



# THE WEWA NEWS™

APRIL 2022 >> Vol. 4 No. 04-02 <<

A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!

## **WEWAHITCHKA SENIOR CITIZEN'S HAS MEETING OF THE MINDS-GETTING THINGS DONE WITH THE CITY COMMISSION**

by Tom Wynn

The March City meeting was full of subject matter, and a lot of topics was discussed, here is a few topics covered: The head of the Gulf County Senior Citizens Centers came to talk with the City Commission about several issues that needed fixing in the Senior Citizen Building, where Seniors meet daily, and the City has their meetings as of late (see city side notes page 19)

To everyone's delight the city commission voted to pay half for a new Oven (\$2500 if the County would pay the other half) for the Senior Citizens Center kitchen and agreed by a vote of 5 to 0. They got word about the roof leaking in the kitchen above the ceiling fan and lights as well. The two gentlemen who oversee the program for the county, Mr. Eddie Fields and Mr. Robert Farmer (both military veterans) as well as Ms. Renece Grainer, Sight Manager-1 (she runs the program in Wewa) was on hand to answer questions from the Board and to inform the Commission of their concerns and issues with the building maintenance issues.

Commissioner Brian Cox said he had put in a work order to make repairs to the entrance doors, while Mayor Gaskin said this was the first time, he was hearing of a roof leak. He assured everyone that the roof would be repaired (Michael Gortman, City Manager quickly stood up and asked Ms. Renece to point out where the water was coming in).

## **CITY ELECTIONS COMING THIS FALL**

by Tom Wynn

The city commission invited Mr. John Hanlon to come to the city meeting to discuss this year's city elections and the cost of letting the Gulf County Elections Office manage the election process for the city. Mr. Hanlon said that if the city tied their election with the gulf county elections, he could reduce the costs down as little as 3 to 5 hundred dollars but to have the election on another date, it could climb as high as 5 thousand dollars( more on this in the coming months folks).

## **WEWA ELEMENTARY STUDENT ARRESTED FOR A WRITTEN BOMB THREAT**

Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) Deputies responded to Wewahitchka Elementary School (WES) around 11:30 AM on March the 23rd after the School Resource Deputy was notified of a written bomb threat. The school's administrators worked in conjunction with the County Sheriff Office evacuating the students to a safe location while the Sheriff Office investigated.

Investigators learned the written threat was presented to a teacher by a student (age 12). The threat read, "I am going to kill someone with this bomb." The suspect was quickly found and interviewed. Jessalyn Jade Wilkerson admitted to investigators that she wrote the note and took it to a teacher.

Students returned to campus after the school was deemed safe by Investigators. Subsequently, Ms. Wilkerson was placed under arrest and charged with one count of Written Threat to Discharge an Explosive Device (which is a 2nd Degree Felony) and one count of Interfering with a School Function (2nd Degree Misdemeanor). She was held for her first appearance at the Bay Regional Juvenile Detention Center.

"I'm proud of the hard work of our law enforcement and school officials who worked together to bring this to a conclusion," said Sheriff Mike Harrison. "We are committed to the safety of each student and staff member. We will continue to take each of these cases very seriously."

This News release was prepared by Capt. Chris Buchanan and approved by Gulf County Sheriff Mike Harrison.

## **IT IS BEE SEASON AGAIN FOLKS!**

**THE ANNUAL TUPELO HONEY FESTIVAL  
COMES ON MAY 21, 2022, 9AM-4PM  
SIGN UP FOR A SPOT TO SELL YOUR WEARS  
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE! CONTACT CITY  
HALL SOON.**

## TUPELO HONEY FESTIVAL

by Tom Wynn

It is a joyous time for Wewa to have family reunions, get-to-gathers and just have fun with lots of food, cold drinks and of course, lots of honey! Once a year we meet to buy some of the finest honey in the world. Tupelo honey is one of the rarest and expensive honeys in the entire world. It is extremely healthy and good for you (Diabetics should only eat Tupelo honey with their doctors okay), a gift from the Creator himself to mankind, honey is, according to the biblical text. So come on, come all to our local festival and enjoy our people, our honey and our food.

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### WEWA FIRE STATION SITS EMPTY OF WORKERS

by Tom Wynn

Due to the delays and lack of work by Winterfell Construction and the bonding company our new fire station sits empty of fire trucks and hanging fire equipment on the walls, I am sad to report. The city officials continue to work get the building finished, but the delays continue.



The bonding company lawyers, and our city lawyer are in discussions continually. Mayor Phillip Gaskin was asked by the bonding company to enter the talks as requested by the lawyers involve. He met with them on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. So, the community continues to wait for our new fire station.

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### WEWAHITCHKA HISTORICAL GROUP NEWS

by Ann Johnson President of

Wewahitchka Historical Group News

Come one, come all that want to take part in learning about our Local History, come to our meetings on every third Thursday of the month at 6 pm. At the Corner Café in downtown Wewa.

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### WEWAHITCHKA HIGH SCHOOL

The Spring Fine Arts show has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 5th at 1:30.

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### THE KEEPERS OF THE OLD WAYS

by Jessica Bracewell

Jessica Bracewell founder of The Keepers of the Old Ways is excited to announce some changes happening with this event. The Keepers of the Old Ways will be held at The Calhoun County Airport next March. We are also offering classes that teach skills on food preservation and self-sufficiency up until the event next year.

On May 14<sup>th</sup> of 2022, at 10 A.M. The Keepers of the Old Ways will be offering an Herbal Remedies class. The cost is \$25 per person, and you will learn how to grow and use herbs medicinally. This class will teach you how to turn your herbs into a poultice, salve, tea, or tincture and when to use these. If you are interested in taking the Herbal Remedies class, please contact me, Jessica at 850-481-6493.

Some future classes to be offered are canning, raising backyard chickens, making jerky, butchering chickens, composting, growing your own worm castings, permaculture gardening, survival skills, starting a prepper's pantry, etc... You can get more information on what The Keepers of the Old Ways is offering by following us on Facebook.

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**Proverbs 18:24**

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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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Howard Creek, White City and at our beaches. Live  
here and spend here! Fish here, eat here, go to church  
here and most of all, live in peace here." We are  
growing folks, so you better be happy you got here  
first."

**1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**

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## GET OUT- MEET AND GREET

by Grandpa Tom Wynn

How do you welcome newcomers and strangers to Wewa?  
Do you hold out your hand, or give them a helping hand?

We are a foundational people, our roots are from the Pioneers that first settled the southern parts of Alabama, Georgia and North Florida, and local native American Indians, here long before us. As we continue to grow, we see new faces all over town.

This month I met several new faces in Gulf County and especially in Wewa. I enjoyed our talks and getting to know my new friends. As a Newspaper man, it has become second natural for me to introduce myself to new folks and tell them all about how wonderful it is to live in Gulf County Florida.

I handed them a copy of The Wewa News and within minutes I have them seeing in their minds-eye all the amazing things Gulf County has to offer. We laugh and share short stories about Wewa or Howard Creek etc.

Take a few minutes and meet someone new to you. I often give them a verbal tour of the North end of Gulf County, and how amazing our lifestyle really is here. Many are overly excited they made the right decision to move here. Some are just returning from a career in the military or finally got to retire to their fish camp, a dream come true for them. No matter the reason, all are glad to be here.

Slow down your pace if possible, and get off the video games, take a walk with your lovely wife and kids. Give them a few minutes to hear what happened to them today. Taste Tupelo Honey and remember where you are. Forgive someone, you know that bully that was mean to you. Now put it to rest, for the last time. A debt someone owes you. It is forgiven, it is done. Now relax and take in sunshine, take a deep breath of fresh Wewa air!

Give yourself a break now and give someone a kiss and hug them, why? Because you forgot to do it this morning or yesterday. Just do it and smile and tell them how important they are to you. I love to tell my friends and family I love them and how important they are to me. It fills my heart

with joy to express those feelings to them. Some are shocked while others say, "I love you too!"

If you try it this week, you will feel better and so will they. See it, feel it and taste it, Wewa gives you the time to do this, so take the moment and do it, it's okay to enjoy life folks.

Be grateful you do not live in other countries, trust me, I have been to 22 nations in my lifetime, and I kiss the ground when I come back to America. As bad as you think things are here, they are minor compared with other locations Around the world suffer.

Be Thankful for where you are and who you know and especially those that care about you today. Look for what is good in your life and see it for what it is. Be at peace with everyone if possible. Spread joy not hatefulness.

Be strong in your will to do what is right and correct and stick to your guns. Sooner or later, you will be glad you did. Stay away from those that take and never give. Be at peace with your neighbors. Love them as yourself, and I know sometimes that can be a challenging thing to do. But do your best.

If you work, work hard and happy. If you are retired, you earned it so be proud you made it here. If you are lonely, get out and visit someone. If you know someone in need, go help! Be of good cheer and enjoy live because it goes by fast!

You found home, now let it impress you with all its goodies. Relax, here comes the blessings, as we watch the world fight, because they forgot who they are. Be kind and loving, you will be surprised who is watching you. Give often, little things and big things, up to you! Thank everyone that helps you, as the one doing the helping is greater than the one being helped. Enjoy your friends, family and neighbors. Enjoy the fruits of your labor and the flowers in Wewa, they will leave us soon enough. Be Wewa Strong! TW

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2 Corinthians 9:8



Happy April from the Wewahitchka Public Library! I'm sure you have heard the old saying, April Showers brings May Flowers. Here at the library, April brings more than showers. Many programs and events are being offered for children and adults. The following are planned for adults.

Mon. April 4 @ 3:30 CT Flowerpot Decoupage  
Thu. April 7 @ 9:30 CT Friends of the  
Wewahitchka Library Monthly Meeting  
Mon. April 11 @ 2:00 CT Book Club: *Educated*,  
a memoir, by Tara Westover  
Thu. April 21 @ 12:00 CT Financial Literacy &  
Grocery Shopping on a Budget  
Fri. April 22 @ 10:00 CT Book Talk & Signing  
with Sandra Bass Joines

A chess club will begin in April at the library for all ages, Adults, Teens or Children. This program will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 3:30 CT each month. Please contact the library to register.

Fri. April 8 @ 3:30 CT Chess Club

Thu. April 28 @ 3:30 CT Chess Club

Children's programs are listed below:

Every Tuesday at 11:30 CT Budding

Bookworms

Mon. April 18 @ 2:00 CT Movie: Jimmy

Neutron, Boy Genius

Mon. April 25 @ 3:30 CT Dog Man

Afterschool Program

Available Weekly, While Supplies Last:

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Available All Month: Joke Station

Always Available: STEM Activities

A new Spring supply of seeds are available! 5 seed packs are available to every cardholder each month. We have a variety of vegetables, fruits, herbs and wildflowers. Stop in today to pick yours up. All programs are Free to the public!

Please feel free to contact us for more information at (850) 639-2419. Our business hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9-1 CT.

Since January 28<sup>th</sup>, VITA Tax Services was made 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](http://Bit.ly/Real_sense_Taxes). 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. **JL**

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**Psalms 42:5**



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**Jeremiah 29:11**

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**TW**

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## ALL THAT IS GOING ON

By Shannon and Jason Miller

With all that's going on in our world today, I'd like to thank all of you that give us the opportunity to try to keep you comfortable. As our company turns 18 years old this year, we can't help but look back at the past challenges & smile on how well our community & staff has adapted to each challenge. Currently it's inflation & the unknowns on affording the necessities of life, COVID-19, Hurricane Michael, and many others not mentioned. As we all battle through past & present challenges, let me say again, thank you all for all you do, done & are going to do for us at Miller Heating & Air. Please remember, forgive us when we fail you, but please allow us the opportunity to make things right if we do fail you. Thanks again for the opportunity to handle your comfort needs.

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Psalm 90:17

**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. Persons 60 and over can eat free and under 60 eat for \$3.25. If you are eating, you must be there by 10:30 AM and they eat at 11:00 AM. **TW**

The Gulf County Breeze  
C. F. Hanlon, Editor & Owner  
June 30, 1950 5¢ per copy  
Submitted by Tom Semmes

## Open Government?

It is consensus among the economists in that trouble lies ahead unless governments high-handed spending is not stopped, and they agree that the time is not as far off as it has been when the show-down will come. For be it taken into consideration that in 1939, a \$1.00 purchase, will cost \$1.70 in 1950. The same 1939 \$1.00 purchase will cost you \$20.23 in 2022.

Office holders must be elected who believe in the fundamentals our founding fathers established our form of government upon, and who passionately believe in Thomas Jefferson's great utterance that "The best governed people are the least governed people."

The citizens must vote at elections. They must roll up such majorities at the polls as to convince those elected that the people are hiring them as servants to manage public affairs as the public demands and not as electing them because they are fine men with the usual hail-fellow-well-met attribute. Citizens must take more interest in their government (which means electing the right type of officeholders) through their guaranteed right of choice at the polls or we continue our high rate of government spending – the highest rate the world has ever known.

Our Democratic system of government ensures that the citizens have the right to be well informed as to know how their government operates and have the opportunity voice their concerns before those elected, without limiting the citizens time to voice their opinions.

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### April 2022 Services\*

Sun. 3rd - 10:00 am

Sun. 10th - 10:00 am - Palm Sunday

Thu. 14th - 5 pm - Maundy

Thursday

Fri. 15th - 5 pm - Good Friday

Sun. 17th - 10:00 am - Easter

Sun 24th - 10:00 am

\*All times are Central Time

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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**

As a wise Wewa Fisherman said a long time ago...

**"Fishing is not a matter of life or death...it's much more important than that!"**

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## Wewahitchka Historical Group

by Diane Semmes March 17, 2022

Vice-President Mitchell Johnson opened the meeting with a prayer and pledge to the American flag. Members voted those future meetings would start this way. President Ann Johnson informed members of a membership drive that the Friends of the Library were holding. It will be on Saturday, March 26, 2022, at Rich's IGA from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Ann also discussed that flyers need to be produced and handed out to as many people as possible. Ann also informed members about a historical walking tour on March 25, 2022, in Port St. Joe.

Ann mentioned having a tour of cemeteries in our local area sometime soon. Members agreed to have new Afghans made and ready for the upcoming Tupelo Festival which will be held on May 21, 2022, at Lake Alice Park. The new Afghans will feature different pictures from the first one. We will notify the community when they're ready for purchase.

Tom Godwin and Stuart Resmundo were taken on a tour of Iola. They learned where the camp house, barn, horse stalls, two other buildings were built around 1923. James Ernest Rish's son now owns the property. Ann announced that the bricks from the old city hall that were salvaged needs to be cleaned and proposed having the community help in this project.

Mitchell said he is working on our bylaws and will bring copies to the April meeting for review. He will also be checking into a 501(c)3 for our group. He also said the annual report for our LLC has been filed. Next year a full financial report will need to be done.

Ann asked Tom Godwin about another dig. Tom stated we would have to wait until the ground is drier.

Ann asked if any members had come up with any logos for the group. She reported that Dennis will be working on a Facebook page, Gmail account, and a website. Ann will check with the city as to when they want us to help clean up the cemeteries. We are waiting for Domino to let us know when there is a suitable time to take a tour of Stonemill Creek.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2022, 6:00 pm at the Corner Café. The public is invited.

**1 Peter 1:3**

**Ephesians 4:28**



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## **BOLDLY COMPLETING THE FIVE-YEAR MISSION! GO SEE...**

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## **WELLNESS PICNIC- SENIORS CITIZENS BRING JOY AND FOOD TO THEIR FRIENDS!**

**by Tom Wynn**

On Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, the Wewa Senior Citizen Center as well as the Port St. Joe Center came together to have lunch with one of our Senior Citizens at his own home. Ms. Renece Grainer Wewa Sight Manager 1 and Ms. Margie Phillips Sight Manager 2 of the Port St. Joe Center all came together to have lunch on the front lawn of Mr. Harold, who is in his nineties, and his wife Mrs. Flora Rowland, were the guest of honors at the picnic.

The Rowlands were unable to come to the Senior Citizen Center in Wewa, so the Center came to them! According to Ms. Renece Gainer, the Center's Director in Wewa. In celebration of the spring weather all came to enjoy them and each other with music provided by Mr. Greg Wood, a gifted singer and guitarist (see photos below) in the local area.

In attendance was the following seniors: Mrs. Vera Rozier, Mr. Bjorn, Mr. Douglas Stone, Mr. Rich Morse, Mr. Eddie Fields (Director of the Seniors Center Program for Gulf County), Ms. Renece Gainer, Ms.

Margie Phillips, Ms. Sandra Lindsey, Ms. Louise Keith, Ms. Pat Hutchison, Harvey and Jo Ellen Campbell, as well as Mr. Roberts Farmer of Port St. Joe.

One of our local artists, Mr. Greg Wood sang songs and played music that was not only common to their ears, but he sang some of his own local music that he wrote himself, about Gulf County area. The man is a gifted artist and is well loved by the seniors in Wewa and in Port St. Joe Senior Centers, as he comes and plays music for them a few times a month. Ms. Wendy Weitzel, the Editor of the Port St. Joe newspaper, “The Star” was on hand to report for the Star Newspaper, so look for her article and photos in her next issue.



**Mr. Greg Wood and Ms. Renece Gainer . Group Photo is the Seniors enjoying good food and Sunshine in Wewahitchka Florida. It was a perfect day. Photos provided by Ms. Renece Gainer.**



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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR



My name is Mrs. Ellen Campbell of Wewahitchka. I called the Gulf County Administration office last week in hopes of getting answers as to why the upper windows are open on the Old Gulf County courthouse Back section of the building.

I was put through to Mr. Clay Smallwood's voicemail. I left a message including the questions about the open windows and asking about repair plans. I requested information about scheduled repairs or plans in my message.

I got no answer for a few days, then Mr. Smallwood did return my call. He said that the open windows did not matter as there was a large hole in the roof. So, this is the official answer to my question of the windows. Mr. Smallwood was very polite on the phone.

Sincerely yours, Mrs. Jo Ellen Campbell

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**ENROLL NOW! [fl.careeronlinehs.org](http://fl.careeronlinehs.org)**

Isaiah 40:28:31

**THINK! While it is still legal.**

**LOVE! While you still can.**

**BE HAPPY! You are here.**

**HUG OTHERS! It's Okay.**

### City Meeting for March 24<sup>th</sup> 2022

#### Side Notes

by Tom Wynn

**For those that are interested:** Hunter said Lift Station no. 3 and 2 are in play to be repaired by contractors now.

Jack Husband gave the city plans back to the city, concerning the fire house (concrete repairs).

The main goal for the Senior Citizen Center is "Outreach" according to Ms. Renece Gainer.

Mr. John Hanlon is Mr. Gene Hanlon's nephew. John was raised in Wewa. Wewa is proud of him and his work for the county.

The city earned \$2000.00 in late fees from folks not paying their water bills on time.

The city needs an emergency backup generator repaired or replaced; Mayor wants the machine repaired ASAP! End of discussion, Commission voted 5-0 to buy a new Emergency Gen.

The Commission voted 5-0 to let John Hanlon to handle the city upcoming election.

City needs to put a fence between the City Park property and neighboring property, on Highway 22 side, across from the Dixie Dandy Store. Mr. Fisher was upset the fence had not been done by now. Commission voted 5-0 to put the fence in before 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks.

### UP COMING STORIES IN THE NEXT ISSUES:

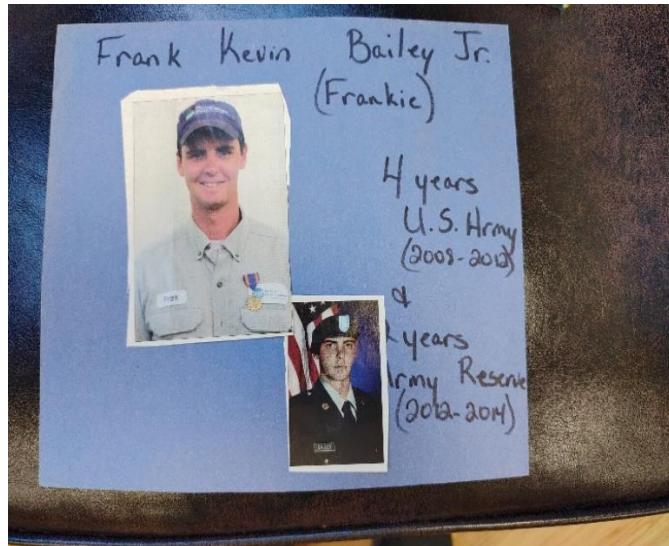
\*The night the Gulf County Breeze building Burnt down. \*A old 1933 Red Brick from the Wewa School with a hand painted picture on it, with names on the back side. \*A Drawing of the Old Abe Spring Court house for Calhoun County (Wewa was in Calhoun Co. before 1925).

Isaiah 43:10



# VETERAN OF THE MONTH

## FRANK K. BAILEY JR.



### Frank Kevin Bailey Jr.

#### U.S. Army 2008-2014

#### Active and Reserves

#### A son OF KINARD FLORIDA

What you see on his chest is an Air Medal, one of the highest medals a service person can receive for Active Bravery. Frank works at the Gulf Coast Electric Co-op. Give this man a handshake, he is a National Hero.

Thank you for your Service Frank. TW

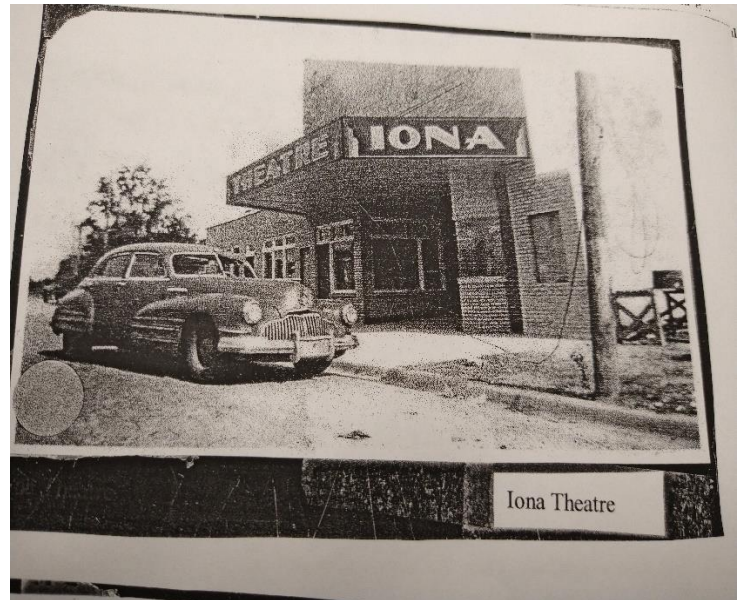
#### Air Medal [Army] (2006–present)

Currently (as per AR 600-8-22 [December 11, 2006])<sup>[12]</sup> the medal can be awarded for every six months of meritorious service. The recipient must perform flight-related duties while serving in a combat zone. The number of flight hours logged is no longer a criterion. The soldier must be assigned as air crew with flight status (i.e., as a pilot, navigator, or gunner). Soldiers without flight status can be eligible if they help with an aerial attack during general transport (e.g., as a door gunner), serve as a combat controller (e.g., as a Pathfinder or Forward Air Controller) or the combat commander of an air or land operation at the Group or Brigade level or lower. Soldiers being transported by air as passengers are not eligible for the meritorious service award, but they may be eligible for the gallantry award.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, FRANK!**

**St Joseph Bay Humane Society**  
**Call 850-227-1103**  
**1007 Tenth St. Port St. Joe, FL 32456**

**Hebrews 13:15**



### THE OLD IONA THEATRE

**On 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in downtown Wewahitchka Florida**  
 The Old Theatre burnt down many years ago. It was located at 156 north second street in Wewahitchka. The Gaskin-Graddy Insurance Agency office building sits in its place today (Cindy and Jasmine work there). There are still folks alive today that can tell us many stories about that movie house. Just ask and sit back and be ready to be amazed and laugh.

The last owner was Mr. Forest Alfred Revell (he passed away in August of 2006 and was buried in Jehu Cemetery, which is located a mile north of downtown Wewa).



### THE ORIGINAL WEWA CITY HALL

It was torn down last year to make way for the New First Station on Second Street, just behind RANDY'S GROCERY STORE.

**Judges 6:12**

## THE SHRIMP LADY

**CALL (850) 866-8520**

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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

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### National and Community Phone numbers Quick

#### List Sponsored by THE WEWA NEWS

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National Runaway Hotline.....1-800-621-4000  
National Child Abuse Hotline.....1-800-422-4453  
National Domestic Violence .....1-800-799-7233  
Center Missing/Exploited Children.....1-800-843-5633  
National Poison Center Hotline ..... 1-800-222-1222  
Substance Abuse Help Line.....1-800-662-4357  
Wewa City Hall.....1-850-639-2605

**I Peter 5:6-7**

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BAHA BY THE BAY/A BIT BUSY-Katie.....(850) 532-8583  
BEACH REALTY- Sheryl Bradley .....(850) 227-5233  
BEE'S & BOTANICAL-Leslie.....(863) 781-1210  
BIG RIVER HONEY-Joe & Steve.....(850) 247-7176  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE-Joe.....(850) 227-1223  
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**Romans 12:3**