission trips into Mexico. Those have always been great to take children and youth out of our culture to better appreciate it and have a different perspective on life

and seeing other communities. I've enjoyed doing that. One of the things I brought to Chandler, and we were among the first churches involved, was the I-Help Program. We borrowed from Tempe, who borrowed from Modesto, California. I'm still heavily involved with that.

I've got several folks who have been homeless and are now my friends. Some of them go to our church, some of them don't. One of the men a couple of years ago, whose first name was Fred, I had him do an oral history with our museum folks. He was a prize fighter in 1970 so he fought Cassius



Mayor Kevin Hartke at a back-to-school event.

Clay before he was Muhammad Ali. He fought and knew Zora Folley (who lived in Chandler for many years). He was a good boxer. So here he is 1970 to 2019, nearly 50 years later, and Fred is homeless living in Chandler. He showed up at our church for I-Help Night. I ended up sitting with him and having dinner. We just struck up a friendship. At one point, he's telling me how healthy he is and says, "Go ahead, Mayor, punch me in the stomach, I'm in great shape." So I look at what we call the headline test: "Mayor punches homeless guy." I could only dream to be in as good of shape as he is. He's now up in Washington. He still calls me. I'm a relational guy and I love helping people and I love staying in relationships to see how people are continuing to thrive.

**Q:** Against that background, what moved you to go into politics?

**A:** So I moved to Chandler in 1985 and I've been a pastor at Trinity Christian Fellowship, and I still am, although I am no longer the lead pastor. I'm on staff of a fine man that I brought here 25 years ago and now he's got the helm of the church. I was fine the first several years just looking at the needs of the church. Then at some point, I saw that beyond just the well-being of a church and the parishioners and a growing church there was an entire community that has its own needs. Whether they are perceived spiritual needs or not, it's the community in which I've been called to live and serve. So back in about 1990, I really embraced that simple little statement, "bloom where you're planted." I started volunteering at the city on alley cleanups on Cesar Chavez Day and other kinds of things. I was asked to serve on a charter revision and then I chaired the first Chandler Human Relations Commission. So it was just getting involved and seeing how I could help. When there was an opening on Council, I had received several calls saying put your name in for it so I did, and I was appointed.

**Q:** You've never lost an election?

**A:** That's not true, I lost my first election. After I was appointed in 2008, I decided to run in 2009 and I think there was Matt Orlando, Rick Heumann, Jack Sellers and myself and a couple of others in there, and in the primary I came in fourth by 23 votes to Jack Sellers. Had I won that election, I would not have been appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission to learn more about things in that. I would not have, probably, started my nonprofit, For Our City Chandler – and we just did a successful backpack drive and we're doing a community-revitalization project in October. And a few other things. And it also kicked me back a cycle to where I was on the cycle to eventually run for mayor.

**Q:** So a happy accident that may have better prepared you?

**A:** Yeah, that's a good way of putting it. I think anyone who's going to run for a political office, to be successful you really have to put your heart and soul into it. It's a lot of work. It doesn't seem like a happy accident when you lose, but as in most things, the older you get the more hindsight and you can better interpret things and it becomes a little less traumatic when you go through hard times.

# Veterans take an icy plunge to help stem spike in service-related deaths by suicide

Story & photos  
by Andrew Lwowski

WranglerNews.com  
KyreneCorridor.com

When soldiers come home from action, they often aren't the same person as when they left, physically or mentally. There are charities and projects for those who were left physically compromised, but rejoining society may be the toughest battle.

On one recent weekend, the American Legion Veterans Association hosted Operation Shockwave, a charity that works to prevent suicide of returning veterans by helping them cope with the transition back to society.

Operation Shockwave used a creative approach to the campaign, providing a Traveling Butcher AZ food truck, a raffle, music performances and, for the truly cold-blooded among them, ice baths to raise money and awareness of their cause. Veterans, allies and volunteers took turns sitting in the teeth-rattling

cubes for 22 minutes to signify the 22 veterans who die by suicide every day. The event was expected to generate a modest return, but ended up raising more than \$23,000.

The money will support the Operation Shockwaves mission by providing emotional rehabilitation and financial aid as well as helping to sustain the sense of protection and family that they had with their fellow soldiers.

Ryan Newman, a veteran who was there for the event, served eight years in the Army, including two combat tours in Iraq. Newman said that he got medically chaptered out of Iraq and struggled to find peace when he returned to the U.S.

"When I got home, I tried to deal with the stuff myself, get help, and I just kind of dealt with it, I didn't talk to anybody," said Newman.

After struggling in 2012 with potentially losing his home with two kids and another on the way, he tried to take his own life.



After a 22-minute ice bath, one participant is assisted out of the chilly water by Ryan Newman.

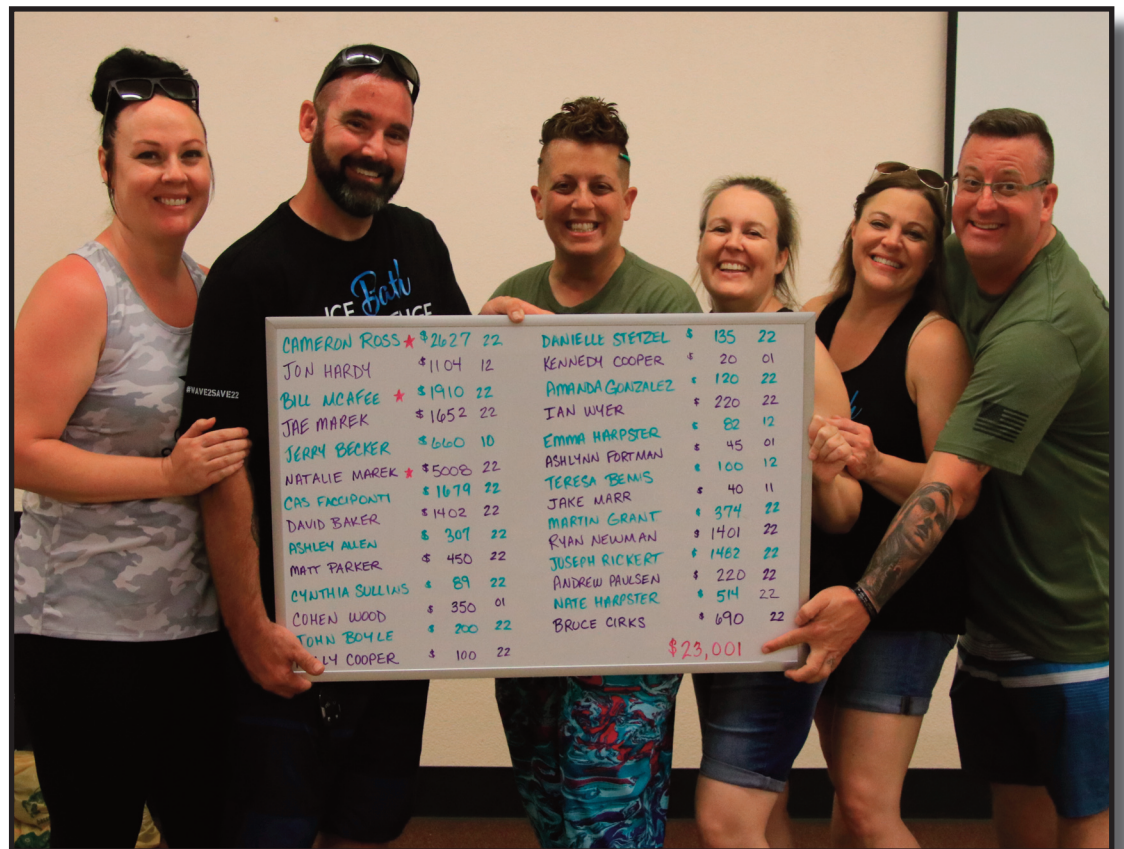


From left: U.S. Navy veteran Joe Rickert; U.S. Army veteran Ryan Newman; an unidentified participant; and U.S. Marine veteran Martin Grant warming up in the sun after their ice baths.



**Top: Ryan Newman gets some canine kudos from a furry friend during the icy-cold bath.**

**Bottom, from left: A young attendee at the event helps announce the winning ticket for the raffle; CaS Facciponti, center, co-founder of Operation Shockwave, holds up a board with the names of donors and the amount raised.**



## Film Fare . . . with M.V. Moorhead

### 'Old' doesn't age very gracefully in Shyamalan's latest screen venture

A family of four arrives at a tropical resort and is sent, with other vacationers, to a beautiful secret beach enclosed by cliffs. Weird stuff starts happening almost at once, and before long the crux of the weirdness becomes clear: the guests are aging, at a rate of about two years per hour. The little kids start sprouting into hormonal adolescents; the grownups start to get wrinkles. Worse yet, every effort to leave the beach is repelled by mysterious forces.

Now in theaters, *Old* is the latest from the King of High Concept, writer-director M. Night Shyamalan. It's adapted from a 2010 graphic novel known in English as *Sandcastle*, by French writer Pierre Oscar Levy and Swiss illustrator Frederik Peeters. The movie is like most of Shyamalan's efforts: a brilliant idea, unevenly but fascinatingly executed.

*Old*'s story unfolds in a dreamlike style of short, disjointed bits of dialogue and oscillating camera movements. There are passages of dazzling originality and twisted, daring wit, dramatizing a

familiar feeling: the terrifying and disorienting way that life seems to accelerate toward mortality as we get older.

The attractive cast includes Gael Garcia Bernal—strange to see the kid from *Y tu mama tambien* turning into an old man—and Vicky Krieps as the Mom and Dad, who are harboring a secret from their son and daughter, not very well. There are also amusing turns by Rufus Sewell as an unbalanced surgeon, Abbey Lee as his trophy wife, Ken Leung as a nurse, Nikki Amuka-Bird as his psychiatrist wife and Aaron Pierre as a rapper known by the stage name “Midsized Sedan.” A variety of good actors play the kids at various stages of development, and Clint's freakily beautiful daughter Francesca Eastwood has a brief but striking role as a resort hostess.

The movie thrashes around in its final act, as Shyamalan tries for overt horror effects that are neither very frightening nor very coherent. He also tries to tie the movie up with a slapdash explanatory finale. This wasn't necessary; the idea



was more evocative without this literalism. There's a moment near the end that seemed to me like the perfect, touching point to close the story, but Shyamalan carries on for another twenty minutes or so, unable to let his movie age gracefully.

*Old* is rated PG-13 and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Arizona Mills, Harkins Chandler Fashion 20 and other multiplexes.

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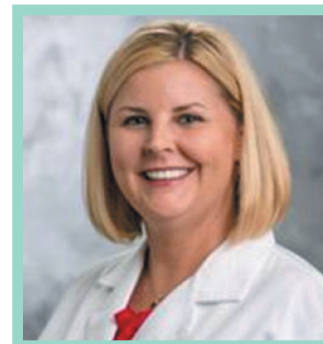
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# Boeing, MCC partner to expedite aerospace industry careers

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For Tempe and West Chandler residents interested in a career in the aerospace industry, a partnership between Boeing in Mesa and Mesa Community College can help them get there faster.

Nine-day camps, designed to meet specific needs of Boeing, are being offered at both MCC campuses and at Chandler-Gilbert Community College Williams Campus.

Those interested in earning Electrical Cable Harness Wiring or J-Standard (Soldering) Certifications are required to complete a pre-assessment online at [mesacc.edu/wiring-bootcamp](http://mesacc.edu/wiring-bootcamp).

“We began offering cable-harness wiring boot camps in collaboration with MCC last year,” said Robert Blawat, Boeing operations manager. “We developed an eight question, pre-assessment and course curriculum to ensure participants can



Mesa Community College students will soon be participating in a nine-day camp to gain certificates in Electrical Cable Harness Wiring and soldering.

— Photo courtesy Mesa Community College

acquire the industry skills most needed to launch new careers.”

Camps culminate with the opportunity for trainees to take the industry-certification exam (Requirements and Acceptance for Cable and Wire Harness Assemblies). Students earning the certification are reimbursed the full \$255 cost of camp tuition, making the out-of-pocket investment for the training and the exam \$15 for registration.

“Preparing students to earn an industry-recognized certification and validating skills in high demand by local industry are investments in our community,” said Leah Palmer, executive director of the Arizona Advanced Manufacturing Institute at MCC. “There are many growing aerospace companies in Maricopa County that need these skills, so this will open opportunities for manufacturing education and careers.”

Information on boot camps: Matt Rayman, MCC student navigator, 480-461-7337 or [AzAMI@mesacc.edu](mailto:AzAMI@mesacc.edu).



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## Shockwave

From Page 18

Newman got help and during his rehabilitation, he started training service dogs. Newman said he went back and trained his own service dog and it saved his life. Newman met one of the co-founders of Operation Shockwave, CaS Facciponti, at another ice bath challenge two years ago. They formed a partnership and he has been with Operation Shockwave since April, which he says has helped decompress and talk freely about his struggles with others who have the same experiences.

“I didn’t want anything to be wrong with me. I did all these things—two combat tours couldn’t stop me, I came home and I couldn’t go grocery shopping,” Newman said.

“I never talked about it; getting out and learning to talk about it in a judgment-free zone. Talking to somebody and not having anyone judge me is the first big step.

“Everybody has their own trauma, but being able to talk about it with the people that just

understand is the first step of coming home.”

Another veteran who began working with Operation Shockwave is Martin Grant. Grant, a former U.S. Marine and master combat swimmer, met Facciponti through Newman. Facciponti explained the mission of Operation Shockwave, and Grant joined the team.

“Anybody who wants to help someone who needs help, I’m in. But this specifically hits pretty close to home because, out of 52 guys that were in my platoon in the Marine Corps, several of them have died by suicide since they got out,” Grant said.

“I see what’s happening to these guys and I get the fact that sometimes it’s a really hard adjustment to make.

“The V.A., they’re not really designed for that; they are designed to help guys that are physically wounded. It’s not necessarily the fact that they’re mentally wounded that makes them attempt suicide.

“They have been specifically designed for a completely different reality than civilian life,” Newman explained.

Through connections with fellow veterans and word of mouth, Operation Shockwave has

been gaining steam.

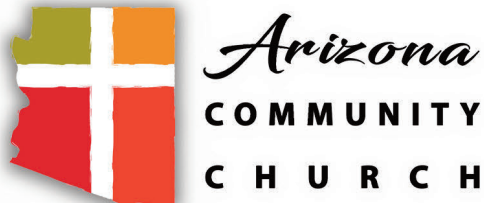
Facciponti, a U.S. Army combat veteran and West Point graduate, started Operation Shockwave in 2017 to help bridge the civilian-military gap between what’s happening in veteran suicide. Veterans are an underserved population in regards to mental health and rehabilitation, Facciponti noted.

One veteran dies by suicide every day in Arizona, making it the sixth-worst state for that tragic distinction. According to Facciponti, veteran suicide is a major issue that society needs to address.

Said Facciponti: “The important thing is knowing that we have all gone through trauma, and if we can see each other in that and meet somebody where they are and not say ‘you need to do this’—if we could want something that someone wants for themselves, then we can heal through that process.”

Facciponti, it seems obvious, is a true soldier and a warrior for pushing for better treatment and rehabilitation of veterans.

*For more information about Operation Shockwave visit [Operationshockwave.org](http://Operationshockwave.org).*

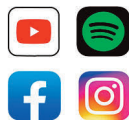


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# Manager

From Page 3

more excited to serve the city my family and I call home.”

Wright was selected from four finalists interviewed July 14-15, who included Milton Dohoney, Jr., former assistant city manager and chief operating officer for Phoenix; Sara Hensley, Denton, Texas, interim city manager; and Tom Hutka, public works director for Broward County, Fla.

“Through a five-month recruitment process, we interviewed a number of great candidates for the city manager position and ultimately selected the internal candidate, Joshua Wright,” said Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke. “Through his role as assistant city manager and in his recent acting position, Joshua has guided the city through many challenges and has led the city to record-setting successes, including the largest private investment project in Arizona’s history with Intel. Joshua has proven himself as a natural and inspiring leader, and I look forward to working alongside him to continue leading this community in the direction of innovation and excellence.”

On March 23, Intel and the city jointly announced that the semiconductor giant will build two new manufacturing plants, adding 3,000 high-paying jobs, in a historic \$20 billion expansion at Intel’s Chandler Ocotillo facility. It is the largest private investment of any kind in Arizona history.

Intel annually spends about \$1.5 billion with Chandler-based suppliers and another \$3 billion with other Arizona-based suppliers. The expansion will support an additional 15,000 jobs indirectly, according to Intel. And about 3,000 will be employed during construction of the fabrication facilities. Work is slated to begin late this year.

## One of four appointees

Chandler’s city manager is among four positions appointed by City Council, the others being city attorney, city clerk and presiding city magistrate.

The city manager oversees Chandler’s day-to-day operations and implements policies adopted by the City Council for Arizona’s fourth-largest city, with a population of more than 268,000. Chandler has been named among the nation’s Best Places to Find a Job and Best Cities for Women in Tech.

Wright joined Chandler in 2017 as assistant city manager to provide administrative oversight of city departments and divisions.

He previously was town manager of Wickenburg for five years. He was assistant to the town manager and director of strategic initiatives for five years in Marana.

Wright is a past president of the Arizona City/County Management Association and received its Associate’s Award for Excellence in Leadership in 2010. He was Arizona Association for Economic

Development’s Economic Developer of the Year in 2011.

He is on the board of directors of the East Valley Jewish Community Center.

He holds a master’s degree in public administration and bachelor’s degrees in psychology and religious studies from the University of Arizona.

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## Zener

From Page 13

many kills but she did block the ball 15 times. This season, Maggie could be needed at the middle blocker position because whoever plays that position may be still up in the air at Corona. In 2020, senior **Isabel Niemtschk** played middle blocker along with Lomigora most of the time.

Last season, junior **Heather Heimlich** and fellow junior **Natalie Meyer** were the only two players on the roster also listed as middle blockers.

Neither played many sets last season so it will be interesting to see who steps up to play middle blocker in 2021.

The athletes who are going to make up each team should be announced next week because Corona's first match is scheduled for Aug. 31 at home against Chaparral. The Aztecs are then scheduled to play two non-Section away games before their first section match on Sept. 9.

First, Corona plays at Liberty on Sept. 1 and at Sunnyslope on Sept 2. All matches are scheduled to at 6 p.m. or after the JV match is finished.

On Sept. 8, Corona is scheduled to play at home against Mountain Pointe and then at home against Mountain View on Sept. 9.



Maddie Noble

Along the way Noble discovered her love of beach volleyball, where in 2018 she and partner **Brooke Nuneviller** were crowned the 2018 State Volleyball Championship Pairs.

Noble, after being named Corona Female Athlete of the Year in 2020, could have chosen among numerous indoor college volleyball scholarships but she elected to play beach volleyball at the University of Arizona, where she has continued to earn praise for her volleyball and academic skills.

Noble, along with her University of Arizona partner Dana Parker, finished her freshman beach

volleyball season with the highest winning percentage of the 2021 season, .84, and the third-highest winning percentage in the University of Arizona beach volleyball program history.

Noble and Parker, playing as the fourth team, or Flight 4, had a 18-3 record in 2021, where 15 of their 18 wins were accomplished in two sets which was more two-set wins than any other pair at the University of Arizona.

Noble and Parker were awarded an AVCA Top Flight Award for flight 4 for their record.

Noble was also given an All-Pac-12 Freshman team honor for her 21-4 record with Parker which was the highest winning percentage of the season. She was the only freshman beach volleyball player to receive this honor.

In addition, Noble was recognized for her excellence in the classroom by being named to the Pac-12 Conference 2021 Spring Academic Honor Roll.

Noble, who is majoring in Business, had to have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or above, and have spent at least one year in residence at the University of Arizona.

Maybe around this time three years from now, Noble can call herself an Olympic beach volleyball player.

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- Cecilia Ashe, COO Landings Credit Union



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**Pool Equipment repair/replacement**—Weekly Service, GREEN pool Clean-ups, the only company where the owner has a degree in hydrology! Insured, Certified Pool Operator, Arizona Oasis Pool Service & Repair, 480-694-1158. 9/21

**Pools** — Extreme Media Blasting; we clean pool tile, fountains & water features by removing calcium build-up, restoring surfaces to like-new; 480-233-6561 9/21

**Remodeling** — JAK Construction Inc. – Specializing in all phases of construction. Rain gutters, Downspouts, Aluminum and Vinyl siding, AZ rooms, replacement windows & doors, overhang trims/eaves. We love small jobs! Call (480) 820-8711. Licensed, bonded and insured. ROC #112275. 8/21

**Storage**—Elliot Kyrene Storage: Rent affordable, secure, climate-controlled storage units in Tempe 85284; all units on ground level and individually alarmed; onsite manager, 480-418-6946, [elliottkyrenestorage.com](http://elliottkyrenestorage.com) 9/21

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# Does Auntie Jane want to read about the latest accomplishments of her favorite niece or nephew?

Pick up our current issue from one of these convenient locations.

These stories & more inside



**Advocating Learning:** Tempe women named 'First Things First Champion for Young Children.' Page 30



**Birthday bus:** Tempe is celebrating 150 and Wrangler News is asking readers and residents to help tell the story. Page 8



**Road work ahead:** Major construction project widening the Broadway Curve begins with goal of alleviating congestion. Page 3



How do you want to see these stories? Others at our Wrangler News website.

July 24 - August 6, 2021 • Volume 31, Number 14 • Covering Tempe & West Chandler for 30-plus years



Here's a partial list of the public places and community-minded merchants and where you can pick up a current issue. If it's a Tempe or West Chandler business, take a moment to look around, say hello and tell them thanks for being part of our efforts to bring neighbors — and neighborhoods — closer together. Thanks! *CALL 480-966-0845, option 1.*  
for a full, updated listing

Wrangler News office, 2145 E Warner Road (Across from GoDaddy). 24-hour outside rack.

Kyrene School District, lobby, Kyrene & Warner, Tempe

Crackers, homestyle breakfast & lunch, outside rack, 1285 W. Elliot Road, Tempe

Tempe Union HS District, lobby, Guadalupe east of Kyrene

Tempe City Hall, lobby, downtown Tempe

Mill Avenue rack, east side, just north of former vRula Bula, Tempe

Tempe Elementary School District, Rural north of Southern, Lobby

Tempe Public Library, Connections Cafe, Rural south of Southern, Tempe

Pier 54/The Lakes, On the Water, 5394 S. Lakeshore Drive, Tempe

Marcos de Niza HS, Main Office, Guadalupe & Lakeshore

Tempe Smile Design, periodical rack, reception area, Guadalupe & McClintock next to Rubio's

Steves Espresso, French press coffee & more, periodical rack inside, 1801 E. Baseline at McClintock, east side

Freeway Chevrolet, Always friendly, always great deals, Customer Lounge, 1150 N. 54th St., Chandler

Casa de Juana, The best Mexican cuisine around, on decorated bench, lobby, 1805 E. Elliot, Pollack Tempe Cinema complex

Dairy Queen, top of rack, Home of the famous Blizzard,

left of entry, Rural & Elliot, northwest corner

Sunset Library, 4930 W. Ray, Rural & Ray, Chandler

Arizona Central Credit Union, rack at front entrance, 1805 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler

Chandler City Hall, lobby, 175 S. Arizona Ave.

Chandler Chamber of Commerce, 2nd Floor, 25 S. Arizona Pl., Chandler

Corona del Sol HS, Main Office, 1001 E. Knox Road, Tempe

Arizona Community Church, All are welcome, receptionist, 9325 S. Rural Road at Knox

Great Harvest Bread, Like mom used to make, inside rack, Warner & McClintock, southeast corner

## A note to our neighborhood businesses . . .

Would you like to add your location to the places where people can conveniently pick up extra copies of Wrangler News? We provide small, countertop-sized racks for easy placement anywhere that works best for you. It's a way to show your support for the community AND bring in visitors who may not have been there before. Just email [editor@wranglernews.com](mailto:editor@wranglernews.com) and we'll add you to our dropoff schedule AND to our newspaper listing in every issue. Just one more way to get your business in the eyes of even more people and show your support for our hometown paper.

# Coyotes

From Page 3

request for proposal,” the Coyotes said in a statement.

“Given our determination to remain in the Valley for many years to come, we are actively working to identify the best long-term home for the Coyotes, our devoted fans and this great community.”

Tempe said that bids from all respondents will be evaluated for projected economic impacts, job creation, public benefit, neighborhood impacts and traffic.

The site is just off Loop 202 adjacent to the Salt River and just west of Tempe Center for the Arts and Tempe Town Lake.

The city has tried for years to land a professional sports team, although the Cardinals’ training facility

is in South Tempe, at Warner and Hardy roads.

The team initially played its home games at Arizona State’s Sun Devil Stadium.

When the Cardinals were looking to move out of Sun Devil Stadium, new-stadium sites were proposed in Tempe at Interstate 10 and Warner Roads as well as on land in the general area of this RFP. The I-10/Warner Road site was rejected as too small, and the site along the river met with strong blowback from Phoenix due to its proximity to the flight path at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

The latter could be an obstacle once again. Another could be cleanup of the site, which could be costly due to environmental concerns.

Glendale, which stands to lose the major tenant of its arena, said in a statement that the city “has been working since last year with the Arizona Coyotes and our arena manager, ASM Global, to

determine if terms for a long-term agreement can be reached to allow the Coyotes to continue to play in Gila River Arena. We remain committed to that goal.

The highly recognized successes of our growing sports and entertainment district provides fans and visitors an immersive experience. The city believes that Gila River Arena is the best location for the future success of the Coyotes.”

The Tempe City Council has ultimate authority to accept or reject proposals for further work and negotiation. It is possible during any RFP process that no respondents are chosen to proceed, the city said.

It is not yet known if any other entities will respond to the request for proposal.

The RFP has been posted to [tempe.gov/procurement](http://tempe.gov/procurement).

## Wrangler News website by the numbers

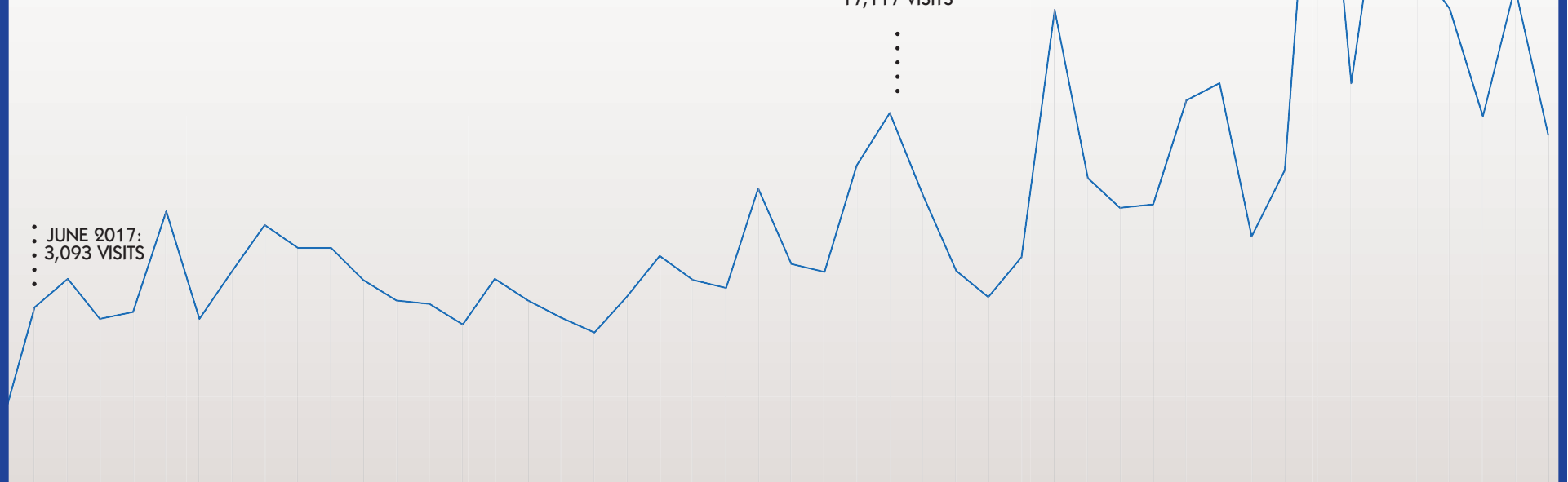
### On the road to 1 million

OCT 2020:  
34,582 VISITS

Since June 2017, we’ve been tracking the growth of our online readership and analyzing this data to better serve our advertisers. As depicted in the graph below, our monthly page views have seen exciting growth over the last four years, with numbers reaching over 33,000 in October last year (compared to the 3,000 in June, 2017). Having surpassed the 600,000 benchmark for total page views since tracking, we ask one favor: keep doing what you’re doing, visit the website if you haven’t already. And help us reach 1 million.

SEPT 2019:  
17,117 VISITS

JUNE 2017:  
3,093 VISITS



## Chandler mindful of police use-of-force issues ... commentary by Matt Orlando

Recently news media outlets have identified numerous police agencies throughout the nation as lacking or needing to improve on Police Use of Force and/or de-escalating practices. As early as 2000, The Chandler City Council, in conjunction with the Chandler Police Department, has been leading the Valley, if not the state, in implementing numerous programs and practices to ensure our citizens are engaged with police accountability practices.

In May of 2000, the council created the Citizen's Panel for Review of Police Complaints. The panel, consisting of 15 citizen members and police department personnel, reviews all police shootings and police incidents when direct physical force by the police results in serious physical injury or death. The panel also reviews the findings of the department's investigation of unsubstantiated, unfounded or exonerated citizen complaints, when that citizen requests a review of the Police Departments findings.

The panel acts in an advisory capacity to the Chief of Police. The panel is encouraged to make recommendations concerning training programs, revisions of policies or procedures, commendable actions, preventative or corrective measures except

for employee discipline and community concerns regarding police action and procedures. I have attended several of these meetings as a citizen and councilmember and have been impressed by the honest and open engagement by the panel's members and the police department. The meetings are open to the public and I encourage you to attend the next meeting.

In addition to the panel, the Police Department has trained de-escalation practices and tactics for nearly ten years. Prior to the official implementation of de-escalation tactics and practices, the agency trained to the concept of using minimal amounts of force necessary to safely take a subject into custody.

The Chandler Police Department implemented numerous policies and practices; this is just a small list:

- Defined and described de-escalation in general orders policy and implemented an annual de-escalation policy review.
- Annual training for all officers in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) practices and techniques, to include training to self-identify biases that can hinder/hurt decision making and create unreasonable force options under stress.

- Training on emotional control and decision-making under stress and the effects that stress can have on officers' and citizens' emotions.
- Training on tactics that promote de-escalation and successful outcomes with individuals experiencing mental health-related events.

• The department has purchased a top-of-the-line simulation system that will allow officers to train in reality-based video de-escalation scenarios. The system will also allow officers the opportunity to run scenarios involving developmentally disabled individuals.

• A "Duty to Intervene" definition, training, and general order has been developed. This allows a second officer to intervene or take over for the primary officer if a situation dictates.

To ensure our community is provided a high quality of life and safe neighborhoods, it is vital our law enforcement officers are equipped with the training, knowledge and tools necessary to navigate complex situations. As a Councilmember, I am dedicated to the promise of a safe environment for families to thrive and innovation to grow.

*Matt Orlando is a member of the Chandler City Council.*

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### Kyrene Corridor Market Snapshot

Subdivision	Address	Square Feet	Beds/Baths	Sold Price
Alisanos	8026 S. Stephanie Ln, Tempe 85284	3,586	5 / 3.5	\$850,000
Buena Vista Ranchos	1061 E. Monte Vista, Tempe 85284	4,840	4 / 3.5	\$1,128,600
D'Arcy Ranch	910 N. Granada Dr, Chandler 85226	2,481	5 / 3	\$640,000
Estate La Colina	1808 E. Palomino Dr, Tempe 85284	2,164	4 / 2	\$644,000
Galleria	1207 E. Todd Dr, Tempe 85283	1,803	3 / 2	\$560,000
Park Promenade	4071 W. Harrison St, Chandler 85226	2,551	4 / 2.5	\$702,000

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Second point of this program, make the offer on your dream home with the Carol Royse Team, and if it needs a little work, stay in your current home. You have up to one year to sell your current home while you are remodeling or refreshing your new home. This STAY IN YOUR HOME UP TO ONE YEAR program is great for new construction too. Find a new home, keep your existing home, and stay up to one year.

This versatile program works for all sellers who are thinking of selling but not certain how everything would fit together in the purchase of a new home.

Carol Royse has implemented and has unlocked ALL OF the current home inventory, as well as homes that may come on the market in the next months. You the seller have the freedom to move about and make offers and close on your new home and not worry if your current home is sold!

*Call me today for details on this exclusive program.*

### PENDING

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