

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Missing for 72 years

On 18 August, 2017 the USS Indianapolis has been found at a depth of about 18,000 feet in the Northern Pacific by Microsoft co-founder, Paul Allen and his crew of 16.

The Indianapolis (Portland Class Heavy Cruiser, CA-35) and its crew of almost 1200 were a key element in ending WWII via their top secret mission in July 1945, to deliver the components of "Little Boy" the atomic bomb used on Hiroshima. Destination was Tinian Island for final assembly of and loading the bomb aboard the B-29 bomber, "Enola Gay" which destroyed Hiroshima and indeed saved our world. That along with "Fat Man" in Nagasaki ended WWII and in fact saved hundreds of thousands of lives, if not millions. (Please obtain and read "72 Hours that Changed the World" by USCG WWII Veteran Ken Wiley). However the fate of the Indianapolis and its tremendously dedicated and heroic crew was sealed forever due to the total secrecy of its mission.

West bound en route to the Philippines post-mission at midnight on 30 July, 1945 a Japanese sub torpedoed the Indy, almost blowing it in half. Due to the utmost secrecy of the mission, repeated radio calls from the destroyed Indy were ignored. The Indy was effectively abandoned after "mission accomplished". End results were of the 1,197 men on board, and the eight to nine hundred who escaped the sinking ship, only 316 were rescued four days later after surviving incredibly harsh conditions in the cold water, trying to remain afloat and watching their brothers of our US Navy and Marine Corps being devoured by sharks. One week later the first of two atomic bombs was dropped on Japan, ending the horrific carnage of WWII.

Today only 22 of these men remain with us. According to survivor accounts after a second hit from another Japanese torpedo, only 12 minutes evolved before the Indy sank to the bottom. This was the most costly single event for our Navy ever. The westbound Indy, exact position between Guam and Leyte was unknown, haunting these survivors for the last 72 years.

The men who suffered the fate of their beloved Indianapolis are all heroes beyond description, for their sacrifices given to our entire civilized world. There is no appropriate earthly award we can give to the survivors, their families or the memory of those who died and their families for the unquestionable miracle of that which they, only with God's Helping Hand, accomplished. Our Supreme Commander awaits the survivors' reunion with those who already rest in peace with Him. For more on this very detailed major event in our world's history, please read "In Harm's Way, The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors" by Doug Stanton.

In next week's edition of our *Towns County Herald*, I will continue with Part Two of "USCG Legends". So many heroes, so many great men and women of all our armed services, so many selfless sacrifices for humanity. Freedom is not free!
Semper Paratus

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



Shelter against the storm

It's just after 6 AM on Monday morning. The house is peaceful and quiet. The pups are still sleeping and Georgia Bell, the tuxedo cat with the insatiable appetite, has not yet tapped on the window to place her order for breakfast.

Close at hand is a tall cup of our favorite coffee drink, and a generous scoop of fresh ground Tim Horton poured over and steamed with a spoon of coconut oil, a shot of cream and a drop of blueberry honey. The sun is still below the mountain and the dark den is partially lit by the radar image swirling silently on the television screen as we write.

It occurs to us that under the vast maelstrom flooding southeastern Texas and parts of the Gulf coast today, one would be hard pressed to find any democrats or republicans. How quickly identity and ideology scatter in wind, dissolve in water or melt in fire, and where a week ago a cacophony of paradigms and opinions swirled in a perfect storm of dissonance, today there are only human beings, Americans, struggling to stay safe and dry.

A few short months ago our own perspectives became better informed when smoke and fire invaded our beautiful mountain valleys. We have not forgotten. And so we pause on this day, and every day, to be in gratitude, to be thankful for what we have, and grateful for what we can become; to cherish the people we love, and the memories of those whom we have loved and lost.

This is how we set the tone for the day, for the week, and for the rest of our lives. Biologist Bruce Lipton said, "The picture you hold in your mind creates the behavior and biology you express in life." Thus by simple gratitude we improve our state of mind, which improves our health and well being.

When the current storm ends, some will discount the safety of dry ground in the real world and seek once again the elusive "safe space" of the victim, held unaccountable and above reproach in the world of the virtual. So many of us live in that world now, believing it to be real. As the memory of the real storm recedes, the howling winds of words will begin to blow again, admonishing us to fear, to distrust and to hate. Such is the climate that drives the weather in that virtual world.

Gratitude shelters us against the storms of that world, and keeps us grounded in this one. If you're out of practice, you can begin very simply. If you're reading this in the newspaper or online, you can be grateful for the gift of sight. You have money to buy newspapers or pay your electric bill, and you have some amount of discretionary time. Chances are you're reading this in the shelter of your own home, or you had transportation and fuel to carry you somewhere else. If you're at work, you can be grateful for your job, and for a boss that isn't looking over your shoulder.

Gratitude teaches us that every blessing stands on the shoulders of giants. Every advantage is connected to many others which made it possible. Simple gratitude is easy, uncomplicated, and powerful. It denies fear and resists anxiety. It

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Black Walnuts

No doubt many of us are currently hearing the ominous "thuds" of black walnuts falling all around our homes and yards. Though they may seem unsightly when they start to decompose in our yards and provide hazards for our lawnmowers, these nuts can provide a tasty reward to those persistent enough to crack them.

Black walnut trees are native to our region and have compound leaves, with many leaflets arranged on a main stem. These trees are also considered monoecious, meaning they have both male and female flowers on the same tree. Trees can begin to fruit when they are about five years old, but it often takes ten to twenty years for a tree to put out a full crop. If you have black walnut trees that are less than five years old, make sure they are watered adequately over the summer.

As always, it is recommended that a soil sample be taken if the tree has had trouble bearing fruit or if you are planning on transplanting a young tree. This way you can be sure that you are giving your tree adequate nutrition when you fertilize it.

Walnuts will start to drop in late September, but we will see the height of harvest in mid-October to November. The nuts found inside the green and brown husk are highly prized, but processing these is not for the faint of heart! It takes two pounds of unshelled black walnuts to make one cup of useable nutmeat. If you do want to harvest your walnuts, it is important to remove the husk once it is ripe. To determine ripeness, press on the skin of the husk, and if your finger leaves an indentation, the nut is definitely ripe.

It is important to hull, or remove the husk, of walnuts because if the husk is left on while they are cured, walnuts will become discolored and have an odd flavor. The dye produced by walnut husks stains clothes, wood, and skin, so take appropriate precautions when hulling the nuts.

Applying pressure to the sides of the husk by pounding side to side with a hammer is usually sufficient to knock the husk off a fully mature walnut, but make sure to wear safety glasses. You can also soften the husks by mixing three parts nuts to one part water and a handful of gravel and stirring vigorously.

Do not compost the removed husks as they produce a chemical called juglone which can be harmful to other plants.

After you have hulled the walnuts, wash the unshelled nuts. The shells also stain, so wash them outside. A garden hose and a bucket do the trick just fine, and this also helps determine which nuts are good: if they sink, keep them, and if they float, throw them away as they likely have insect damage. Once the nuts are clean and dry, cure them by storing them in a cool, dry place away from sunlight for about two weeks. Nuts are properly cured when the kernel breaks with a crisp snap. You can then store the nuts until you are ready to shell them.

When you are ready to enjoy your walnuts, soak them in hot water the day before prevent the kernels from shattering upon shelling. Nutmeat can be refrigerated for nine months, or frozen for even longer to use at a later date.

UGA extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee



Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

Mr. Tim Groza ended his statue removal or not to remove tirade (TCH, 08-23-2017) by asking: "Where do we stop?" Implied in his question is the racist idea that says some American heroes were racists and some were not, but this is a false argument.

The sad fact is that the U.S. was founded on Native-American genocide and enslavement of Africans brought to this country in chains. But, honoring racist, white supremacist slave owners and insurrectionists with statues has more to do with intimidating Blacks in an era of Jim Crow, than it does about honoring confederate war heroes. The answer to Mr. Groza's question is we don't stop removing racist statues until we come to grips with the historical legacy of slavery as an institution and the bloody civil war that gave rise to ending the treatment of an entire race of African-Americans as subhuman slaves and which led to the Jim Crow era.

Therefore, in attempting to resolve this national shame, I propose we form a national commission for the purpose of determining the truth about racism, its historical roots and how it is still with us today as a means of dividing Americans. It is by the truth and reconciliation process, engaging the entire nation, that we will learn why some profit off class divisions and why a permanent minority of people of color remain impoverished, while a tiny elite wallow in unimaginable riches. Some of the subjects worthy of a truth seeking commission should include:

Create as complete a picture as possible of the most serious human rights violations. Gather evidence that allows there to be a creation of a list that identifies victims by name and their fate. Recommend reparations for the families of victims. Determine what portion of the nation's wealth was contributed by the slave system. Recommend legal and administrative measures to prevent violations in the future and other subjects to be determined.

Sincerely,
Lance G. Jobson

To the Editor:

Is BRMEMC taking advantage of us or just me? On three occasions they have cut trees down on adjacent property to mine but they fell on my property and left it for somebody else to clean it up. I'm 80 years old and can't do manual labor like I used to and on a fixed income I can't afford the unexpected cost. I have always believed that if you start a job, complete it or don't start it at all. The power company put an outrageous customer charge on our bill, what is that for? They raise our rates without notification and if we don't pay our bill they cut our power off, what recourse do we have!

Ardell Holmes

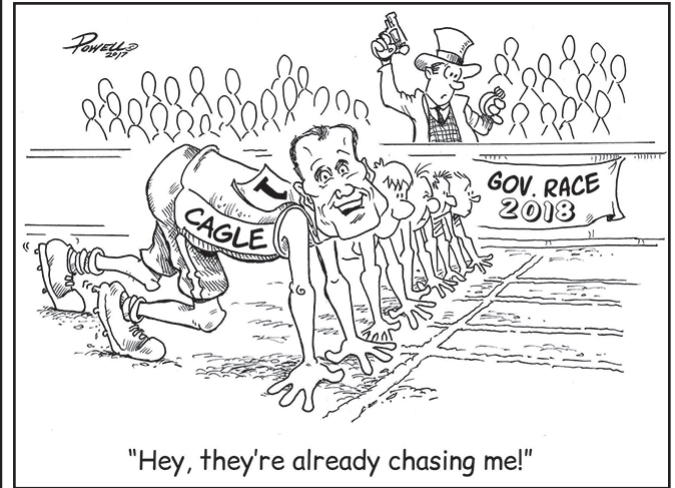
Wildland Fire Prevention and Education Teams in extreme situations

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D is a leader in Wildfire education and prevention in the Appalachian Mountain chain from Georgia, through North Carolina, and into Virginia. We preach the wildfire message to any groups in these areas that will listen, such as civic groups, Home Owner associations, county commissions, state fire agencies, federal fire agencies, local fire departments, and any other group that will give us time to tell our story about the dangers of living in the Wildland Urban Interface where wildfire risk is a way of life whether they know it or not. When an unusual event occurs, or is predicted to occur, we enlist the help of a team of experts in wildfire prevention. These expert teams are called Wildfire Prevention and Education Teams and are ordered by state or federal fire agencies to provide resources to support the local resident teams. When severe wildland fire situations occur because of extreme fire weather, one can cause extensive loss of life, property, and resources. As extreme conditions approach or worsen, wildland fire prevention/education is often overlooked as a possible source of help. Because fire weather conditions are predictable, wildland fire prevention/education teams can be mobilized in advance of fires, when fire danger becomes extreme. Prevention/education teams are available to support any geographic area preceding and during periods of high fire danger or fire activity. Mobilization of a team may occur when an unusual event or circumstance warrants or is predicted, such as; severe burning conditions; unusually high fire occurrence; majority of firefighting resources committed; preparedness levels above normal; Some of the benefits of Wildland Fire Prevention Education Teams are; reduce the loss of human life and property; reduce resource losses; reduce the cost of suppression; improve interagency relations. Increasingly, people in the wildland/urban interface zone are feeling the effects of wildland fire. Every year families are evacuated and structures are destroyed as the result of wildland fires all around the world and extra help is needed to help these families plan and survive the fires. NFPET teams are tools that can assist professionals and homeowners in mitigating the risk of damage from a wildland fire.

The mission of National Fire Prevention and Education Teams (NFPETs) is to provide unit and agency managers with skilled and mobile personnel which can supplement or enhance ongoing local wildfire prevention and education activities, where hazard or risk is, or is expected to be, elevated above normal. Ordering NFPETs for normal, routine, or project work is discouraged. Teams are highly effective in their ability to reduce unwanted human-caused wildland ignitions and are equipped to rapidly complete on-site prevention assessments and plans, initiate implementation of such plans, and to begin immediate prevention and education activities. The teams are not "firefighters" in the normal sense of the word, but they are fire "preventers" coaching resident of how to prepare their homes and businesses when a wildfire threatens. Wildfire prevention and education is mostly common sense that we already know but sometimes it takes a team of "experts" from the outside to show us the obvious ways to save our property and lives. Our ancestors had to know how to protect their homes from wildfires because they did not have a fire department to call on when a fire threatened, and when one did, they could lose everything they owned.

For more information on WFPET or wildfires, contact Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D www.info.ccrd@gmail.com or contact the local state Forestry Agency.

RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director



"Hey, they're already chasing me!"

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players Bingo	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran Brasstown Manor	12:30 pm 9:30 am
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Bridge Players Free GED prep.	Every Thursday: All Saints Lutheran Old Rec. Center	12:30 pm 4 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Friday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Mtn. Amat. Radio	First Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Alzheimer's Supp. American Legion	First Tuesday of each month: McConnell Church VFW Post 7807	1:30 pm 4 pm
Hiaw. City Council Young Harris Coun.	City Hall YH City Hall	6 pm 7 pm
Quilting Bee	First Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	First Thursday of each month: Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Caregiver support Arts & Crafts Guild Lions Club Mtn. Coin Club	Second Tuesday of each month: Brasstown Manor Mtn. Regional Library Daniel's Restaurant N. GA Tech	3 pm 4 pm 6 pm 6 pm
Hospital Auxiliary Water Board	Third Monday of each month: Cafeteria Water Office	1:30 pm 6 pm
YH Plan Comm. Co. Comm. Mtg Humane Shelter Bd.	Third Tuesday of each month: YH City Hall Courthouse Blairsville store	5 pm 5:30 pm 5:30 pm
Quilting Bee MOAA	Third Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	10 am
Friendship Comm.	Third Thursday of each month: Clubhouse	6 pm
Goldwing Riders	Third Saturday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Red Cross DAT	Fourth Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Fourth Tuesday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Republican Party	Fourth Thursday of each month: New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Thursday of each month: Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

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Legal Organ of Towns County

Kenneth West Owner/Publisher
Charles Duncan Editor
Shawn Henrikson Copy Editor
Lowell Nicholson Photographer

Derek Richards Advertising Director
Shawn Jarrard Staff Writer
Lily Avery Staff Writer
Website: townscountyherald.net