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Big plane somewhat dwarfs extinguished fire
review



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These photos of what is probably a C-130 flying over Cedar Key on Tuesday (Nov. 13) capture the awesome experience of the relatively low flyover.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 13, 2018 at 8:48 p.m.

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CEDAR KEY -- A C-130 flew over Cedar Key Tuesday afternoon (Nov. 13) somewhat dwarfing a story about a woman who extinguished a small fire Sunday night.

The plane had "USAF" under one wing.



In the boat, are people enjoying Robinson Guide Service. In the airboat, are people enjoying Voyle's Guide Service – Fishing Charters. These two vessels were passing each other Tuesday afternoon (Nov. 13).

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Levy County Superintendent of Schools Jeff Edison is seen moments before he went upstairs to enjoy lunch at Steamers Clam Bar and Grill on Tuesday (Nov. 13). (The setting for the camera was incorrect for this shot.)

The C-130 Hercules is the longest continuously produced military aircraft at over 60 years, with the updated Lockheed Martin C-130J Super Hercules currently being produced. It is a post WWII-era aircraft.

The four-prop plane came went east and flew along the coast of the island going to the west.

The distinctive roar of a huge four-engine aircraft coming from the east caused island visitors near the big concrete dock to look up.

After about three-seconds of that event being captured in three pictures, the huge airplane was gone.

Follow-up research on a rumor of a minor fire at Steamer's Clam Bar and Grill on Dock Street, which reportedly happened Sunday night (Nov. 11) drew one journalist to the island Tuesday afternoon.

Dennis Gill, owner of Steamer's Clam Bar and Grill, said a cigarette butt appears to have caused a small fire that made a little damage to an area where customers never go. There were no injuries and insignificant damage resulted.

There is a place on the second-story restaurant, where kitchen workers who smoke can go outside to smoke cigarettes, he said. It is an area with access from the Steamer's kitchen. There is a bucket there for disposal of cigarette butts, Gill said.

Gill said the wind was blowing from the east that night at about 20 m.p.h. Therefore, the cigarette butt that is believed to have been the source of the flame may have come from a patron at the restaurant who was eating at a table on the southwestern balcony with its view of the Gulf of Mexico.

A customer may have flicked a lit cigarette butt into the wind, and it was taken to the

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area where the little fire started.

The cigarette butt may have been from a restaurant worker. There is no way to know where the burning cigarette butt originated, he said.

This photo of the burnt boards shows the extent of damage caused by a careless smoker.

Photo By Dennis Gill

Gill said there was minor damage, thanks to a neighboring worker.

Robin Tindall is the bar manager at Duncan's On The Gulf, a bar and restaurant near Steamer's. Apparently, the cigarette butt whipped by the wind started a very small fire, Gill said.

Tindall saw some small flames through the kitchen door of Duncan's, Gill said. She called 9-1-1.

She climbed up on railings and threw water on the little fire, Gill said. Cedar Key Fire Rescue Chief Robert Robinson responded and assured the fire was 100 percent extinguished.

According to a post by Fire Chief Robinson on a social media site, the call for service was at 9:15 p.m. Not only was Cedar Key Fire Rescue called out, but so was Chiefland Fire Rescue, Bronson Fire Rescue and the Levy County Department of Public Safety's battalion captain and LCDPS EMS Rescue 5, the chief noted.

In fewer than two minutes, cancellation tones went out for everyone except Cedar Key stating that the fire was out, but that the scene needed to be checked, the chief noted.

Tindall had climbed up and over a wall to gain access to the fire, the chief said.

Joe Catalano, John Caddigan and Lauren Ashley McIlwain handed Tindall buckets of water so she could douse the fire, Chief Robinson said, and Tindall noted on a social media account.

On Tuesday, Chief Robinson said it is important for people who smoke to "be responsible and confirm your cigarettes are fully out before discarding them and do so in proper containers."

While the bomber flyover provided more of a photo opportunity than a small piece of burnt wood, the story of a bar manager risking her life to put out a small fire captures the minds of many people.

Tindall acted quickly and decisively to help a neighboring business when she saw



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what seemed to her like an immediate threat.

There have been losses to fire on Cedar Key – including at least one restaurant.

On Jan. 26, 2012, there was quick and formidable response to a fire on Cedar Key's Dock Street in the wee hours of the morning.

Cedar Key Fire Rescue received a call of a structure fire at 2:47 a.m. on that Thursday morning – Jan. 26, 2012.

As firefighters were going to the station in the dark on that morning in 2012, they saw flames shooting through the roof of the Rusty Rim Restaurant and Pub on the northwest end of Dock Street, Chief Robinson said in 2012.

Joining Cedar Key in the firefight were trucks and firefighters from departments based in Bronson, Chiefland, Fowlers Bluff, Otter Creek and Rosewood. There were 23 people responding to fight that fire six years ago.

That fire had started upstairs in the ceiling of the office bathroom, Chief Robinson said back then.

The downstairs bar – Coconuts – and the upstairs restaurant and pub – Rusty Rim – never reopened. The whole building has since been removed.

As for what would have happened if Tindall did not see the fire and call 9-1-1 or climb across a dangerous area of old wood to extinguish the small fire on Sunday night (Nov. 4, 2018) to help a neighbor, no one can say.