



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – August 24, 2018

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Quote of the Week

"I would rather be annoyingly positive and optimistic than destructively negative and hateful."
Unknown

In case you haven't seen this, it's a great write up about our own Kayleen! Picture and an article – you all know what that means.....



What flavor?????????



Kayleen Weiland: An Untraditional Approach to Education at Yavapai College

By Tara Fort • Photo by Trisha Shaffer

As the only female Firefighter/EMT for Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority (CAFMA), Kayleen Weiland loves challenges and serving her community. As if that is not enough, Weiland is also enrolled in the paramedic program with Yavapai College (YC) so she can advance her career in the industry. Both roles are a natural fit for Weiland who says, "I love the excitement that comes with thinking on your feet. Since obtaining my Emergency Medical Technician certification several years ago, I've always had the desire to know more and to be able to do more for my patients on 911 calls. With a Paramedic Certification through YC, I'll be equipped and ready to handle just about anything that comes my way!" Colleagues say Weiland makes it look easy. Laurs Mowrer, Administrative Assistant III with a 20-year career at Central Yavapai/ CAFMA says, "Kayleen rocks! She always willing to go above and beyond with a smile. It's a joy to have her as part of our growing family."

Confidence comes natural to Weiland, who started out in the YC dual enrollment program at Camp Verde High School where students obtain both high school and college credit for certain classes.

“With a Paramedic Certification through YC, I'll be equipped and ready to handle just about anything that comes my way.”

- Kayleen Weiland



The Chief's Desk

Stick-to-itiveness

Give it your all
Redo if necessary
Ignore giving up
Take time to do it right

Have you ever started something and then quit without seeing it through? For those with kids, have they ever started something and wanted to quit as soon as things got tough? If you said yes to either, I think you're like most other people on in the world. However.....

Studies show that people who start something and see it through to the end despite challenges, are better adjusted and tend to go further in life whether that's in a relationship, hobby or career. In the book *Grit*, Dr. Angela Duckworth discusses the concept of grit as well as wrestles with the question of how to develop more grittiness in kids. The earlier in life you start honing your grittiness the better.

All this talk of grit and how people who develop grit as a youth tend to go further in life made me reflect back on my life. Thinking about it and how I was as a kid, adolescent and young adult made me wonder how I ever arrived where I am today - mostly intact..... The fact is that in my youth I would be what you might consider the opposite of gritty. I was not a high school athlete, didn't really participate in after school activities, and in general was just content watching life go by. It wasn't that I was completely oblivious. I did enroll in the DECA program which allowed me to leave school early for work. As part of the program, I took part in a business competition by developing a mock business plan that had to be presented to panels of judges acting as investors. While not the brightest of students, I did make it all the way to the National competition in Salt Lake City – so, pretty cool. Thankfully math was not a focus of the competition...

After High School I followed my "passion" for art. I was a decent artist, but just didn't apply myself as I should have. I quickly decided I was better at the conceptual piece so I decided to pursue PR and Marketing. Given a lack of funds to follow my new dream, I joined the Air Force with a promise from the recruiter that I would work in public relations. That idea worked really well until basic training when they informed me that they had forgotten to inform me that I needed a two year degree in hand to go into PR – spin again Airman Freitag. I was displeased to say the least. So I spun again and initially landed on B-52 Tail Gunner!!!:) Oh hell yes! And then - sadly no. I was pulled out in my last security clearance and moved to Air Traffic Control. Again, displeased.....

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Upcoming Events:

Aug 27 – 31 Chief on Vacation
Aug 27 - Board Meetings
Aug 28 – Chino Town Council
Aug 30 – No PV Town Council Meeting

Board Meeting:

August 27th Chino Valley Town Hall

CVFD – 1600-1630
CAFMA – 1630 -1800
CYFD – 1800-1830



Utah battalion chief's death may have been linked to airplane retardant drop

By Kurtis Alexander and Megan Cassidy
San Francisco Chronicle



LAKE COUNTY, Calif. — Fire retardant dropped from an airplane into an area that should have been cleared of firefighters may have had something to do with last week's death of a battalion chief at Northern California's Mendocino Complex fire.

Matthew Burchett, 42, was struck and killed by falling tree debris Aug. 13 near Lake Pillsbury (Lake County) in a spot where, simultaneously, thousands of gallons of the chemical slurry used to quash flames was released, state fire officials said in a preliminary report Monday.

The report did not specify what role the retardant played in Burchett's death — for example, whether it caused tree branches to fall. But the drop appears to be at odds with safety protocol recommending that fire personnel retreat from areas where retardant is about to be used.

Monday's three-sentence report by the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, is expected to be followed by a more detailed analysis of what went wrong. Three other firefighters were injured in the incident.

[More](#)

6 steps to fool proofing a retirement portfolio

By: Elizabeth MacBride | @editoremacb

You'd expect Tim McCarthy, the former president of Charles Schwab and the author of "The Safe Investor," to have the perfect retirement portfolio.

You'd be wrong.

After writing a piece about retirement plans, McCarthy decided to check on his own. "Sure enough, I didn't have nearly enough equities in my retirement plan," he said. Instead, his stocks were in his taxable accounts, and if he sold them to rebalance after the recent run-up, he'd owe taxes.

Few people reach retirement with perfectly geared 401(k)s and IRAs. Only about 45 percent of all workers have current access to a retirement plan at work at all, according to the

Washington, D.C.-based Employee Benefit Research Institute. But if you do have one, chances are good you have more than one.

The nature of the employment system is that people accumulate accounts as they change jobs, and they often end up with a hodgepodge of investments that leaves them vulnerable to risk of all kinds, including a portfolio that's so volatile it could take a dip just when you need the money, a portfolio that is so conservative you lose to inflation, or a portfolio that is not optimized for taxes.

[More](#)

Chief's Desk Continued

When I left the military I bounced from one menial job to another with a plan to attend the other Federal Aviation Administration Air Traffic Control School. Married, with a baby daughter I was elated when I opened my acceptance letter! And then, they closed the school as part of federal budget cuts - time to spin again.

I had dabbled in volunteer firefighting for a short time, but had met Jen, my wife, and became otherwise pre-occupied. However, I now needed to do something. My Great Grandfather had been a firefighter in the City of St. Louis for 32 years, so I called my Grandpa and asked if he could find out what I needed to become a career firefighter. To my surprise, he called back, advised me not to apply with the City of St. Louis and to get my Paramedic certification. Let me be clear, I was squeamish and did not like broken bodies, vomit, or all the other various things we deal with as medics. So, I borrowed money from my Aunt and Uncle and started EMT school. I absolutely loved it! Once an EMT, I went on to attend medic school while working nights as an emergency medical dispatcher for a private agency in St. Louis.



I would go days without sleep or seeing my family, but loved what I was doing for the first time in my life. Finally, I felt like I had purpose. Once I graduated from medic school, I moved to an ALS ambulance as a medic on the street. It was fun, but I still wanted to become a firefighter/medic.

My break came when Fire Chief Ed Underwood with the City of St. Charles offered me my dream job as a Firefighter/Paramedic. I continued working hard, learning – especially the business side, and was able to work as a PIO along with my other duties. Not only did I get to work with PR and Marketing, I was able to work on the ambulance, engine, and ladder as my every day job.

Through it all I worked towards and earned my associate degree and undergraduate degree. I started my graduate studies while with St. Charles City, and finished not long after I was hired by the Cottleville Fire Protection District as the Assistant Chief of Operations. Immediately after completing my graduate work

I was accepted into and started the Executive Fire Officer program (EFO). After completing my EFO, I was invited back to the University I graduated from to help start a new undergraduate program in Emergency Services Management, and was able to teach as Affiliate Faculty.

As of five years ago today, we packed up all that we owned and took on a new opportunity with the Chino Valley Fire District. From there you know the rest of the story. How the story of my career ends, no one knows, but I bet it will be very cool!!

Soooo, long story, but there is a point. As I read Dr. Duckworth's book I asked myself, based on her studies, how could I have possibly ended up where I am today given my early years were not the picture of grit? In large part, I watched and learned from my parents. Unfortunately, I simply had chosen not to follow their example early on. No one ever gave up on me as I fumbled my way through life not making the best choices. I found purpose and meaning in my family and matured enough to know I had to provide something more than nothing. Finally, after years of flittering through life, I found a profession that ignited a passion in me that I had never felt before. As an FYI, interest and passion build grit.



Building grittiness as a kid can pay big dividends in the future by helping to avoid a lot of the perils and pitfalls created by not having focus, passion or interest. Grit is something we are all born with; the question is how is it nurtured over the years? Born with and utilized are two very different things. But because it is innate in all of us, we can reach deep down inside ourselves and pull it out. We just need people in our lives that don't give up on us or allow us to give up on ourselves. We need to understand that we make the choice as to whether we succeed or fail no one makes it for us.

If you get the chance, the book *Grit* is well worth the read. You can watch Dr. Duckworth's Ted Talk on Grit here [Angela Duckworth Ted Talk](#).

I was working on a draft of this Wednesday afternoon and as I was nearing completion I gave my wife a call. I described the concept of this writing and told her that based on the book, I couldn't figure out how I arrived where I am today. My ever supporting wife responded, "I can't wait to read this one – I've been wondering the same thing." 27 years of marriage as of today, and this is what I get???) I'm telling you all, she's lucky to have me.....



Stuff that's Happening

I'd like to congratulate Chief Feddema on his recent acceptance into the Executive Fire Officer program through the National Fire Academy! It will be a tough four years, but well worth the effort.

I had the privilege of co-hosting with Leza Live on Magic 99.1 Tuesday morning. Our plan is for me to come in once or twice a month and hang out from 0700-0800 to talk about whatever we want between

songs. This week we had the opportunity to lay out the top six things people may not know about CAFMA – which was great given we are reaching a completely different demographic than we do on talk radio. The number one thing, which many of you may not know, is that CAFMA serves as an example for the Executive Finance Class at the National Fire Academy in Maryland. Retired Chief Dave Bunce asked me some time ago if he could use us as an example of joint ventures, budgeting and overall finance. Just another affirmation that we are doing things correctly 😊

John Flynn and I met with DPS in Phoenix on Thursday to discuss federal background checks for Fire Authorities in Arizona. While we did run new statutory language last year referring specifically to JPA's, the FBI is unable to clearly understand. So, we will run some clean up language next session with the specific words "Fire and Medical Authority." As Attorney Cornelius pointed out, the overarching Joint Powers Authority is clear, and the name is simply a DBA. Apparently this is not an uncommon problem with the FBI so we simply have to add their recommended language. Until then, we can continue to do background checks on new employees at the State level.

The Training Division just completed the live fire train the trainer for upcoming quarterly training. I look forward to seeing you on the training ground a couple of days in September. Captain Parra sent the training calendar out on Thursday.

Summer Fire School is in a couple of weeks. I will be co-facilitating the New Fire Chiefs Seminar with Retired Chief Mike Cason, as well as presenting one of the sessions. Hope to catch up with those of you that will be taking part in training that week.

I understand from Chief Polacek that we hope to have the new ladder truck in service next month.

We have had a number of responses into Mayer this Monsoon season to assist with flooding, as well as our own responses in District. Make sure you keep your head on a swivel and keep your SA..... In addition, it seems our domestic calls, stabbings, etc. are up. Keep you SA on these as well and work closely with our PD partners on scene. Finally, our structure fire calls appear to be on the rise. We're getting busier all the time.

To date, we have no update on our SAFER Grant application.

Our new IT Manager, Jonah, starts Monday! His arrival will definitely help with the workload Dave, Tony and Michael have had over the last 6 or 7 months. That said those three individuals have done an outstanding job not just keeping things together, but advancing the division the entire time! Thank you gentlemen.....