



AD VALOREM TAXES WILL NOT INCREASE IN 2022...

For those property owners wondering if their property taxes will increase in the City of Wewahitchka. Here is the mayor's answer, "Ad valorem taxes will not increase" the mayor stated in the budget meeting just before the commission approved the 2022 budget. According to the City Mayor Phillip Gaskin and Commissioner Ralph Fisher, the 9.5 percent increase in our 2022 city budget will not be paid for by increased property taxes, but by the increase in revenue from other sources of income the city has experienced in the past year. Smart accounting practices and budget tight commissioners makes for a good city government. A welcome delight as our Federal Budget goes over the charts!

CITY OF WEWA COUNCIL MEETINGS

by Tom Wynn

With the City of Wewahitchka in good financial condition and with a solid budget for 2022 on the books (\$1.3 million approx..) carefully gone over by all the commissioners and approved on the September 23, 2021. The City Commission as well the city employees finalized a well-designed budget that will benefit the city this coming year. Following Mayor Gaskin's lead, the City Commission lowered expenses and moved money around to keep the budget low and avoid an increase to property taxes in the process.

Every little thing was questioned by the board to cover much needed repairs around the city, which included sewage and water systems breakdowns, and rainwater drainage issues.

The mayor and the commissioners worked their way down each line item in the upcoming budget. I was amazed how they all worried over every dollar making sure that all expenditures were justified. They questioned everything that looked to be over budget or too expensive. They ordered two items to be bid on to reduce costs. The line items that needed repair were given more funds with orders to get them repaired as soon as possible. While others were reduced because new technology was cheaper and easier to obtain. The city clerks and city manager need new laptops. The city found the funds in the 2021 budget to afford three new computers for the city staff after the budget meeting, the computers were ordered. City of Wewa meetings---please make it a point to come to the meetings, it is your money being spent folks. website: www.cityofwewahitchka.com TW

BP OIL SPILL MONEY LATEST NEWS Interview with Gulf County Administrator

by Tom Wynn

The Wewa News contacted Ms. Sherry Herring, Office of the Gulf County Administrator, in mid-September on another matter when the BP oil Spill Pot 3 subject came up (opportunity knocked). She explained how the process worked and stated that Pot 3 (Wewa, St. Joe, and Beacon Hill) is due funding by the Consortium very soon. She also explained that BP made payments yearly to the fund thus the Consortium could only grant the funds

as they come available. I explained that the documents I read on the subject was that the City of Wewa was to be funded back in 2018, thus I worried that the "use it or lose it" rule would apply since we have gone past that deadline of 3 years. Ms. Herring assured me that the funds had not been allotted by the Consortium so that was not an issue for the Pot 3 locations.

Wewa needs repairs and replacement of the city's aging sewage and water lines as well as other related equipment (see past Wewa News issues). The citizens of our city are hopeful that the county administration will continue to keep the city council informed of the process of the Pot 3 funding.

WEWA HISTORICAL GROUP NEWS

by Dianne Semmes

The Wewahitchka Historical Group held its monthly meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at the Corner Café. Our group seems to be growing each month and we welcome anyone in the community who has an interest in the history of Wewa to join us. We had a visit from Judge Fred Witten who is extremely interested in the projects we are working on. He is especially concerned about the future of the old courthouse.

The old courthouse was built between 1925 and 1927 and is a work of art. Judge Witten, as well as our members, feels this is a project that we would all like to see undertaken. We look forward to seeing him again soon.

Another project we discussed was the preservation of the Presbyterian Church. Carol Wood informed members that she is working on a FEMA grant which will enable the church to be restored to its former condition prior to Hurricane Michael. Although other funds will be needed to repaint outside and inside of the church as well as remodel the rooms to accommodate various uses that are proposed for the church. We are hopeful that we can help on this project as well.

Ann Johnson shared a beautiful picture of the church that she had donated to the Presbyterian Church. It will be hung at the Corner Café and then placed in the church after renovation.

There was also discussion about having a fundraiser after this year's Christmas parade at the old courthouse, like what was held last year. More on this project soon.

Tom Wynn encouraged all members to attend the city commissioners meeting every month to see what is going on in our little town. Tom also informed members that the city had asked if club members could assist in helping cleanup Jehu Cemetery. All agreed to help when the weather is cooler and hopefully the rain has stopped.

Members voted on and approved officers: President – Ann Johnson; Vice President – Mitchell Johnson; Secretary – Dianne Semmes; and Treasurer – Tom Semmes. There will be a two-year term for these offices.

Member dues were also voted on and approved: \$25.00 for an individual, and \$60.00 for a family. The meeting was adjourned by President Ann Mitchell. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021, 6:00 PM CST at the Corner Café. DS

THE CITY COMMISSION STILL WORKING ON THE NEW ORDINANCE FOR LOCAL RV USE

by Tom Wynn

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Wewa, Ordinance NO. 2021-1213L, will provide the city with authority to regulate the use of recreational vehicles within the city limits. In effect regulate the use of an RV as a place of permanent residence in Wewa. The Ordinance was offered to the public to review and comment on, as well as suggest any changes before it comes to be read three different times/meetings and then, finally voted on by the Board for approval, becoming enforceable. The Ordinance may be read by the public on the City Website: www.cityofwewahitchka.com.

OCTOBER FESTIVAL LAKE ALICE

October 2, 2021, 9am to 4pm will be a time of fun and joy as Wewa has an October Festival at Lake Alice Park. A Saturday of fun for the whole family. Please come. Take a breath as we enjoy one another's company and listen to good ole' Southern music. See you there! Tupelo Honey? **TW**

How The State of Florida Came to Be

by Tom Wynn

What we call the United States of America took hold of the land of flowers from the nation of Spain following the ratification of the Adams-Onís Treaty in 1821. After 20 years or more the land of flowers remained just a territory of the USA.

The people now called Floridians were split over to become a full "state" or remain something else. The divide between the north and the south states over the movement against slavery became much more important than statehood for Florida. In part, this was because Floridians were divided over statehood or something else. Some pro-slavery territory Floridians suggested that they should wait for a major increase in population so it could enter the Union as two separate states. This would strengthen the pro-slavery forces in the senate. Individuals from neighboring states had their own ideas about the situation and voiced it often. Other Floridians were eager to get the fresh territory into the Union as quickly as possible, especially in the northern areas.

The editor of *Niles' Weekly Register* reported in 1830 that the following toast had been given at a public dinner in support of Florida's entry: "Florida—impatient to break *into* the union as South Carolina is to break *out*; perhaps it would be better for both to stay where they are until better acquainted." Statehood advocates, such as David Levy (later Yulee) and Robert Raymond Reid urged the various factions to cooperate so Florida could become part of the United States of America.

As a sovereign state, Florida would enjoy the benefits of better representation in the congressional world, grants of land from the federal government would come about, and national prominence as a place to settle and do business would become vogue.

A referendum in the month of May 1838 returned most votes interested in statehood. Governor Richard Keith authorized the election of delegates to a constitutional convention at the city of Port St. Joseph (there is a museum in St. Joe that is fun to visit), a port city on the Gulf of Mexico about 25 miles south from Apalachicola and 22 miles from Wewahitchka today. Wave at the county courthouse as you drive by!

The convention began its work on December 3, 1838, and the new constitution was approved and given the go ahead as a state on January 11, 1839. Florida voting public gave their approval the new documentation soon after May by a narrow margin. Despite the apparent approval of the electorate, the powerful Legislative Council did not take immediate action on the Constitution for the State until 1838.

The old argument showed its head once again as to whether Florida should embrace statehood as one state or two states, as did questions over whether Floridians could raise enough tax revenue to support a state government at all, being there were so few citizens in the territory. Taxes, taxes. They seem to show up in discussions at every corner. Yet another question came into view was whether the narrow vote ratifying the Constitution of 1838 was even valid. In some households the question remained for some years, was Florida's statehood constitutionally approved or not?

While statehood remained questionable by some, due to politicking of some powerful men, the question remained in the Floridians mindset. Other territories wanted to become states as well, causing Florida's leadership to take a more active role in the process. "Hurry up boys!" some may have been thinking.

Mr. David Levy as well as others who advocated immediate statehood argued that the flower state could not allow other locations or territories to become a state without Florida before them or at least at the same timeframe. Florida's entry into the Union would help the South have a better hand in blocking the northern states in the Senate in future arguments over slavery.

Floridians answered the call of duty, per se, by voting into office a pro-statehood Legislative Council. Off to Tallahassee they went. In the meantime, both the House and Senate approved letting Florida and the territory of Iowa into statehood. Meanwhile, John Tyler (the President at the time) signed the documents into law on the third day of March in 1845. A fine spring day for the great state of Florida. We became a state of the USA, the 27th state in the Union. The job was finished!

Source: Authors Mr. William Cash and Ms. Dorothy Dodd. *Florida Becomes a State*. Tallahassee: Florida Centennial Commission, 1945.

DID YOU KNOW FLORIDA IS 518 YEARS OLD? WE ARE THE OLDEST BODY OF LAND WITHIN THESE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. FLORIDA WAS DISCOVERED BY THE SPANISH IN AD 1513.

MAYHANN'S USED CARS

Open 8 to 5 CST (slow time) (850) 639-5810/(850) 819-1136
We have trucks and cars just waiting for you to come see.
Let's make a deal today! Located right next door to Dixie Dandy on the lake on Highway 22, just before the light.
Come check out our lot, plum full of nice rides"

DOMINO'S Paint & Body

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY * 8 AM to 4 PM

(850) 340-0953 · MV-95178

Email us at donimod26@gmail.com

**THE UNITED NATIONS LAW ON THE UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS & THE HISTORY
LAID DOWN COURTESY OF THE WEWA NEWS FOR
YOUR GOOD PLEASURE**

The Foundation of International Human Rights Law

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is agreed to be the foundation of international human rights law. Adopted in 1948 the UDHR has inspired a rich body of legally binding international human rights treaties.

It represents the universal recognition that basic rights and fundamental freedoms are inherent to all human beings, inalienable and equally applicable to everyone, and that every one of us is born free and equal in dignity and rights. Together with the UDHR, the Covenants comprise the International Bill of Human Rights.

I have included in this issue of the Wewa News a brief list of fundamental human rights offered in this declaration for you to consider. There are thirty articles in all, but I only included a few due to space available.

Now how does international law protect human rights? International human rights law lays down obligations which states (international governments) are bound to respect. States assume obligations and duties under international law to respect, to protect, and to fulfill human rights. The obligation to respect means that states must refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect requires states to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuse. The obligation to fulfill means that states must take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights.

The domestic legal system, therefore, provides the principal legal protection of human rights guaranteed under international law, as well as our own U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Where domestic legal proceedings fail to address human rights abuses, mechanisms, and procedures for individual and group complaints are available at the regional and international levels to help ensure that international human rights standards are indeed respected, implemented, and enforced at the local level.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people. Here is just a sample of basic rights you have under these laws:

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be

independent, trust, non-self-governing, or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person (a corporate person or a private person? hmm) before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home, or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

The Foundation of International Human Rights Law

(Continued from page 3)

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 26

Everyone has the right to education. **Education shall be free**, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

* * *

Read them, use them, and require them. With this and our U.S. Constitution you can battle the best and the worst of humankind in an orderly courtroom of law. Everything is based on the Biblical text of the Old and the New Blood Covenants (aka Old and New Testaments). Our ancestors worked hard and gave their life's blood to give us the tools to continue their dreams for their children and themselves. Now is our time, what are we to do? Do we let chaos destroy our hopes and dreams to live in peace with our fellow man? Do we allow our children's children to not learn of their grandparent's labor of love to bring us to joy and peace with one another? Was all their work and shed blood in vain? We alone cannot save the world, but we can love our neighbors as ourselves. LIFT UP WEWA! And bring joy to someone today! Tell someone you love them, tell someone you care about them, tell someone you miss them. Lift our leaders up and pray for those that run our government. Be kind when others are not! Be joyful when you see your friends, for tomorrow they or you may be gone. Not to worry, He has your life in His hands.

Notice that most politicians say that we have a Democracy. We have a Republic, folks. Democracy only comes into play within the Capitol building where the majority rules.



Leaders in Behavior Analysis Services

Positive Behavior Supports Corporation

Brittany Harley, M.A., BCBA
Regional Coordinator
E: BHarley@teampbs.com
Ph: 855-832-6727 ext 1736
Fax: 772-675-9100
www.teampbs.com



SHOOBIES COMES TO WEWA!

by Tom Wynn

Next to the only red light in Wewahitchka is parked a bright red truck which is packed full of all sorts of ice cream delights and fixings an old-timer could only dream of back in our day. Come one come all! The owner and operator **Santana Tankersley** said they will be open in Wewa for the month of October but will close operations so their equipment can have a rest and get much needed repairs while the weather cools down during the months of winter.

She said rest assured when the warm months return, they too will come back to Wewa and serve up yummys again in the Wewa area. So come enjoy the delights of the big red truck from now until the end of October. Oh! and don't forget to bring ole' grandpa and grandma, I am sure they will enjoy the trip to Yummy Ville at Shoobies! Wewa continues to grow and produce such fine citizens taking the place of their parents and grandparents in business and in professions that serve their communities. We are proud they decided to stay home in Gulf County and bring us such joy. shoobies850@gmail.com TW

"BIG RIVER HONEY"

Father & Son Steve & Joseph Cantu
"Tupelo Honey & Other Various Honeys"
Call us today while supplies last!

(850) 247-7176

4584 County Road 386 North

Wewahitchka, Florida

Psalm 34:18

E-Z TREE SERVICE & REMOVAL

Call (850) 227-4911 or (850) 227-8142



2 Corinthians 3:18-4:1

A SNAPSHOT OF WEWA FOOTBALL HISTORY! THE WEWA GATORS!

Can you name the year this photo was taken?
LOVE THEM GATORS!

WEWAHITCHKA HIGH HEROES! MOST TODAY ARE PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY.

One of the first teams under Coach Snell



FIRST ROW--Willie Joe Fortner, Wayne Forehand, Buddy Lester, Philip Dean, Ray McGill, Ira Forehand, Bobby Hoskins, Bill Daniels, Marvin Redmond, Charles Fortner, Leland Davis, Jerry Gaskin, SECOND ROW--Floyd Lister Jr., Shorty Tillman, Robert Nations, Willie Whitfield, Johnny Taunton, Al Millergren, Larry Layton, Kenneth Hobbs, Tom Kilbourn, Jerry Mann, Jerry Harbuck, THIRD ROW--Mike Whitfield, Brad Brown, Jerry Pridgeon, Tony Turner, Fred Crutchfield, Roger McDaniel, Tommy Oliver, Franky Suber, Gifford Wiley, Jerry Taunton, Houston Whitfield, Billy Joe Mayhann, Coach Snell.

**In case you did not know it... We are a Republic,
not a Democracy! Or did you forget that?**

THE WEWA NEWS

is a locally owned and operated newspaper, created solely for the enjoyment of the people who live in the Wewa area. Our purpose is to bring "Good News" and "Whatever" to our locals' attention. I hope to bring back some joy and fun into our lives again and bring us closer than ever before. Thank you to those that support our effort with your support ads and help bringing our local news to the sweetest little city in Florida and its surrounding areas! Thank you, city workers and commissioners, for your care and hard work keeping us safe and running like a well-tuned machine. Also thank you Gulf County workers that keep our local parks clean and in nice condition, be of good cheer, we notice your effort! We know the work is long and hard, and we appreciate your labor of love for our beautiful parks and recreation areas. TW

A BIT BUSY CLEANING LLC

Katie Bryant Kohler-Owner 850.532.8583
abitbusycleaning@gmail.com



THE SHRIMP LADY

CALL (850) 866-8520



WE ARE ON HIGHWAY 71 South just before downtown Wewa. Come on in! We have Cantu Family Tupelo Honey, too. We also carry the Wewa News, while supplies last.

How to Manage Collection Calls from Credit Card Debt Collectors After a Loved One's Death

by Tom Wynn

Make sure you give your loved one's credit card companies notice of their death (send them a copy of the death certificate, send it by U.S. mail, certified, with return receipt). If you start receiving calls regarding collection of the deceased's credit card debt, first ask for proof of the debt (or proof of claim). Once you have received validation of the debt, determine whether the creditor is still within its statute of limitations to collect on that debt (which varies by state). Finally, determine whether you or anyone else is legally responsible for the debt. If you are not responsible for the debt but the creditor continues to hound you, you may file a complaint with your state Attorney General's office and the Federal Trade Commission. You may also consider consulting an attorney if they continue to hound you.

Disclaimer: The above information is intended for educational purposes and is not legal advice.

Rev. 21:4-7

HURRICANE MICHAEL HOUSING REPAIR & REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

RebuildFlorida.gov • 888-530-3025

Visit a Rebuild Florida Center or one of our mobile pop-ups. **DO YOU QUALIFY?** If you owned and occupied your property at the time of Hurricane Michael AND you still own the property? Your household is income qualified? Your home still has documented and unrepaired damage from Hurricane Michael? IF YES, SEE THE WAYS TO APPLY by calling 888-530-3025 or go online at **RebuildFlorida.gov**. The Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program is a state program launched with federal funding to repair, rebuild, or replace eligible homes with remaining damage from Hurricane Michael.

Gulf County Chamber News

Good News! The Gulf County Chamber of Commerce will carry copies of *The Wewa News* monthly in their Port St. Joe office, 321B Reid Ave, Port St. Joe, Florida, so that local businesses there will have access to the newspaper.

CHAZ ENTERPRIZES

WELDING & FABRICATION©
CALL FOR ESTIMATES (850) 819-9073

**The Wewa News is missing something,
YOUR AD HERE!**
**Come support our efforts, place an AD with us
here. Wewa will love you for it.**



SOUTHERN STYLES HAIR CARE

225 South Hwy 71, Wewahitchka, Florida
Sun: Closed, Mon: 8:30–5:30, Tue: Closed,
Wed–Fri: 8:30–5:30, Sat: 8:30–2:30
Call for an appointment. Thank You!
Emily & Shannon – Call (850) 381-6454

HELP! The Senior Citizen Center in Wewa needs folks to deliver lunch to house-bound seniors. **Please, if you can help, give Ms. Renece a call at: (850) 639-9910.** They are open weekdays 9 AM–2 PM. If you are eating (60 and over eat free and under 60 eat for \$3.25) you must be there by 10:30 AM and they eat at 11:00 AM.

**LIFT UP AND PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS,
HEAVEN KNOWS THEY NEED IT.**

FLORIDA ALMOST BECAME TWO STATES *OOPS!*

By Tom Wynn

Dr. Dorothy Dodd, an Archivist in the Florida State Library as well as a foreword by Mr. W. T. Cash, State Librarian, discusses the social life in our sweet state of Florida about the time it became a state included in the Union, called the United States of America.

More than three-fourths of the volume is devoted to the documentary material. Dr. Dodd's introduction "The Movement for Statehood," is a scholarly portrayal, not only of the problems that frustrated the territory, causing sectional conflict that endangered its unity as a state.

If we pay attention to the hardships that these conflicts played in our politics during those troubling times, us students of Florida's history can understand what our forefathers went through to become such a wonderful place to call home.

There were three distinct sections in territorial Florida at the time. East Florida, which lay east of the Suwannee River and included the peninsula to the south. Its population at the time of the purchase from Spain centered around St. Augustine proper. The settlement of this section was retarded in its movement toward statehood by Indian wars, as we discussed in previous issues of the Wewa News.

A large portion of the territory was an Indian reserve, and much of it that was open to settlement was "plastered" with litigated Spanish land claims.

West Florida was composed of the counties in the extreme west with Pensacola as its center of population. It was more than 400 miles from St. Augustine to Pensacola, and as the rivers between the two cities ran north and south. Travel was harder since there had been little social and economic contact between the two regions.

Middle Florida, which included the counties around the city of Tallahassee, was settled after 1825 by people from the adjacent southern states, and soon became a part of the cotton kingdom. It was more prosperous and its population greater than that of either of the other two sections of the territory. The citizens of Middle Florida were ardent advocates of statehood by 1838 and were equally insistent that the union of the three sections be continued as the State of Florida.

East Florida opposed its inclusion in the proposed state. Memorials were dispatched to Congress containing the assertion that "nature has never intended that the whole Territory should always remain united as one State or Territory." Its leaders proposed that the territory west of the Suwannee be admitted as the state of West Florida at once, and that East Florida continue its territorial status and eventually become the state of East Florida (Question: Who were they to name our part of the Territory?).

In the meantime, the prospect of Iowa becoming a state stimulated interest among southern leaders in favor of the admission of Florida at the same time. It is evident that East Florida's plea impressed some members of Congress. The Committee on Territories, in January 1845, reported a bill to the House for the admission of Florida and Iowa, and also included a provision for the future division of Florida into two states. Opposition among the antislavery members to the "division" clause was so great that the House eliminated it from the bill to admit Florida to statehood. Now you know how we became one family known today as the Great State of FLORIDA!

AKE'S AUTO DETAILING AND PERFORMANCE

BY DAKOTA AKE

207 West Reid Ave. Wewa, Florida

Call for an Appointment & Pricing:

727-916-1423

CORNER CAFÉ

108 N Highway 71, Wewahitchka, Florida

(850) 639-2636 · Breakfast and Lunch

Tuesday–Friday 6:00 am–2:00 pm

Saturday 6:00 am–12:00 noon

Try our Breakfast and Lunch Specials

Dine in or take out – Call-in Orders Welcome

Serving the Wewahitchka area since 2009

****Pick up THE WEWA NEWS here****

BOHO BY THE BAY

Call Katie Bryant for Details

(850) 532-858

PAPA'S PLACE

Sandwiches · Burgers · Shaved Ice · Drinks

**We are located at the end of CR 386 facing Hwy 98 Follow
your nose to the beaches! We are on the left!**

Open Sunday thru Saturday 10 AM–5 PM CST

Call Ahead, text/call (850) 960-2191 to order

“Bring your swimsuit, we have outdoor seating”

TAUNTON'S LLC

FOR YOUR BUILDING NEEDS CALL

Call: (850) 639-2336 · Fax: (850) 639-5599

Located in Honeyville-Gulf County Industrial Park

5441 Hwy 71 South, Wewahitchka, Florida

Kathe Jones, Broker/Owner

GRI Bay Properties Real Estate Group, LLC

CALL (850) 247-9131 · pkrd@fairpoint.net

BUY OR SALE REAL ESTATE

COME JOIN US – BUSINESSES OR INDIVIDUALS

On the 10th of October 2018, Hurricane Michael destroyed our homes and business, but it did not destroy our spirit of love and forgiveness. It just brought us closer together. Look for the blessing, but we must deal with the curses. Don't forget who is in charge, folks! Love U! 850 Strong!

WEWA'S FIREHOUSE PROGRESSING AT A



SNAIL'S PACE!

Our brand new, shiny penny (\$1,126,000) of a firehouse is finally starting to look like a building. Because of so many rain days, the construction crews have had a time getting the thing into place. Finally, it is starting to look like a building of large size. As they continue to build it, I will do my best to give updates of its progress. Commissioners Ralph Fisher and Brian Cox, and Mayor Phillip Gaskin have construction experience and they are keeping an eye on its construction. Commissioner Fisher has built many of these types of structures and knows what it takes to build such a building. While Commissioner Brian Cox is a longtime volunteer firefighter and knows what the building needs to have to store our fire trucks and gear. So, all is in good hands.

Our city fathers are hard at work making sure that the construction is moving along and keeping an “eagle eye” on the cost change as well. FEMA granted our sweet little city the money to build us a new “hotspot” to store all our firefighting trucks and equipment. Due to all the rain days the contractor asked for an additional 72 days to completion, and it was granted by the commission by vote. With all said and done it should be completed by December 25, 2021 and paid in full. Our City Commissioner Brian Cox is on top of things and keeps a very close eye on the work and the costs overruns. Thank you, Brian Cox! Thank you, Ralph Fisher, for letting all know of any errors in construction. In the end Wewa did a good job on this plan.

TW

HEAVEN SENT

A 501C3 NONPROFIT

“A Thrift Store Full of Love” Colossians 3:17

Help Us Help Others – Janet Wood

Located at 515 Hwy 71 North in Wewa

Come check us out! (Isaiah 61:11)

We are, ‘Gracefully Amazing’ · (850) 294-7839

**Please Pray for those suffering from
COVID-19. Prayer changes things, folks.
James 4:2-3 and Matthew 7:7-11**

**GRACELAND PORTABLE
BUILDINGS OF WEWA
See Jodi Rustin – Salesperson
Hwy 71 South
Call (850) 481-0855**

The City of Wewa Project “LIFT UP WEWA!”

KEVIN SHELLNUT METAL RECOVERY EFFORT–If you have metal you want to have removed from your property, give Kevin a call. He will come and remove it for FREE!
Call (850) 381-7606

MILLER’S

**HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
“Your Local AC Company”**

(850) 638-3319
812 Hwy 22 WEWA Florida
“For all your Air Conditioning needs!”
“WE DO OUR BEST TO KEEP YOU COOL”

RAMSEY’S PRINTING & OFFICE PRODUCTS

“We Serve the Entire County! Come down and see our in-house products & services.”

WE CAN DO LOGO CREATION · PRINTING · COPY & MUCH MORE
Give us a call at our Office: (850) 227-7468
We are located at 209 Reid Ave. in Port St. Joe
KEEP YOUR MONEY LOCAL! WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Google: wewa.news Call (850) 481-9392 to Sponsor us
Email: thewewanews2021@gmail.com

The First Amendment of Your Constitution... Use it or lose it! Many died protecting it. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." TW

A BIT BUSY CLEANING LLC



Katie Bryant Kohler-Owner 850.532.8583
abitbusycleaning@gmail.com

«« WEWAHITCHKA »»

HOME OF TUPELO HONEY & THE FAMOUS DEAD LAKES If you like fishing, camping, eating, swimming, boating, eating the best tasting bee honey in America, then you have come to the right place in all of Florida! Enjoy our friends and family, we love it and so will you. Spend your money local and enjoy the rich southern flavor of Wewa, Florida. Pull up a chair and share your stories, we have plenty to tell here. Cook up “a mess of fish.”

SUBWAY

COME DINE WITH US!

We are located at 507 South Hwy 71 in Wewa
Open: 9 am–8 pm · Sunday thru Saturday

Call (850) 639-4100

Dine in or pick up at our Drive-up Window

Bring your Family!

(Locally-Owned and -Operated)



No Name Cafe

Books & Gifts
850-229-9277

325 Reid Avenue, Port Saint Joe, FL 32456

CHIPOLA MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC

4215 Kelson Ave. Marianna, Florida 32446

We Take Tri-Care

Veterans & their Families Welcome

Joe H. Gay MD, Diplomate & Board Certified,

A. Kaitlyn Rich DNP

Give us a call: (850) 526-3434



BEES & BOTANICALS LLC

“From the Heart of the Hive”

(Beauty Products made with Tupelo Honey)

www.beesandbotanicals.com

Call LESLIE CANTU 863-781-1210

We Carry Tupelo Honey too!

SEE YOU OCTOBER 2nd AT LAKE ALICE PARK.
BRINGING TUPELO HONEY TO SELL. PICK UP A COPY
OF THE WEWA NEWS WHEN YOU COME VISIT US AT
OUR BOOTH.

Gal. 6:9

Wewa RV Park & Trading Post
Dried Old Growth Cypress Slabs for Sale
See Bob Sutton-Owner
(850) 639-5721

Call (850) 481-9392 to Sponsor this Newspaper
Google: wewa.news
Email: thewewanews2021@gmail.com
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT
THE WEWA NEWS – We Love you too!

Wewa's Full-Service Florist
Servicing the North & South ends of Gulf County



FLOWERS-GIFTS-JEWELRY-COSMETICS & more

850.229.1111 * FAX: 850.229.1272

208 Reid Ave. * Port St. Joe, FL

BaysideFloristPortStJoe.com * BaysideFlorist@gmail.com

CB'S ATTIC & CUE'S VARIETY
QUALITY ANTIQUES

FURNITURE · FISHING GEAR · TOOLS

"AMAZING FINDS · COME LOOK!"

OPEN 9-5 DAILY LOCATED IN WEWA ON

HWY 71 SOUTH · (850) 628-1358

CuesvintageNAntiques.etsy.com

Check out our Everything is 2 Dollar Store in the Back!

OVERSTREET
TRADING COMPANY

Produce · Veggies · Fruit · Local Honey · Candy

Tee Shirts · Jewelry · Sodas · Snack Food · Cookies · Sheds

Portable Buildings – Come See!

A Place to Relax and Eat Snacks

Located at 3320 County Road 386 Port St. Joe, Florida

· Call (850) 566-6753

Owners: Barry & April Bostwick



SEE YOU AT THE OCTOBERFEST, 2 OCTOBER AT
LAKE ALICE PARK IN WEWA, STARTS AT 9AM.

THE CHARLES WHITEHEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY
by Joyelle Linton – The Wewa Librarian



It is with great excitement that I share with you about an upcoming event at the Charles Whitehead Public Library. We will be hosting a Local History Day on Saturday, November 13, 2021, from 10-2 CT. This will be a free event for the whole family where we can share the wonderful history of Wewahitchka.

Visit your local library and check out all we have to offer. The library will be displaying our newly purchased books on Florida history and genealogy, donated Wewahitchka High School yearbooks, and collected Gulf County Breeze newspapers. Residents will be available to discuss artifacts currently on display at the library. A slide show will share the local photographs that have been collected, thus far. If you have not recently visited the library, we have purchased a collection of 10 framed prints representing Wewahitchka' history from the Florida Memory website. There will be fun door prizes, entertainment, crafts for the kids, and a free lunch will be provided. Due to COVID-19 the number of persons entering the library at one time will be limited and tents will be setup outside.

We are extremely excited about our collaboration with the University of Florida Digital Newspaper Library. A deadline has been set for October 15 for the final collection of the Gulf County Breeze. Please contact the library for more information on the years and issues needed. This wonderful newspaper was published from 1925-2013 but has never been digitized. Once digitized, anyone will be able to access the University of Florida website and access all the historic information they contain.

Beginning in September we began our Seed Library. It is off to a great start! Each person may receive 5 packs of seeds per month with their library card. There are vegetables and wildflowers with the addition of herbs in the spring. This is a join collaboration with the library, University of Florida Agricultural Extension office, and the Port St. Joe Garden Club. Our library is currently open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9-5 CT.

BEATTY BUILDERS (LLC)

L19000084213

Call Chase Beatty (850) 348-2043

"We can Construct or Destruct...just give us a call."

Office Located on Main Street in Wewa

'RANDY THE PAINTER'

If you need your shed to be restored to its former glory or want your kitchen to have a fresh look, your porch to have some new wooden furniture just give

me a call at: **850-960-4087**

Phil. 4:6-7

BLAST FROM THE WEWA PAST!

What is a "Preacher"

Gulf County Breeze, Edward Bandjough Editor
and Publisher, March 28, 1957, 8¢ per copy

Submitted by Tom Semmes

A lot of people call the minister of GOD "Preacher." People in Wewa are not an exception. And a lot of people in Wewa call a certain barber named Felton Smith by the name of "Preacher" too. Now everyone knows the difference between Preacher Smith and the ministers in town: The ministers in town are good, God-fearing men. The main distinction, however, is one which even the children in Wewa recognize. The Rev. C. Dwight Wooten and Preacher Smith were in the drug store one morning about a month ago, as was little Linda Joy Lister and her father, Joyce. When she was asked if she could tell the difference between the two preachers, she hastily said "yes" and pointing her chubby finger in the proper direction each time said, "This is the bible preacher and this is haircut preacher." Felton says he does not mind being a real preacher. He says there is more money in cutting hair – or he would say that if I were to ask him.

...

Can you tell the difference between a rich man and a poor man? The rich man works hard, is frugal, and thrifty with his money. He spends money like he is a poor man buying only what he feels is necessary. A poor man works hard, to earn his money. He spends his money as if he were a rich man, buying stuff that he does not actually need, usually on credit.

TS

Ray's
screen workz
Repair Window Screens & Bicycle Tires
roaddog423@gmail.com • 850.819.0897

GRATITUDE – turns what we have into ENOUGH!

Ephesian 5:20; 1Thess 5:18, Romans 5:3-5;
James 1:1-4, Col 3:17

HIGHWAY 22 STORAGE
P.O. Box 182, Wewahitchka, Florida
IN GOD WE TRUST!
Cleckley Enterprises, LLC
Real Estate Rentals & Land

IF YOU STILL NEED TUPELO HONEY

See the list of local beekeepers with their phone numbers on the last page of this issue of the "The Wewa News."



PREACHER GLASS...

How did he get the
nickname Preacher?

Hmmm...



As it was told to me by his younger daughter Darlene Ake, that when Preacher was a young boy, he used to get a box and stand on top of it and pretend to

preach like his daddy did every Sunday. Some kids would gather around him, and "Preacher" would wave his arms and point out into the group repeating bible verses, etc., to his friends, thus he got the nickname "Preacher." The photo above is his father's (Preacher Cecil Glass) butcher shop back in the 1950-60's. It is no longer with us today. His father was a real preacher in Wewa. He would drive his automobile down the streets of Wewa and on Highway 71 with a loudspeaker attached to it. He would preach the gospel message to anyone that would listen as he drove by inviting them to his church every Sunday morning.

I was told he was an exceptionally large and strong man by Gene Hanlon who knew him well. The photo of the store was donated by Bruce Husband for this issue of the Wewa News. Thank you, Bruce!

TW

**SAVE YOUR HISTORY! IF YOU WANT TO SAVE A
HISTORICAL BUILDING OR ARTIFACT,
THIS MAY HELP!**

NATIONAL & FLORIDA GRANTS

by Tom Wynn

In my research on saving some important buildings in Wewahitchka and our local area, I found the following grants via the U.S. Federal Government and the State of Florida as well. So, dig down deep and find some time to save something important to you and to your neighbors using these possible grants, Google these: 1. "National Historic Preservation Act of 1966" 2. "38 CFR Part 800-Protection of Historic Properties Incorporating amendments effective August 5, 2004" 3. "Save America's Treasures Grants" see the National Historic Preservation Act 54 USC 300101 4. The Dept. Of Historical Resources (a part of the Dept of State (FL) Special Cat. Grant).

There is more, but this should get you started. Get HOT! Save our national and local treasures while we still can. True power is in "We the People."

TW



Expression of Wonder

by Stephen Brown

Today I sat down in a rusty ol' chair under the shade of an ancient oak and began to remember. Much younger men we were when we first arrived that year in September. Being patrons of the outdoors, we had arrived at the camp in full force brimming with spit n vinegar. Copious amounts of goods and gear were stacked and stored, two of everything, at least. In every truck, an ice chest, in every ice chest was red meat, beans and cold drink. Somewhere a brown paper bag held a jug containing an aged elixir that appeared only on special occasions. This bunch were never ones to over-imbibe by any means, but there were occasional reasons to raise a toast. The taking of a patriarch white tail for instance. Or an elusive long-beard gobbler, the celebrating of a welcomed cold front perhaps or just because it was Tuesday.

In those early days we had much to learn though we fully believed we knew most of it. Mother Nature has a way – we soon discovered – of humbling those who enter her domain. She always had a lesson to bestow and would have her way with you if a soul was unprepared. For those of the persuasion to square off with the elements and attempt to seek the trophies of fin n feather or of horn n hide, September preparation was of paramount importance. Sleep was considered optional back then. We ran off the seemingly endless supply of youthful vigor.

Besides, it was of the collective opinion that if we slept, we might miss something. Our management of time, however, was a constant challenge. Duties and obligations to family and paycheck clashed with the beckoning whispers of the deep woods. Looking back, much younger men we were.

'Tis the time of year when the rusty hues show up on the cypresses along the Dead Lakes and the Catawba trees begin to fade to a pale yella'. The first subtle signs of transformation had begun. Almost thirty years ago it's been. And as far as nature goes, not much has changed. The whispering calls of the woods n waters are still the same to those who listen.

Be it a seasoned veteran or a neophyte in the making, the whispers grow louder as the days of autumn become shorter. For some 'tis the sound of the hound that drives their anticipation, others dream of cranking a buzz-bait over a lily pad hoping to stir the slumber of the largemouth that lies below. And then there are the few that climb the trees when the cold winds blow. After all this time, we aren't sure why.

As September made its predictable arrival this year, I made mine. A much-anticipated trip to the camp.

Just a day venture to check the tree bark and the flow of the creek. But mostly to set a restless mind at ease.

Someone had been there before me; the cobwebs were swatted back, and the kitchen was bare for the most part. Opening the door of the fridge (Continued on page 14) (Cont. from page 13, Brown story) provided me with an instant and stark realization. I stood aghast in the dim light looking down to where the beverages were kept. On the bottom shelf where a variety of drinks used to sit, NOW, as big as all outdoors sat a brand spanking new, unopened case of Ensure. And a few stray bottles of chocolate Boost. On the wooden shelf above, sat a jar of Metamucil serving as a sentinel overlooking the kitchen. I just stood there – 'twas all I could do.

What have we men of spit n vinegar become? And just exactly when did this happen? The short jaunt through the woods that followed partially answered these questions. This outing through dirt and bark was made on a beat-up golf cart instead of two worn-out brogans trying to keep up with each other. More attention I now realized was also paid to the condition of the fireplace and the recliner than to the tracks n trails and possible good trees to climb. The anticipation of woodsmoke and comradery now override these longings of the season's past.

As needs and desires within us appear to be in a constant state of realignment, another realization becomes apparent to oneself. While the younger ones tromp n trudge through the muck and mire, someone must take the responsibility to ENSURE them a hot meal and cozy fire upon their return. Tis the least one can do. As each of us navigate the coming days, our blessings will come from genuinely enjoying the journey while only dreaming of our destination. **SB**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO LYN, MY LOVELY WIFE OF 49 YEARS IN MARRIAGE TOM WYNN JR.

Wewahitchka, Its True Meaning

by Tom Wynn

The true Creek Indian name, English translation for "Wewahitchka" means, "Place of many waters" or "Water is here" according to the then-sitting Creek Indian Chief Alonso when we questioned him about the name during an interview in the documentary I filmed, produced, and directed called: **"Tupelo Honey & The Amazing World of Beekeeping."** We filmed it during the 2002 Tupelo honey season in Gulf County and it featured our local beekeeper James E. "Jim" Rish. The video has been published on YouTube by me.

SHOOBIES! COME ONE COME ALL! WE ARE READY TO SERVE... BRING A FRIEND!



shoobies850@gmail.com

**WE ARE NOW LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF HWY 71
AND HWY 22, AT THE RED LIGHT.....OR IS IT GREEN
LIGHT? OPEN NOW UNTIL THE END OF OCTOBER.
WHAT'S OUR PLEASURE? COME SEE!**

The Wewa News Phone Number (850) 481-9392

Wewahitchka Location:

Monday–Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday 3–9 pm CST Friday 3–10 pm CST

Saturday 1–10 pm CST Sunday 1–9 pm CST

Thank you all who support *The Wewa News!* Please read and enjoy while we have the time. Live good and be of good cheer for the time may be short and our new era of government and society has come to a point of no return. So, make the best of it while we still have time to love one another, and do good things for each other as often as we are able. Tom Wynn – Publisher of the Wewa News. God Speed!

CHRISTMAS AT THE COURTHOUSE

by Ann Johnson

‘Save Old Gulf County Coalition’ is gearing up to host our 2nd Annual Christmas at the Courthouse event on the night of the Wewa Christmas parade, December 18, 2021. Our first event was an enormous success, and we hope to build on this by adding new booths from local groups and organizations. We are looking for clubs and other groups who may want to do a fundraising event. We also would love to have anyone who would like to offer any free services or hand out information to the community to participate with us.

These groups will be back with us this year: S.W.A.T. will be handing out information and lots of goodies, the National Art Honor Society will be helping the children with painting and ornament making, and Project Graduation will be back with a food booth.

We will also have the Wewahitchka Historical Group selling Afghans with our local history on them, the Wewahitchka Library will possibly be selling Christmas ornaments displaying the old courthouse and the Famous Dead Lakes.

If you have a group willing to join us this year, contact Ann Johnson (850) 867-5970 or Jodi Rustin (229) 310-0936 with ‘Save Old Gulf County Coalition’ for more information.

Honesty Honey House...

In case you missed it!

Cynde Aaron, a local hobbyist beekeeper, placed a “Honesty Honey House” by her driveway to sell her organic honey at her driveway for those who are wanting some fine-tasting honey.

She uses no chemicals to treat her bees, and she does her best to keep it that way. Give her a call and she will give you the address to the location of the Honey House. She captures her bees via “swarm capture,” so if you have bees in your barn or house, give her a call at (850) 628-0745 or contact her by email: cocomistle@msn.com

The Wewa News...

PAST ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE TO ONLINE!

Google: wewa.news • Call (850) 481-9392

Email: thewewanews2021@gmail.com

THANK YOU ALL WHO SUPPORT THE WEWANews

– Tom Wynn, Publisher and Owner

Happy Birthday! Emelia Shiver age 3 years old

Alonah Newby age 12 years old

Love you! Mommy, Daddy & Sister

John Henry Armstrong Story

by Calvin Roney



John Henry Armstrong (Papa Armstrong) with his wife. He had 8 children-George, May Helen, Sadie, Harold, Clayton, Gene, and two others whose names I do not know. One died about 9 months old and the other at about 8 months old. Papa Armstrong lived in the Majette community Calhoun County FL (now known as Gulf Co., Wewahitchka where Jesse Armstrong lives today) at the time. The old house was a stone's throw to the

east of where Jessie Armstrong lives. The old house was torn down and a trailer set there for a while. Papa worked the log woods and caught the train that ran down behind the old house. Back then the rail bed was laid two or three feet below the ground level, this allowed the animal teams to roll the logs on to the flat cars. As the train would come by workers would meet along the rail bed and catch the train to the woods. One wet morning as Papa went to step on the ladder his foot slipped, and he fell under the train, and it ran his leg over. There are two different stories that were told to me about what happened next, but most people are of the consensus, that there was just a small bit of skin still holding the leg on. Workers wrapped Papa in a blanket and took him home where they finished cutting his leg off and sewing it up. From then on, he walked on a wooden peg that was handmade. One story told to me that while all this was going on Papa never said a word. His grandson Jimmy Armstrong said he could remember Papa setting next to the fireplace rubbing his nub and talking about how his bad foot itched. What happen to the wooden peg? Well, his great granddaughter Priscilla (Armstrong) Hunter, has it today.

CR

Northwest Florida – HELP ME GROW® Florida

Help Me Grow was designed to create an opportunity for parents to track their child's developmental growth and provide peace of mind.

Your family is eligible for:

- Free developmental screening to identify possible social and emotional delays.
- Follow-up care coordination ensuring families receive the services they need.
- Other community resources Promoting health can wellness for the whole family.

Call 850-866-6425 to complete your child's developmental screening today! CALL 2-1-1 AND ASK FOR HELP ME GROW

MAYHANN'S USED CARS

Open 8 to 5 CST (Slow Time) (850) 639-5810/(850) 819-1136
We have Trucks & Cars just waiting for you to come see.
Let's Make a Deal Today! Located right next door to Dixie Dandy on the Lake on Highway 22, just before the light.

DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND, WE ARE REPUBLISHING THIS ARTICLE:

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, ALL VETERANS IN FLORIDA! THE STATE HAS EXEMPTIONS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS! CHECK IT OUT!

Florida Property Tax Exemptions and Discounts for Service Members, Disabled Veterans Spouses and Surviving Spouses: Florida offers property tax exemptions or discounts for resident service members, honorably discharged disabled Veterans, and unmarried surviving spouses.

War Time Veteran Disabled 10% or More Property Tax Discount: Veterans that have a combat related disability of 10% or more are eligible for up to a \$5,000 discount on their homestead property taxes. The discount is equal to the Veteran's VA disability percentage. Surviving spouses can receive the discount as long as they do not remarry. If the surviving spouse sells the property, they are only eligible for a discount up to the amount they received on their previous property. Use Florida Department of Revenue, Application for Homestead and Related Tax Exemptions Form DR-501 to apply. FS 196.081, 196.082.

Veterans with Service-Connected, Total and Permanent Disability or Confined to a Wheelchair Property Tax Exemption: Veterans with a service-connected total and permanent disability or are confined to a wheelchair are eligible for a total exemption from property taxes on their homesteads. Surviving spouses can receive the exemption as long as they do not remarry. If the surviving spouse sells the property, they are only eligible for an exemption up to the amount they received on their previous property. Use Florida Department of Revenue, Application for Homestead and Related Tax Exemptions Form DR-501 to apply. FS 196.08, 196.091.

Disabled Veteran, age 65 and Older Property Tax Discount: Veterans 65 or older that have a service-connected, permanent, partial disability can receive a discount on the assessed value of their homesteads. The discount is a percentage equal to the percentage of the Veteran's disability. Surviving spouses can receive the discount as long as they do not remarry. If the Surviving spouse sells the property, they are only eligible for a discount up to the amount they received on their previous property. Use Florida Department of Revenue, Application for Homestead and Related Tax Exemptions Form DR-501 to apply. FS 196.082.

Deployed Military Property Tax Exemption: A service member or former service member of an active or reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces may receive an exemption if they were deployed during the previous calendar year. The deployment must have been outside the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii and in support of a main or subordinate military operation designated by the Florida Legislature. The percent of the taxable value that is exempt is equal to the percent of time during the previous year that the service member was deployed. Use Florida Department of Revenue, Deployed Military Exemption Application Form DR-501M to apply. FS 196.173.

Surviving Spouse of Service Members Killed on Active-Duty Property Tax Exemption: The Surviving spouse of a resident service member who died from service-connected causes while on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces is exempt from taxes on their homestead. Use Florida Department of Revenue, Application for Homestead and Related Tax Exemptions Form DR-501 to apply. FS 196.081.

Those eligible for these exemptions may apply before they receive the necessary documentation from the U.S. Government

or the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). After the property appraiser receives the documentation, the exemption will be effective as of the date of the original application. Service members that are eligible for an exemption or discount are authorized to have their next of kin file if they are unable to apply due to their military service. FS 196.071.

Please see the Florida Department of Revenue, How to Apply for a Refund brochure for more information.

[<https://floridarevenue.com/property/Documents/pt103.pdf>]

Learn more about Florida Property Tax Exemptions and Discounts for Service Members, Disabled Veterans Spouses and Surviving Spouses. Florida Local Business Tax Exemption for Veterans, Spouses of Veterans and Service Members: Veterans, Spouses of Veterans, and certain Service members, are eligible for an exemption from business tax and any fees imposed under the Florida Business Tax Statutes, Chapter 205.

Who is eligible for the Florida Local Business Tax Exemption for Veterans, Spouses of Veterans and Certain Service Members? The following are eligible for the exemption: Honorably discharged Veterans of the U.S Armed Forces, the Spouse or unremarried Surviving Spouse an eligible Veteran. The Spouse of an active-duty Service member who has relocated to the county or municipality due to a permanent change of station order. **TW**

A Brief History of the Gulf Coast Electric Coop

by Kristin Douglas

October 28, 2021, marks the 80th anniversary of Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative. Below is a brief history of the cooperative. A complete history is included in the 80th Anniversary Commemorative Cookbooks that will be distributed at the co-op's annual meeting on May 7, 2022.

The Articles of Incorporation for Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative were drawn up and executed for the purpose of organizing a cooperative, non-profit, membership corporation, under the laws of the State of Florida, pursuant to an act entitled "An Act Relating to Electric Cooperative." The "Cooperative" was organized to engage in rural electrification, which was approved May 25, 1939, and is known as the "Rural Electric Cooperative Act."

The first order of the Articles of Incorporation for Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative was to name the cooperative; thus, Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. The second order was to address the principal office of the cooperative, which was in Panama City, Florida. The third order named the incorporators of the cooperative, who were all Florida residents. The fourth and final order was to name the first Board of Trustees of the cooperative. This act was performed October 28, 1941, and the first meeting of the newly formed Board of Trustees was conducted October 30, 1941, at the Federal Building in downtown Panama City.

As of December 2, 1941, only 41 memberships had been applied for—a small percentage of what was required by the corporation. Therefore, a membership drive was requested by the president of the board. By December 15, the directors had obtained 100 memberships.

During World War II, false claims that electric cooperatives were hoarding copper wire brought cooperative leaders from different states together to defend themselves. As a result, in 1942, America's electric cooperatives formed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to provide a unified

voice for cooperatives and to represent their interests in Washington, D.C.

History for the early years shows a time lapse in Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative (GCEC) records between 1941 and 1945 due to World War II.

The next board meeting recorded was held at the US Post Office building in Panama City on June 27, 1945. The board convened to approve a loan contract to borrow \$100,000 from the United States of America. The cooperative would use these funds to build and operate electric transmission, distribution, and service lines for its 330 members.

In the August 9 meeting, purchases of the first truck, tools, equipment, meters, transformers, wire, poles, and other essential materials for the cooperative to build, operate, and maintain electric transmission, distribution, and service lines were commissioned.

In October 1945, GCEC bought from the city of Wewahitchka (the Connell family) an electric generation plant, transmission lines, and appurtenances for \$70,000.

On December 3, 1945, the board voted to hire Edward O. Cone as manager. His starting pay was \$250 a month.

During the January 2, 1946, board meeting, Ernestine Joyner was approved and appointed as the first bookkeeper for GCEC, with a starting pay of \$125 a month.

The first lineman, E.L. Bailey, was hired February 23, 1946, at a salary of \$150 a month.

In the June 1946 board meeting, a method of billing was proposed and established. The minutes read: "Each member shall read his meter on the 25th of every month and shall mark the reading thereof on the cooperative's meter card for that purpose. The meter card shall be returned to the cooperative office within three days."

On July 21, 1947, the Wewahitchka system was energized by the newly built lines. The White City lines were energized August 1, 1947. Power generation was initiated at the Wewahitchka generating plant.

In April 1948 the first office space and warehouse were obtained in Wewahitchka. The first day of business for the cooperative was May 21, 1948. The price to rent both of these buildings was \$45 a month. The landlord was E. C. Pridgeon of Wewahitchka.

In July 1948 GCEC obtained distribution lines from West Florida Electric Cooperative. These lines ran through Calhoun and Gulf counties.

The first annual members' meeting of the Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held in Wewahitchka on April 9, 1949.

In November 1949 Gulf Coast Electric joined the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

At the January 19, 1954, board meeting, the subject of a headquarters for the cooperative was discussed and decided that the location of the headquarters would be in Wewahitchka.

At the April 1955 board meeting an application for a line into the river below Howard Creek was presented and discussed. It was decided that if the applicants would sign up 12 members on the line, secure and cut the rights-of-way, and sign a two-year contract agreeing to a \$5 per month minimum bill, that the cooperative would build the line to the members, all of them being seasonal cottages at the time.

In December 1955 the board accepted bids to build the headquarters office and warehouse in Wewahitchka.

The new headquarters for GCEC was completed in August 1956, and a dedication ceremony for the building was held on the following Labor Day weekend.

In 1957 the cooperative joined Florida Electric Cooperative Association, which continues to be the statewide organization for Florida electric cooperatives.

In April 1958 GCEC received a letter from Gulf Power, informing the coop that a 30 to 40 percent increase in the cost of power was inevitable. A fuel adjustment clause would soon be imposed as well. At the April board meeting that year, it was decided to start looking for alternative power suppliers.

In May 1958 GCEC received an invitation to attend a board meeting of Alabama Electric Cooperative (AEC) to discuss the possibility of obtaining power from them. On May 20, 1958, GCEC became a member of AEC.

In 1960 the first yard lights for members were offered at \$3 a light.

At the 12th annual members' meeting on April 9, 1960, a beauty contest was held to elect the first "Miss Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative." Carol Sue Halman of Wewahitchka was chosen as queen, receiving a crown, a bouquet of roses, and \$25. Entrants had to be unmarried and between the ages of 14 and 19.

In 1960 the first streetlights—called the "Whiteway Project"—were placed in Wewahitchka for \$2 per light under a franchised contract with the City of Wewahitchka.

On October 18, 1960, the GCEC directors made the decision to seek wholesale power purchase from AEC. AEC was to supply GCEC with power under a 35-year contract.

In June 1961 the manager of the cooperative, Mr. Cullifer, reported that the membership of the cooperative had topped 3,000 members.

In August 1963 a decision was made to complete the process for power obtained from the generation and transmission cooperative, AEC. This established power for the Southport substation and ended the previous transmission relationship with Gulf Power.

In October 1965 land clearing and road construction started in preparation for erecting the substation in Southport.

In July 1969 the Wewahitchka substation was energized from a 44KV line coming from Bayou George.

In May 1971 GCEC was approved for a \$971,000 loan by the Rural Electrification Administration for system improvements. The funds were used to provide service to 665 new consumers and to finance the installation of the Dead Lakes substation.

In September 1975 Hurricane Eloise caused more than \$50,000 worth of damage to the GCEC system. GCEC applied for federal reimbursement under the Disaster Aid Program.

In February 1984 the board approved Manager Norris to sign a contract to install a drive-through window at the Wewahitchka office location.

**Happy Anniversary to Charles and Theresa Wynn
44 years of marriage, may you have many more.**

A Brief History of the Gulf Coast Electric Coop

(Continued from page 14)

In October 1984 GCEC executed a quit claim deed to the State of Florida, giving the state claim to easements the co-op owned at the time. In turn, the state gave GCEC a new location for lines and paid for them to be relocated. All of this was done so that a high-rise bridge could be built over the intercoastal canal at Overstreet.

In December 1985 three storms impacted GCEC during the 1985 storm season: Hurricane Elena in September, Hurricane Juan in October, and Hurricane Kate in November. GCEC sustained about \$250,000 worth of damage from Hurricane Kate. Fortunately, Gulf County was declared a county of disaster under the Public Works Project, and the co-op qualified for grant money. Approximately 50 to 60 percent of the lost value was recovered through the project.

In January 1986 Manager Norris reported that federal auditors had met several times with Manager Barnes concerning co-op expenses during the hurricanes. Since Gulf County was declared a county of disaster, Gulf Coast was approved to receive \$222,110 in funds. The coop was also working to obtain the same aid for Calhoun County.

In 1995 GCEC's distribution system sustained damage from Hurricane Opal. A \$176,000 claim was submitted to FEMA, which paid 75 percent of the claim, with the remaining 25 percent paid by the state of Florida.

In 2004:

- Hurricane Ivan made landfall on September 15, leaving 69 percent of GCEC members without power. All power was restored by September 17.

In 2005 Hurricane Dennis inflicted \$70,000 worth of damage to the GCEC distribution system.

In 2007 the cooperative began offering its members the online capability to view and pay bills. Also, the wastewater plant was completed.

In 2008 GCEC sold the water and wastewater system to Bay County.

In 2010 the United States Air Force signed an agreement with GCEC as part of the privatization process for Tyndall Air Force Base. GCEC was awarded a 50-year contract to own and maintain the base's electric and water distribution systems. The contract commenced on June 1, 2011. As a result of this contract the cooperative purchased a building located at 6243 Highway 98 in Parker and opened its third office location.

In 2013:

- The Two Way Automatic Communications System was fully functional. This upgrade in technology allowed GCEC to go from using physical meter reading in the field to computer-generated communications with each meter on a 24/7 basis.
- At the 65th annual members' meeting Betty Moore became the first female director in the history of Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative.
- Employees began to receive training on AEDs, and AEDs were placed in cooperative offices and on cooperative vehicles.
- The cooperative introduced capability for members to pay their bills over the phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, using an IVR system.

In 2016 GCEC crews completed work in the Lister Landing and Howard Creek areas. Since these areas are only accessible by

water, the work required out-of-the-ordinary methods. A boat was used to transport poles on the Apalachicola River. Also, the cooperative added the outage map to its website, a benefit for both members and local news media.

In 2018, October 10, Category 5 Hurricane Michael made landfall between Mexico Beach and Tyndall Air Force Base with winds that exceeded 185 mph. The entire GCEC distribution system was without power. Reported damages totaled approximately \$90 million. At the time, GCEC employed fewer than 80 people. More than 1,600 contractors and mutual aid crews were called in to assist with the rebuild effort. All members who were capable of receiving power were restored within 3 weeks.

In 2021 the cooperative was still awaiting storm expenses reimbursement from FEMA.

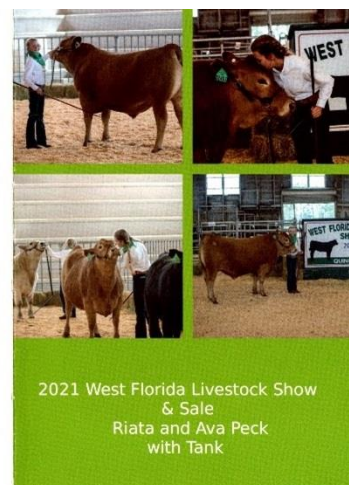
In 2020 GCEC employees rebuilt lines on the Brothers River that were damaged during Hurricane Michael.

GCEC's board of trustees and CEO in 2021 are the following: John Bartley, CEO/general manager; Pat Floyd, attorney; Jimmy Black, president; Carl Goodson, vice president; Betty Moore, secretary; Doug Birmingham, treasurer; and Rupert Brown, Robert Byrd, Gary Cox, Kenneth Daniels, and Eddie Jones, directors.

2021 West Florida Livestock Show & Sale



Thanks for your support! We had a great 4-H season and cannot wait to get our new steers this fall!



Riata and Ava Peck with their pet cow "Tank"

Will McLemore (who was one of the sponsors for the girls' 4-H project) received these photos from Riata and Ava Peck. Ava wrote, "This year I really enjoyed my project. My steer was a good one. I won first place in weight gain. Tank was the only one who didn't act up. Thanks again!" She reported that her steer weighed in at 1,401 lbs.!

Riata wrote, "Thank you for donating to my 4-H project. I had a lot of fun learning about cattle this year. I also won first place junior showmanship. Thanks again!"

Congratulations from THE WEWA NEWS! Well, done Ladies!
We are very proud of you. TW

GOAT DAY IN BLOUNTSTOWN

Let's not forget to enjoy our northern cousins' Goat Day festival folks. Saturday, October 16, 2021. Enjoy the day!

CHIPOLA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

We meet on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.
Potluck meal at 6:30 pm · Meeting place: Jackson County
Extension Office 2741 Penn Ave., Suite 3 Marianna, Florida
North Side Entrance · Contact us: (850) 482-9620

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

- A.** From Proverbs 22:15, what is bound up in the heart of a child? Foolishness, Joy, Love, Warmth
B. Where was Paul on receiving his "Macedonian Vision?"
Troas, Ailgal, Petra, Rome
C. Which Phoenician city was home to Hiram? Endor,
Patara, Tyre, Sardis
D. Is the book of Haqqi in the Old or New Testament or neither?

See if your children can win the game.

BRAIN TEASER

								1
	8	9		3				6
2	3		6	9				
3		6				7		2
		2		1	9	6		3
						9		
	7	1	9			5	3	
8				5		2		
9								8

MEDIUM DIFFICULTY



"I love the DeadLakes!
I love Tupelo Honey!
And I love to Read,
"The Wewa News!"

Disclosure: The Wewa News is owned and operated by the founder of The New Made Man Ministries & Int'l Missions, Brother Tom Wynn, and is a part of the ministry. ARR

LOCAL BEEKEEPERS & HONEY SUPPLIERS

BEE WILD RAW HONEY.....(850) 447-0161
BIG RIVER HONEY–Joseph Cantu.....(850) 247-7176
BLUE EYED GIRL HONEY–Pam & Gary.....(850) 628-9504
DEAD LAKE APIARY–Cynde Aaron.....(850) 628-0745
HURRICANE HONEY–Buddy Nachtsheim.....(850) 814-0754
L.L. LANIER HONEY–Ben & Glynnis Lanier....(850) 639-2371
RISH TUPELO HONEY–James Rish.....(850) 639-3645
SMILEY HONEY–The Bertonneau family.....(850) 639-5672
WEWA BEE & HONEY–Greg Skipper.....(850) 819-4458
Buddy Nachtsheim.....(850) 814-0754

THE WEWA NEWS AD PHONE BOOK

CALL 911 in Case of All Emergencies

GULF CO. SHERIFF'S PSJ OFFICE.....(850) 227-1115
GULF CO. SHERIFF'S WEWA OFFICE.....(850) 639-5717
AUTO DETAILING–Dakota Ake.....(727) 916-1423
BAYSIDE FLORIST.....(850) 229-1111
BAHA BY THE BAY/A BIT BUSY–Katie.....(850) 532-8583
BEATTY CONSTRUCTION–Chase.....(850) 348-2043
BEE'S & BOTANICAL–Leslie.....(863) 781-1210
BIG RIVER HONEY–Joe & Steve.....(850) 247-7176
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE–Joe.....(850) 227-1223
CHAZ ENTERPRIZES–Chaz.....(850) 819-9073
CHIPOLA MED–Rosie.....(850) 526-3434 ext 2
CORNER CAFÉ–Ann & Mitchell.....(850) 639-2636
DOMINO'S PAINT & BODY.....(850) 340-0953
E-Z TREE SERVICE–Laramie.....(850) 227-4911
GRACELAND PORTABLE–Jodi Rustin.....(850) 481-0855
HEAVEN SENT WEWA INC.....(850) 294-7839
HIGHWAY 22 STORAGE–Betty.....(850) 227-8384
HURRICANE MICHAEL HOUSING REPAIR.....(888) 530-3025
KATHE JONES GRI BAY PROPERTIES.....(850) 247-9131
LARRY'S SHEDS.....(850) 522-9936
MAYHANN'S USED CARS–Charles.....(850) 819-1136
MILLER'S HEATING & AIR–Jason.....(850) 638-3319
NO NAME CAFE RESTAURANT.....(850) 229-9277
OVERSTREET TRADING.....(850) 628-1358
RAMSEY'S OFFICE SUPPLY–David.....(850) 227-7468
SHERYL BRADLEY BEACH REALTY.....(850) 227-5233
SHRIMP LADY–Paula.....(850) 866-8520
SOUTHERN STYLES HAIR CARE.....(850) 381-6454
SUBWAY–Vicky.....(850) 639-4100
SKYBORNE TECH–Mike.....(850) 588-1747
ST. JOE LIBRARY–Mimi Minnick.....(850) 229-8879
TAUNTON BUILDING SUPPLY–Adam.....(850) 639-5599
THE WEWA HISTORICAL GROUP–Ann.....(850) 867-5970
WEWA LIBRARY–Joyelle.....(850) 639-2419
WEWA RV PARK–Bob.....(850) 639-5721
WOMAN'S CLUB–Laura.....(850) 819-5627

Notice: THOMAS WILLIAM WYNN, JUNIOR & MARY EVELYN WYNN are copyrighted and trademark-protected names.

Notice: The Wewa News is a copyrighted and trademark name. The Wewa News is private and operates in the private.

Happy 49th Anniversary to my dear sweet wife, Lyn!