



# THE WEWA NEWS™

JANUARY 2022 >> Vol. 4 No. 01-02 <<

A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!

## DECEMBER CITY COUNCIL MEETING FIRE STATION AND GARBAGE BIDS

by Tom Wynn



The City of Wewahitchka city commissioners voted 5 to 0 approving the city lawyer contact the bonding company of the contractor who is building the new fire station, due to the city complaints of noncompliance of the contract and other issues. The mayor as well as the entire Wewahitchka City Commission all agreed the quality of the fire house construction is subpar.

The Commissioners acted in total agreement to contact the bonding company concerning the fire station, based on the Commissioners, the city lawyer and Jack Husband's input.

The work thus far, at the time of the meeting, was 12 days pass the time limit in the contract. They all agreed, including the city lawyer, that something had to be done.

The Council also voted 5 to 0 to allow the city manager and the city clerks to review the various garbage contracts that were sent (sealed bids) to the city by garbage collection companies in hopes of winning the bid to pick up the city garbage weekly. The City Commission and the mayor, thanked the city workers for their hard work, making note that Ms. Rachel and her co-workers have done a great job for the city. The mayor commented on the fine the work city employees do for our city.

The Comp Plan bids, and grant writer ads need to be placed as per the mayor. Ms. Rachel gave updated information the commission.

Commissioner Ralph Fisher commented and pointed out that Mrs. Peggy Causey worked on Buckhorn Cemetery by making decorations for the gravesites.

Tom Wynn spoke up on behave of the Senior Citizens Center that the building's closet floor was damaged and in needed of repair. The mayor asked Chipper Wade to investigate the issue. The meeting was short and to the point. TW

## WEWAHITCHKA HISTORICAL GROUP NEWS

by Diane Semmes December 14, 2021

Carol Wood from the Presbyterian Church informed members that two grants from FEMA have been approved. Monies from these grants will be used to pay for raising the church, caused by damage from Hurricane Michael, and putting down a new foundation. As of this date volunteers from the Historical Group, the church, and community members have cleaned 455 bricks and counting. These bricks are the original bricks that were used to build the foundation for the church. After all the bricks are cleaned, they will be used to build steps going into the church. Carol also informed members that the beam under the belltower will need to be replaced. She added that an estimate for lead paint abatement will be approximately \$12,000. She is working on an amendment to the T-Mobile grant due to unforeseen problems. Painting estimate is approximately \$25,000. An estimate for the replacement of windows wasn't available. Discussion was made among members to invite high school students to our meeting in hopes of getting them interested in Wewa history. Student membership will be free.

President Ann Johnson will be visiting the high school to speak to the students about the work our group is doing, and about projects in the future. Our Afghan project has been very, very successful. We have sold 165 Afghans and will be designing a new one for 2022. We are very excited about how successful this project has been. Ann also informed everyone that Domino Demunck will be taking members on a field trip to his property in Stonemill Creek sometime in January. The next meeting of the Wewahitchka Historical Group will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at the Corner Café at 6:00 PM CST. DS

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## THE WEWA WOMAN'S CLUB VET PROJECT CONTINUES TO ADD BRICKS

by Tom Wynn



Many of the military veteran's bricks have been laid directly under the flag poles in front of Lake Alice Park. The project has begun with fine workmanship by the contractors. A new shipment of bricks has arrived (including my own) according to Ms. Peggy Causey. She showed me my own personal brick and it appears that two full cases had arrived, ready for install. Be watching for added bricks to be laid in under the flags soon. Best I can tell, everyone is well pleased with the results. Come by and see, look for those that you may know. Please contact The Women's Club members if you would like to buy a brick for a Veteran that you know.

Laura Baxley, the President of the Wewa Women's Club stated the Veteran does not have to be from Wewa or live in the area to have a brick under the flags. So come join in and celebrate with us as they place bricks for more veterans of our great country under the flags. I know for sure the Veterans are happy to see this project come to fruition. The Woman's Club worked so hard to create the project. Well done Ladies!

TW

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TW

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## PASTOR CAROL WOOD NEEDS HELP!

by Tom Wynn



Carol Wood at the Presbyterian Church continues to need assistance from the community with cleaning and restoring the bricks from the church. She stated that one of the contractors informed her that the bricks can be used to build new steps into the church, and that he would show her how to best break them apart to preserve the bricks. She will get with the Wewa Historical Group again this month to plan another day or two of work.

Volunteers who can help may contact Carol or Ann Johnson for date and times (watch for important dates on local Facebook pages). This will be a good community effort, and a nice way for those involved in the Historical Group and others who wish to take part in the restoration project for those that love the old church and Wewa. Please contact Ann Johnson on Facebook concerning workdays and hours, and to let her know to let her know if you are willing to help. Thank you! TW

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2 Corinthians 5:17



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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. Remember who you are, LOOK UP in the night sky, say "Hello Father, I see you own everything!" Live at peace, all is according to His will. TW



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Titus 3:8



SHERYL BRADLEY  
850-227-5233

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. TW

## The Keepers of the Old Ways

by Jessica Bracewell

The Keepers of the Old Ways Event is back and is bigger and better this time. It will take place at The Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown FL, Friday, January 28th, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Saturday, January 29th, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The event has grown into a two-day event with 20 different classes being offered each day. We have combined the prepper world with the pioneer ways to help people better prepare for any kind of upheaval they may have to face in life, job loss, hurricane, lockdowns, etc. We are so excited to have Off Grid with Doug and Stacy and Hakim Isler from Naked and Afraid to come down and teach classes both days. Not only will there be classes but vendors, demonstrators, and the cabins will be opened to explore as well. There will be classes on Backyard Homesteading 101, Getting Started with Goats, Survival Skills and so much more. You can find a class schedule on our Facebook page- Keepers of the Old Ways. If you are interested in being a vendor or have any questions, please contact Jessica at [jbracewell83@gmail.com](mailto:jbracewell83@gmail.com)

Isaiah 40:31

## BURGER KING UPDATE NEWS



Completion Date you may ask? During an interview with the general contractor, if all parts and technical equipment comes in, we should see the doors open around April 2022.

Our brand-new Burger King is well on its way to becoming a new fast-food restaurant on Main Street and Chipola Avenue in beautiful Wewahitchka.

The workers are from the great state of Oklahoma and have been working long days and even at night. They are using flood lights to keep the project moving along.

I spoke to the contractor as he was taking a break constructing the garbage can location in the back of the lot. He was very happy to see me, as he heard about The Wewa News articles from his crew. I asked him when he thought the project would be ready to serve Team Chipola some Whoppers. He said if all goes well it should serve us up in April, and maybe hiring in January. He also said that our Burger King is one of a kind, it will be the first in its design to be built. WOW!

TW

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**Jeremiah 24:7**

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**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, and your household is income qualified? Your home still has documented and unrepaired damage from Hurricane Michael? If yes, see how 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.

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## HURRICANE MICHAEL MADE US SORE!

On the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 as well. Don't forget who is in charge, folks! Love U! 850 Strong!

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**HARVELL'S RAGIN CAJUN**  
By Tom Wynn

Senior Chief James Harvell Senior US NAVY Retired is the proud owner of one of our most popular restaurants in Wewahitchka today. Located near the only red light in Wewa (as it seems to be red every time, I pull up to it) on highway 22.

Harvell Sr. and Jr. with family started the business. Senior graduated from Wewa High in 1973. He retired from the US Navy after 22 years of honorable service. He has over 20 years' experience in the food and beverage concessions as well. He returned to his hometown Wewahitchka with his family to settle down permanently. His dream was to retire here and put in a fine eatery for Wewa to enjoy daily. He for sure did a fine job of that!

His family continues to grow as his daughter has a new babe and his granddaughter will soon be a schoolteacher at Wewa High school where she graduated in 2018.

Harvell has been seen on TV with his best tasting chicken recipes, for they are more than "Finger Licking Good!" TW

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



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Charles Whitehead Public Library in Wewahitchka!

Starting 2022 off, the library will be hosting an educational discussion about

Indian artifacts discovered at the Chipola mound by professional archaeologist Nancy White from the University of South Florida. This program will be held on **Tuesday January 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am CT**. Our monthly book club will be meeting to discuss this month's read, *The Late Show*, by Michael Connelly on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm CT.

For children, a weekly take home craft kit will be available while supplies lasts. Stop by the library to receive this month's reading challenge. Prizes will be based on the number of books read! Mark your calendars for February events! Adult programs are as follows: On February 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm CT join us as we discuss this month's read, *Mystery of Mrs. Christie*, by Marie Benedict. Create a Valentine's Day craft with friends on Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm CT. On Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am CT join us for a discussion on beekeeping techniques, unique flavor attributes, followed by a question-and-answer session. This program will be presented by Pam Palmer, owner of Blue-Eyed Girl Honey in Wewahitchka. Bring your lunch and learn all about local invasive plant species with Ray Bodrey, UF/IFAS Gulf County Agricultural Extension Agent on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm. CT.

On Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm CT we invite families to join us for an outdoor "Winter" themed story Time! Each child will receive a goody bag and take-home craft kit. Throughout February, stop in for our latest Take Home Craft Kit. Kits will be available will supplies last. Pick up a monthly reading challenge at the library. Prizes will be given based on the number of books read!

We are so excited to share with you! Starting January 28<sup>th</sup>, VITA Tax Services will be available at the Wewahitchka Library on Fridays from 9:30-3:30 CT. Appointments are required. Visit the library or register at [Bit.ly/Real sense Taxes](https://bit.ly/RealSenseTaxes). Program in partnership with United Way. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) offers

free tax filing help to residents who earn a moderate income, to people who are over 65, disabled, or do not speak English well. IRS certified volunteers provide basic income tax return prep with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

The library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5 CT. Please contact us at (850) 639-2419 for more information. **JL**

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Colossians 3:12

## A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT by Grandpa Tom

### 5-SECOND PROOF THAT THE ALMIGHTY GOD EXISTS...

For those of you that need an answer:  
Proof The Almighty exists in about five seconds...

Before there is something,  
There is nothing  
And since nothing makes nothing  
And now that there is Something  
It must be that "Nothing" is The Almighty God  
That's creating the Something.

So, with proof He exists, what did He use to create  
the world?

Consciousness.  
Thought.  
Thought = Motion

You can think whatever you like, but without Action,  
a Thought remains a Thought!

Which then raises the question:  
If The Almighty God creates the world, then who  
creates The Almighty God?" Hmmm...  
**Source:** A Rabbi name Yom Tov Glaser

Now Grandpa Tom's proof that The Almighty God  
Created Everything...

The word "Universe" literally means, "ONE  
WORD!"

So God (Yahweh) in his thought processes designed  
you and me as well as every living thing and  
nonliving things, then all of a sudden, with one word,  
he spoke his own name and by doing so, we became!

Thus, if this is not so, then why do Atheist (means,  
"No God") use "the Word" UNI (one) VERSE (word)  
more often then we do? Hmmm...?

"The Word" or The One Word or "Universe" is the  
New Testament name for Jesus Christ. See John 1:1  
and John 1:14 as well. "The Word" and the word,  
"Universe" are interchangeable folks.

**Source:** Grandpa Tom Wynn  
**Have a Blessed Day!**

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**Genesis 1:1**



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"An insurance organization that truly cares about  
its customers and takes care of its own." – Tom Wynn

### 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

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!

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. TW



## 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. TW

### THE PANHANDLE PIONEER SETTLEMENT A LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM BLOUNTSTOWN, FLORIDA

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Titus 3:4-6

# THE WEWA NEWS™

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**HISTORICAL FIGURE IN THE ANNALS OF  
WEWAHITCHKA FLORIDA SERIES**

### A SLICE OF HISTORY WHO WAS THE FIRST MAYOR OF WEWAHITCHKA FLORIDA?

I was told it was Lonnie McDaniels, when Wewa was first incorporated. Can anyone confirm this?

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



### CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AT BUCKHORN

Mrs. Peggy Causey took the time to give meaning to our newly constructed entrance way to Buckhorn Cemetery, the City of Wewa's largest Cemetery, just a little way down Brian Setterich Road off Highway 71 North. Go check it out! Fisher Construction completed the entranceway as of late, as a donation to the city.

TW



### The WEWA HISTORICAL GROUP

Photo by Tom Wynn

Are selling these historical afghans as a fundraiser. Contact Mrs. Ann Johnson to order on They comes in 4 colors. Call (850) 867-5970 Can be seen at The Corner Café. Currently the afghans are sold out, but we will be ordering more soon.

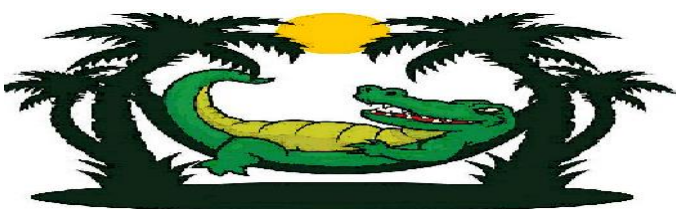
## Harvell's Cajun Chicken & Foods

OPEN: Mon-Wed-Fri 10am to 6pm

We carry a whole host of delicious tasting foods that will warm your tummy. Chicken; Burgers; Sandwiches; Fries; Philly Cheese Steaks; Wraps; Wings; Onions rings and Sweet Treats. Let's not forget Sweet and non-Sweet Tea and Sodas.

Come by or call your order in 850-247-0575

We are located on Highway 22 near the Red Light



**WEWAHITCHKA IS THE PLACE TO WARM UP! NO SNOW HERE- JUST REST & FISHING >>>BRING A POLE, WE HAVE THE BAIT!**



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

Philippians 2:12-13

Submitted by Tom Semmes

## TO UNDERSTAND A MILITARY VETERAN, YOU MUST KNOW:

We left home a teenager or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

We became brothers and sisters in arms regardless of color, race, or creed.

We had good times, and tough times.

We did not get enough sleep.

We picked up both good and unpleasant habits.

We worked hard and played harder.

We did not earn a great wage.

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing major events.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

We have seen, experienced, and delt with things that we cannot fully describe or explain, as not all sacrifices were physical.

We counted on each other to get our job done and somehow to survive it at all.

We delt with victory and tragedy.

We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people do not experience, and few will understand.

We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.

We did not know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We lost friends along the way.

We all gave some, and some gave their all.

9,087,000 service members served from 1964 – 1975, Viet Nam conflict.

58,220 service members died from 1964 – 1975, Viet Nam conflict.

Gulf County service members killed in Viet Nam:

(1) James Franklin Tindell, Army, Port St. Joe, April 14, 1967.

(2) John Charles Gainous, Army, Port St. Joe, May 18, 1967.

(3) Clifford Chester Sims, Army, Port St. Joe, February 21, 1968.

(4) Fred Emery Land, Army, Wewahitchka, August 18, 1968.

(5) Moulton Lamar Freeman, Army, Port St. Joe, May 13, 1969.

(6) Robert Harrison Pilk, Army, Wewahitchka, June 19, 1970.





## A NEW STAR IS BORN!

by Tom Wynn



Pictured above is the newest Gulf County newspaper reporter and “Digital Editor “of “THE STAR” Newspaper in Port St. Joseph Florida. Now a local reporter and editor, Wendy Weitzel has been making it to the Wewa city meetings and the Wewa Historical Group meetings as often as the doors are open. She has even taken the time to tour the north end of Gulf County to get a better idea of where all the different name places are, including the Old Iola ghost town areas.

She arrived several months ago to work at The Star Newspaper as their newest editor and thus become part of the local family very quickly in the Gulf County community.

Wewa folks have taken a liking to her sweet and loving approach to the local area reporting as well as her very friendly demeanor. She has quickly taken the newspaper by its corners and turned it back into a local home county newspaper, Reminisce of the Old Star Newspaper the Ramsey family did as well as the Old Gulf County Breeze editors and publishers for the Wewa area. We have seen more local news in The Star in the past several months due to her willingness to travel to the north end of the county. Her writing about local news and people in the south as well as the north end of Gulf County proper has greatly improved the Star’s footprint.

Wendy was born in the Middle East as her father was in the oil business in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. She grew up in the great state of Texas, AKA “THE LONE STAR STATE” and having received her BS degree in Oklahoma, she arrived eager to write and explore our beloved county

. (see the website below for more information on Wendy): <https://www.gulfcounty.news/stories/neves-publishing-welcomes-weitzel-to-star-staff,5317?>

The editor and publisher of The Wewa News, Tom Wynn and Wendy have become friends over the past several months. I have given her tours of the area and taught her about the local history pointing out landmarks, historical homes and places of interest. I am joyful that the Star newspaper has a new desire for local news and that Wendy is so interested in this part of Florida.

She is enjoying, “God’s Country” of north Florida as she learns of its great history and about the folks that built this place. As well as its unique natural products and cultural of the Panhandle area.

Oh! Wendy loves Tupelo honey as well, so she will fit right end with the local Wewa folks for sure.

She has said, “I am so excited to get to cover this community, and the more I learn about Gulf County, the more I feel like I’m becoming a member of the community myself.”

“Getting to expand The Star’s digital presence gives me the opportunity to engage with the audience The Star was always supposed to serve more directly and transparently, and I’m honored to be able to do it.”

“Welcome to Gulf County Florida and Tupelo Honey Country Wendy. Feel free to continue to visit Wewa and get to know us better.” TW

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN JANUARY!

**IF your birthday is January the 17<sup>th</sup> (including babies born on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2022) and you live within the 32465-zip code, email the editor of The Wewa News Tom Wynn for a special birthday present just for you: [Thewewanews2021@gmail.com](mailto:Thewewanews2021@gmail.com)**

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John 15:1-5



## THE EAGLE AND THE STORM

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come.

When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It raises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us...and all of us will experience them...we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God Almighty.

The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow The Almighty's power to lift us above them. He enables us to ride the winds of the storm that brings sickness, tragedy, failure, and disappointment into our lives. We can soar above the storm. Remember it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, it is how we handle them. The Bible says, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on the wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31

### CHIPOLA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

#### LOCAL BEEKEEPERS & HONEY SUPPLIERS

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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  
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SMILEY HONEY-The Bertonneau family.....(850) 639-5672  
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### *The Wewa News...*

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Google: [wewa.news](http://wewa.news) · Call (850) 481-9392

Email: [thewewanews2021@gmail.com](mailto:thewewanews2021@gmail.com)

- Tom Wynn, Publisher and Owner ARR

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JOHN 3:16-21