

THE WEWA NEWS™

TUPELO HONEY FESTIVAL SPECIAL EDITION

MAY 2022 >> Vol. 4 No. 05-04 <<

A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!

WEWAHITCHKA TUPELO HONEY FESTIVAL MAY 21, 2022

9am-4pm

COME ONE COME ALL!



The festival is here again folks! As always, the big family reunion of Wewa and surrounding area families will be busy loving one another, sharing stories, music, food and of course, Tupelo Honey. Fun for all that come, so be there and give a holy kiss and hug to all that you have missed seeing. Take part and get your annual load of one of the rarest and best tasting honeys in the world. The sweetest little city in Florida invites you to, **“Come and See!”** and share in our favorite day of the year. Do not miss out on all the wonderful food and drinks as well as all that the vendors have to offer. We would be glad to see you there! Bring a friend.

WEWAHITCHKA CITY COMMISSION APRIL MEETING-FIRE STATION NEWS MAYOR GETS FIRED UP!

by Tom Wynn

The April city meeting was full of subject matter for sure folks! The City Mayor was getting noticeably upset when asked by the city lawyer, Ms. Michelle Jordan, about unsigned change-orders concerning

“The Fire Station”

Construction project (The bonding company ask her to talk with the council about a stack of change-orders). He told her to tell them to fix what is broken and do only “the signed” by the City Council “change-orders,” the rest are nothing but trash! and they are to complete the original contract as agreed!



You could feel the pain and suffering in the air as he repeated his words several times. The city council and the public are so very tired of the delays on the fire station completion, it is just getting tiresome to repeatedly say, **“finish the building!”** Mayor Gaskin expressed concern over our trucks and equipment being continually exposed to the weather, not being in

a closed-door environment (It has been over a year folks). How long are they going to drag this construction job on? So, the mayor was expressing the frustration of the entire community, in his words and mannerism. He told the city lawyer to give the bonding company this message. You gotta love the man folks, he could say it no plainer!

“The Family Dollar Store” Property Owners Came Forward

by Tom Wynn

The property owners came to ask the city to approve their new addition (2500 sq ft for Dollar Tree products, with changes to their property parking and truck delivery areas). They asked to use Taylor and Orange streets to leave once a week as the 18-wheeler drives off to Highway 71 for its departure from the rear of the store.

The truck would come once a week and only move along Taylor and Orange streets as it left the area. After some discussion, the city council asked them to supply a new survey of the corner of Taylor and Orange to the city council so they could review the area before they decide anything on the matter. They agreed to do so.

The city would have to move six water meters and beef up the road in that turn. All agreed to table the subject until they all have more information to make a wise decision on the plan, 5-0 approved.

CITY ELECTIONS COMING THIS FALL DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE RUN-OFF!

by Tom Wynn

The city commission discussed the issue of the next election coming and what to do if there is a runoff. Mr. John Hanlon, Election Supervisor came last month to discuss this year’s city elections and the cost of letting the Gulf County Elections Office manage the election process for the city of Wewa. 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, for the city, but there was never a discussion on what if there was a RUN-OFF.

(City meeting news continues page 2)

(City meeting news from page 1 continues)

A Red Bull community couple came to the meeting to ask for help with their payment for hooking up to the city sewage system. With a large down payment, the city council agreed to let them make payments with their monthly water bill until paid off (approved 5-0).

Senior Citizen Center Stove update

Mayor Gaskin asked a question about the county's half of the new replacement stove for the Senior Citizen Center, has it been paid yet? (The city paid their half already).

Tom Wynn was at the last county meeting and so he filled the city commission in on what was said by Mr. Robert Farmer (Wewa Senior Citizen Center program manager) who asked for the Gulf County commission to supply their agreed share (half of \$2500.00) of the expense. Stay tuned folks! I never heard a clear answer from the County Board when they would give him a check for their half of the stove cost. The mayor was not happy to hear of the continued delays.

Furthermore, he asked the city maintenance supervisor, Chipper Wade about the repairs to the doors and other items that need repair on the Senior Citizen Center. Chipper said they didn't have time to work on the doors issue yet. Commissioner Cox said the entire doors and frame needed replacement and to get them ordered soon. (Chipper's crew have been building fencing at the city park and digging up and repairing broken water pipe in the city lately).

The Roof Leak

I got no comment about the roof leak after the meeting. I know the mayor ordered the roof repair ASAP! Last meeting. He keeps them hopping Folks!

Two gentlemen who oversees the program for the county, **Mr. Eddie Fields and Mr. Robert Farmer** (both military veterans) as well as Ms. Renee Grainer, Site Manager-1 (she runs the program in Wewa) are working with the Board on these matters for the common good, addressing maintenance issues as they come up! **Commissioner Brian Cox** said he had put in a workorder to make repairs to the entrance doors back in September. Michael Gortman, city manager would make sure things move along, including roof repairs. Robert Farmer and Eddie Fields will do the stove purchase as soon as possible.

THE FAMILY DOLLAR STORE WILL GET AN ADDITION!

by Tom Wynn

During the April city meeting, I was able to talk with one of the owners of the "Family Dollar Store" property who was sitting next to me. He told me, he and his partner, did not own the store directly but that they had bought the land under the store, thus the Family Dollar Store were their tenants. He further said the FDS wants to expand the store an added 2450 sq. ft. to put "**Dollar Tree**" items in the store for the benefit of the folks living in Wewa.

The store would require a larger truck to come in about 2 hours per week to deliver the goods to the rear of store. The truck would off load on the property and then leave via Taylor and Orange streets from the rear of the store. They agreed with the city council to supply a survey and put money in an escrow account for any future repairs the two roads may need in the future. They have done all the requirements of the county and State, now it is up to the city to collaborate with them on the departure of the delivery truck once a week, to help the process for delivery and to increase the store's ability to move products in and add to their capacity.

CITY TO HIRE NEW EMPLOYEES AND WILL GIVE PAY RAISES SOON

by Tom Wynn

Mayor Phillip Gaskin ask the Commission to give a pay raise to the city workers, all of them and bring them up in pay to help them with the cost of living and help with inflation among other reasons. The Council agreed that it was a wise thing to do for our employees were having a tough time as it is already in this economic situation today.

Also, Michael Gortman asked to hire one or two new persons to work for the city as they need help. He had already gotten some applications in the works. After some discussion, the council agreed to all that Gortman and the mayor asked, on new hires and pay raises for the employees already working for the city. The mayor is worried for our city workers falling behind in their income because of the inflated cost of living today. Time for a pay raise for all of them. Discussion of the raise amount was worked on as well. (**Note**-when the city minutes are approved, you can look on the city website and see the agreed amounts, if you are interested in them).

1 John 1:9-10

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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 issues with 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 9th of March. So, the community continues to wait for our new fire station.

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WEWAHITCHKA HISTORICAL GROUP

by Ann Johnson President of

Wewahitchka Historical Group News

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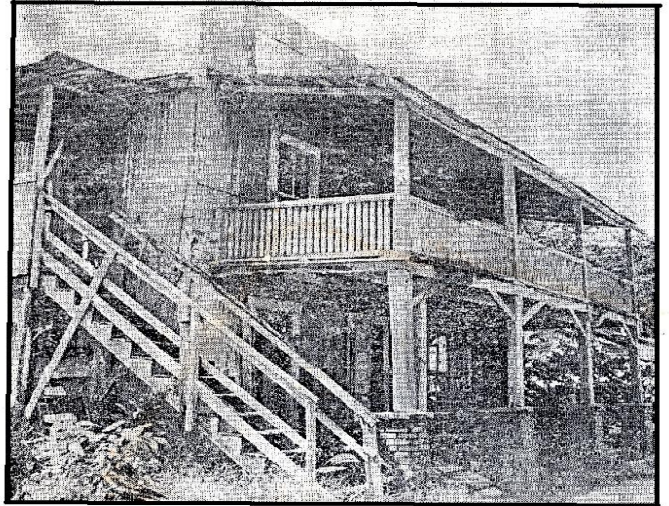
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THE OLD GULF COUNTY BREEZE BUILDING AS THE HANLON FAMILY LIVED IN IT.

**THE HISTORY AND EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT
OF THE OLD GULF COUNTY BREEZE BURNT
TO THE GROUND!**

by Daniel Eugene Hanlon
-Eyewitness account-

"The Gulf County Breeze Building, which was directly behind the present Firehouse, also was the Hanlon's resident, which caught on fire. As a member of the Hanlon family and incredibly young at the time, I remember our Mother Mary Frances Hanlon gathering us together and getting us out of the now engulfed breeze building and the town's people coming to aid in helping to get as much as possible from the burning building, which was truly little. The family had to move, eventually to Overstreet. To my best recollection (a scared 6 or 7-year-old lad), I remember watching a young lad probably around 14 or 15 cleaning the downstairs area. He came in with some type of cleaning fluid contained in a glass jug and dropped it. It broke and the fluid made it to the space heater which resulted in the fire. We all made it out safe, thanks to mother."

Psalm 73:23

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 14th 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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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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Romans 12:2



Call Charlie Pettis Pest Services and mention The Wewa News and get a 20 percent discount until the day of the Tupelo Festival! Hurry!

**GET OUT! TAKE IN THE FRESH AIR
MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS**
by Grandpa Tom Wynn



The Tupelo Honey Festival has finally come around again. My favorite time of the year. I love to see everyone, talk to them and hug so many old friends. As most of us have now turn white headed, it is still a joy to see their smiling faces.



It is one or two times a year that everyone will come out to play, enjoy the festivals and each other. We love to listen to our style music and tease each other about growing old. I still consider some of you like an uncle or Dad.

<<<Uncle Dave is 90, a newcomer to Wewa from Maine, the land of "the frozen ones" he is a super neighbor, we love him!

This is what is important in life, others in your life, friends' family and those you place in office to work for the community. Many of the folks that ran or are running for office will show up! It is a bad mistake to miss out talking to those you represent, as they take it as very important for folks to come to Lake Alice Park and shake a few hands, hug the sweet old grandpa and grandma who put you in office with a stroke of a black pen.

It is fitting for you to come by and thank them and let them speak to you man to man or man to woman, or woman to woman. It is your duty to find your way to the lake once a year. You are holding an important office, FOR THEM, come see them! Do you hold out your hand, or help them,

thank them for their vote, see it they are doing well? Do you really care for your neighbors? Hmmm...

We are a foundational people in Wewa and in Gulf County proper. Our roots are from the Pioneers that first settled the southern parts of Alabama, Georgia and North Florida, and local Indigenous people, here long before us. As we continue to grow in number and in spirit, we see that fresh faces have come to enjoy our woods, sun and beaches. Not to mention our fish and game. Do your part, welcome them aboard. Water and beautiful trees and animals surround us folks. Take it all in and enjoy it while you still can. Get out! And smell the flowers, taste the local honey, and enjoy the festival food. It is okay to get off your computer, TV or Video Games, and see how wonderful life and love is between all Wewahitchkaians. We are real, we are not electronic images, made inside a black box with keys you must generate to even see them. They are just words or images, which take away your time and spirit.

This month we enjoyed our local street neighbors (I love to call, "Team Chipola"). We had a blast! Thirty-five of us made it to Chuck and Janet Johnson's home. Filled our guts with tasty food and enjoyed each other for hours.

All of us brought food and our friend and neighbor played music for us (The famous local Musician Porter Winfree). I met fresh faces in Gulf County and especially in Wewa this month again. We are growing like a weed folks!



TEAM CHIPOLA (Ave.) enjoys a BBQ and each other's company, 35 folks came together, to love one another and share our food and time. We plan to do this every three month, we enjoyed the music, food and time so much together. Our first was the week of Thanksgiving. Had a blast then too!

I enjoyed our talks and getting to know our new neighbors. 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 hand 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 Wewahitchka and all of Gulf County. In a few minutes I have them laughing and enjoying stories I learned from the other old men and women around town, or I share my own stories and adventures.

I loved to listen to my grandfather tell stories of The Great Depression and WW2. He would tell me stories whenever I came around him. My father was a super storyteller as well as a Theologian and Military man (mostly USCG lifesaving missions via flying Boats). Thank the Lord I asked so many questions of my parents and grandparents, they are all dead and gone, but their memories are with me.



Everyone had a great time talking and just enjoying the good weather, this is life in Wewa folks!

I repeatedly over years asked them the same questions. Each time I learned increasingly about family, friends and our country, its history, its sadness and its glory during their lifetime. They had a tuff life during the Great Depression and WW2. But they made it pass those days and were great successes in their lifetime.

Spread joy, not hatefulness. Some only tell stories the bad folks do, what about all the good they did as well? Do you not tell them stories too? Grow up! And think of what is good and honorable, and only tell what you know about locals when they did that good thing or that funny thing. Enjoy the laugh and joy, with those stories. Get off the gossip train, and share something good that they did. Bring a sense of balance if you are going to tell stories of their good or bad.

Like I say often: Be strong in your will to do what is right and correct and stick to your guns. Eventually, 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!

Plant fruit trees, so you can share them when they are ready for harvest. If we all do this, think how much food we can share with our friends and family, in a time of need or just because we have it to share, God is good that way, isn't he?

Enjoy the fruits of your labor and the flowers in Wewa, they will leave us soon enough or you will be gone, and never see the fruit of your labor, so do it now! Be Wewa Strong! See you at the festival if the Lord willing! TW

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BURGER KING OPENING SOON!

By Tom Wynn



BK is coming to near completion. I had a talk with one of their best concrete men, who drives the trucks. He said a crew left too

early one night after pouring the sidewalk, and rain came pouring down after they left and messed up the job. So, he had to fix it, after they tore out the bad stuff. This caused the delay, and of course, lots of rain days too. But as you can see the sign it out! They are hiring now. I was told by the General Contractor that he was shooting for May. Thank goodness! No more having to drive 22 or 26 miles for a Whopper! Team Chipola is looking forward to a walk down to our local Burger King and having a snack when the wives are in PC. SHZZZZZZ!!

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THE HONEY HOLE RESTURANT WILL BE OPENING SOON ON HIGHWAY 22

by Tom Wynn

In a recent interview with Brenda Gail and Donnie Arnold, they informed me their restaurant would be opening soon. They are still waiting on an Ice machine and a few other things before they can crack the doors open to the public. Brenda Gail talked to me for about 30 minutes and showed me around, as did Donnie a couple of months ago.

They have three kitchens and will be serving nearly every southern delight you can think of. They will include drive up service as well. Pizza, steaks, seafood, Oysters Bar, Mudbugs, Burgers and on and on. Their parking lot finally was completed a couple of weeks ago, they say it can manage RVs and trucks. They were waiting on County Inspectors on a few things as well. So be looking for an Ad in the next Wewa News edition for dates and times of operation. Meantime... **STAND BY FOLKS!**

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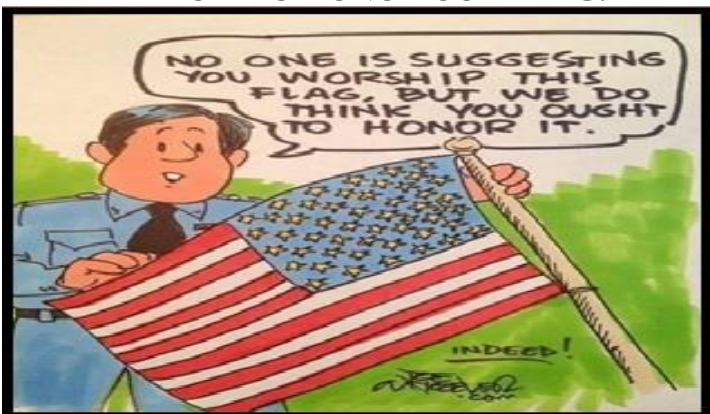
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Hosea 14:4

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TUPELO HONEY BARGE SENT OUT TO GATHER THE NECTURE AT THE SOURCE

by Tom Wynn

Steven Cantu and crew had me up long before Sunshine to take photos of the launching of just one of several barges of Beehives that he would use to gather Tupelo Honey this season. Bob Sutton, the owner of The Wewa RV park and myself head out with half dressed, pockets full of snacks for a 4-hour tour of the local river system and to photograph the Cantu Bee Family launching their first barge of the season for Tupelo Honey. Later after the Barge was set in place along the Chipola River directly under some Tupelo Trees, Sutton and I toured the entire area of Chipola River and the famous Dead Lakes, only to meet with Steve and Leslie Cantu for breakfast at Gaskin Park. We had a wonderful time photographing the process and later after we ate breakfast, Steve took all of us on a tour of the Old Whitfield Honey House on the river.



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COUNTY BOARD SAYS THEY WILL HELP WITH THE OLD COURT HOUSE! THEY TELL THE WEWAHITCHKA HISTORICAL GROUP REP

by Tom Wynn

During the April Gulf County meeting, **CWO Tom Semmes US Army**, approached the Gulf County Commissioners with the worries and concerns that the newly formed Wewahitchka Historical Group have about the old jail house roof hole and the old Gulf County courthouse windows being opened for several years now. Semmes was sent down to the monthly meeting to standup for the historical group on this matter before the County Board and ask questions on the situation with repairs, insurance monies and FEMA money given to the county for the old courthouse repairs.

The opened windows are letting water, birds and other critters to freely move in and out of the building. The hole in the roof of the jail and the open windows are adding damage to the entire building structure. Mold and other issues of damage to the beloved building of the Gulf County citizenry, is causing great concern to

our local residences, who see the building as beautiful to the eye and historically useful to generations to come. The 100-year anniversary of Gulf County is in 2025, and the building will be a historical focal point of the county during that year.

Semmes explained the situation and showed drone photos of the top of the jail house with a large hole in it, as well as side views of the open windows to the board members.

Commissioner Ward McDaniel said that he had family history in the building since the beginning of Gulf County, one hundred years ago. His grandfather and other family members help to start Gulf County and worked in the building for many years.

The Gulf County administrator **Michael Hammond** spoke up and explained the history of what and why the building had not been worked on or repaired. He gave a well throughout history of what the county did and did not do because of the condition of the buildings side walls, roof, electrical and plumbing. As well as the water damage coming in not from the roof of the jail house, but from the side walls, through the brick mortar joints, water had been coming in for years, before Hurricane Michael renters and others complained to the county about mold on their desks and papers. The jail was condemned by inspectors, declared not safe to work in.

The County has had no employees working in the buildings for over 10 years and could not even work on the building due to the mold and other issues with the structures, Hammond said. The county lawyer also gave the public information as to why the county could not repair or even allow workers in the buildings.

The jail house is gone and just cannot be restored, they said. It was said by Hammond that it was not cost effective to do any restoration to the jail house building. To remove the jail house would be about five hundred thousand dollars, but that amount could be reduced if the county did most of the work.

The Board agreed to sell the building to the Wewahitchka Historical Group for 1.00 Dollar and help with grant request, if the group wanted to take on the task, to save the main building, but the jail house is a goner!

The Wewa Historical Group got a lot of answers from the Board and county Administrator Michael Hammond. All parties were understanding toward one another, and cleared the air as to why the county was not in favor of trying to spend gulf county money on the jail house that just could not be saved, due to the wall water issues, and other things i.e. electrical and plumbing totally outdated.

The basement flooding was also a great concern to the county as well. There is just no saving the old jail house, which was not part of the original building.

The board and the County Admin folks agreed with the Wewahitchka Historical Group of finding money to restore the original building to its former glory. A historical monument to the history of pioneers who created the great State of Florida and to the founding fathers and mothers of Gulf County, carved out of Calhoun County by our ancestors in 1925.

The Board tried to put the ball in the hands of The Wewahitchka Historical Group to work on the restoration of the old courthouse, with maybe, “some aid” from the county board.

Note: The City of Wewa did their own research and discovered they could not afford to make the updates and the restorations on its own, so they decided not to pursue the building for a new City Hall, according to Commissioner Ward McDaniel, one of Wewa’s county commissioners. He said he would love to see the building restored, so many more generations could see it and use it. So, there you have it folks!

CITY POTHOLES!

By Tom Wynn

If you know of any “potholes” in the city limits of Wewahitchka, please give City Hall a call, so the crew can go and take care of it. The city, years ago, made a deal with the county to fix and make all repairs to the city street, if we gave them our grant money from the State of Florida. Well, our county has failed us again. They are not keeping up their side of the agreement folks, according to the Wewahitchka City Board, especially Mayor Phillip Gaskin and Commissioner Ralph Fisher, who worked on the deal with the county many years ago. Call **850-639-2605** If you know of any. I already made them aware of South 4th street deep pothole, it has come back to haunt us.

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As to the question of when does one know when to harvest Tupelo honey....

by James E. Rish

Years back there was a video made about the various groups of people who have a serious connection with the Big River (the Apalachicola) . This included loggers, folks getting baptized, Native Americans, and even beekeepers.

The beekeeper in the video was a person by the last name of Watkins out of Apalachicola. I made a point to stop by and visit one time when taking some bees out of the bell tower of the old Baptist church there. He is a nice fellow and I enjoyed getting to know him. In the video he mentioned that it took him ten years to learn how to make “Good Tupelo”. He did not specify his lessons learned. Well, here are some that I have learned over the years. It can be summed up in the gambler phrase: You got to know when to hold them and when to fold them (playing cards).

To start with one needs to watch the Tupelo bloom. Usually, about mid-April plus or minus a few days is when it opens. By that time, one must have his or her bees situated on the river or the Dead Lakes and TAKE all the mixed honey they have. This creates a panic in the bees. Plus, it supplies open comb for the bees to put Tupelo in. If one does not take their mixed honey that the bees already have on hand...then they do not work as hard. It is all nectar to them and with plenty on hand they would be satisfied with that. Also, without robbing them at the beginning of the Tupelo flow they would not have room for more anyway.

When the Tupelo flow is on, they zoom out of the hives towards the Tupelo. At night one can walk into the bee yard and hear them buzzing. What they are doing is fanning their wings over the open cells of nectar mixed with enzymes from their honey sack to get down the moisture content; to more or less 18%. Ask me how they know, they just do. Once this is done and capped, then Wala! One has Tupelo honey waiting to be uncapped and extracted.

The Bees are ranked amongst themselves by age. The younger bees stay at home and clean up, do guard duty, etc. It is the more mature bees who go out and brave the unfriendly skies to bring in nectar and pollen. Misquote hawks, birds, spiders, lizards and even a praying mantis all eat honeybees. Anyway, when the mature bees make it back, they give their nectar to younger bees (mouth to mouth) so they can go store it and start the ventilation process. Then the older bees are then free to go out and bring in another load.

Being close to the source makes it possible for them to make more trips in a day and not be distracted by other nectar sources. Plus, less travel time makes for a safer set of trips as opposed to a long one that increases the danger of them being picked off by no so friendly critters.

Therefore, the importance of location, location, location. In a good year, the flow (of nectar) goes for 2 to 3 weeks (weather permitting) and sometimes it lingers even longer. What many do not know what to look for is when the bees at the entrance of the hive sweep the floor.

Remember, earlier I mentioned the nectar exchange (usually at the entrance). Well, when they are going back and forth on the landing area....what they are doing is searching for even a miniscule speck of Tupelo nectar dropped in the exchange to add to what they already have gotten. This is a sign that the flow is over with.

I still remember as a boy seeing this for the first time when my dad showed me. Of course, one can gas up the outboard motorboat and go review the blooms. If they are all dried out and falling into the river it is a conclusive sign that one had soon get on with taking the Tupelo off them. Reason being that there is a high bush and a low bush Gal berry bush that precedes and follows Tupelo.

Thus, the knowing when to hold them and when to fold them idea. If the weather is dry at the end of the flow and moisture in the air is low, it is easier for them to get things concluded. However, that is not always the case. If one were to take the Tupelo off right away without giving them time to seal it up with wax capping (a couple of days), then that honey when extracted will be runny and more subject to going sour due to its higher moisture content. Honey will not go bad from bacteria as bacteria cannot survive in honey, but if too much moisture gets in it; then it will sour.

John 3:16

That is why some beekeepers have a dehumidifier room to draw out the moisture from the combs that did not get sealed up with wax capping by the bees before it was harvested. That is also why my dad and grandpa would put already harvested honey back on the bees at the end of the day if there was not enough daylight left to extract it. The 1902 honey house never had electricity in it.

Moreover, there is more to making good Tupelo; than most people know. It is of course the bees who make the honey. However, WHEN the beekeeper takes the honey is the determining factor as to the quality of it. Take it too soon and it will be too moist. Take it too late and it will have unwanted Gal Berry in it. Tupelo does not crystalize. When you see crystallization in the bottom of a jar of Tupelo; it is because the beekeeper either started too soon to take the mixed honey from them at the start of the flow and/or waited too long at the end of it to get the Tupelo off. In either case it is a matter of timing and good judgment. To exclude other than tupelo nectar from getting into one's Tupelo honey harvest...it takes experience.

For the large commercial outfits, it is almost impossible for them to get the timing right as they have way more to do than us who are sideliners. Since we do not have as many colonies to deal with, we can provide the consumer with a better quality of Tupelo than the mixed with other nectars honey they usually end up with (darker honey, crystallization, and not as tasty). While one can call honey Tupelo if it is at least 51 percent Tupelo, it is simply different from honey that is 89-95 percent Tupelo... One can tell by the green cast in the honey (Tupelo nectar is Greenish) and of course the taste...sweet but not too sweet plus a little Zing but not too much; like orange blossom has.



VETERAN OF THE MONTH



Navy Senior Chief Timothy Tyron Bowers

by Tom Wynn

Tim Bowers was born on April 28, 1964, in the sweetest little city in Florida, Wewahitchka. “Limbo” (as his family and friends call him) graduated from Wewahitchka High School back in 1982.

While Tim was in high school the NJROTC program sparked his interest. NJROTC at Wewa High School was a good program for teens to learn discipline and prep for a career in the service. After NJROTC he pursued his military career in the U.S. Navy, a sea going service.

Tim enlisted in the U.S. Navy in December of 1985 in Montgomery, Alabama. He swore an Oath of Office by raising his right hand. Because of Tim’s NJROTC training he enlisted in the Navy as a Seaman (E3). After a successful career in the Navy he retired in April of 2008, in Mayport, Florida at the high rank of E8 – a Fire Controlman Senior Chief Petty Officer (FCCS). Tim loves to tell you he served 22 years, 4 months and 15 days (we all know how long we served because it is on our DD-214 document).

Tim’s personal life is filled with joy as he has two children, Tyrone Bowers and Timara Bowers and six grandchildren. Tim has been stationed during his career all over the world, including Singapore, Australia, Italy, Greece, Spain (he loved Spain the most, its culture, sites-most beautiful place he had seen in his travels), France, Philippines, New Zealand. On the Stateside of things, During Tim’s career, in the Navy he was also stationed in Washington State, California, Virginia, Oregon, Maine, and Florida.

Psalm 119:55:22

A Navy career allowed Tim to see there was a big world outside of Wewahitchka. Traveling, experiencing diverse cultures, languages, cuisines, different lifestyles, things just reading books cannot give you! As he traveled in his Navy career he would take “Hops” to other countries nearby to see even more.

If Tim were to give someone advice, especially young folks, it would be to get into a career field you like; Always seek God for your answers. If you are starting at the bottom, be the best at that level in your career. But do not stay at the bottom, be the best of what you do, then be the best at that level. Do not settle, always set goals and work toward them. Only YOU will keep YOU from achieving your goals! Get in a field that can be used outside the military and attend as many trainings schools and obtain as many credentials as possible of that field — technology, aviation, etc.

You need to position yourself by planning your exit plan if you choose not to make the military a lifelong career. Use your time wisely and the education, while you can.

Tim Bowers is a true hero. He served his country honorably, loved his family and friends. He made himself better and the world is better off because he did so. Thank you, Tim Bowers for your Service and your undying love, for country and family. Wewa loves you! The Wewa News is proud to call you Friend and Brother. TW

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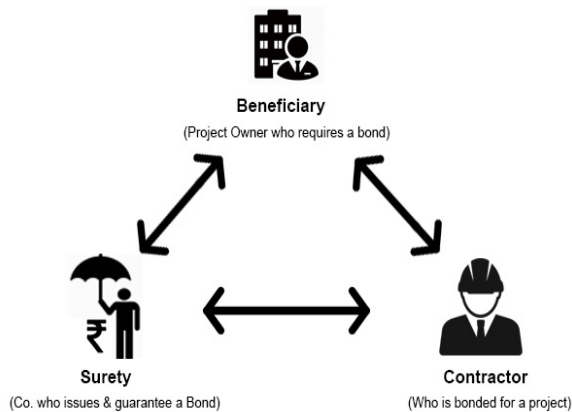
Romans 8:13-14

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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!”

NOTICE

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 efforts. **TW**



A BIT OF CAR HISTORY FOR MUATANG FANS 1966 MUSTANG GETS RESTORED!

by Tom Wynn

Matt Scoggins, a retired Auto Paint and Body shop owner, works daily on his favorite car. A 1966 mustang, one of only 330 specially cars, made in California and shipped by railroad to Colorado (all on one trail at the same time, a rarity as well). He is painting and restoring it to its original condition and color, he told me during an interview a couple of weeks ago.

“Timberline Green’ is a color developed just for this model Mustang and was never used again by FORD on any other cars. The original cost for this car was about 2700 dollars, a deal in today’s dollars! When is finished, I will do another article on it. **TW**

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Green Light

Vol. 27, No. 5 Published Monthly By The Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad August, 1996

GOOD LUCK, CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

Employees Organize At Ogden

"Rail" at Ogden, Utah, gateway city to the West, have organized Rio Grande Veterans' Club No. 9 and they held their charter meeting July 26. Ogden was the only major city on the Rio Grande that did not have a unit of the employees' organization.

Elected to direct the club was W. O. Farniss, fireman-engineer, president; E. R. Hunt, switchman, vice president; F. W. Burch, clerk, secretary-treasurer.

First meeting of Club No. 9 was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Farniss. One of the initial actions was a unanimous decision to take part in the 1996 Veterans' convention at Helmer, Ore. 2021.

Charter board members of the new club are: Don Wadkins, clerk; Fern Boyd, secretary; Helen Wilson, GREEN LIGHT reporter and retired operator; Elton Hardy, carman; Lee Corbin, machinist; and John Finner, Blaine Classification, and Don Parkinson, machinist.

Marshall Stewart, car foreman, attended the first meeting and will remain active although he is retired.

Mustangs Saddle Up For High-Country Trip

High-Country Mustangs, 333 of them, rode flanged wheels of steel across the Rio Grande July 18 from Salt Lake City to Denver, the first full trainload of sports cars to move as a single shipment across the system.

Involved were special Ford Mustangs, assembled and manufactured at San Jose, Calif., and shipped to Denver for distribution throughout Colorado, Wyoming and western Nebraska.

The railroad at San Jose, where the shipment originated, is represented by General Agent A. F. (Fred) Seelen, who worked closely with Ford Plant Traffic Manager Fred Dever in making the arrangements.

Unique, in addition to the idea of a complete trainload of one type of automobile, is the fact that the cars themselves are unlike any other Mustang in America.

The High-Country sports cars are especially made for car buyers in the Western area. The colors, selected by local dealers, will never be used again. The coloring colors are Aspen gold, Columbian blue and Timberline green. The cars also carry "High Country" insignia on both front

Fred Knuth, and Salt Lake Club President and Mrs. Claude Driggle. Mrs. Knuth, president of the Salt Lake Auxiliary, also furnished information about rules and bylaws.

Many special events are arranged by each club. Ladies Auxiliary, or System Veterans' organization each year. The Rio Grande Day picnic, restaurant, banquet, dinners, card parties, monthly meetings, all are part of the activities.

General purposes of the organization are to promote good will and welfare of employees, improve loyalty and pride, and establish social activities.

Past presidents of the Rio Grande extend best wishes to the Veterans' Club at Ogden and their Ladies' Auxiliary for continued success in the future.

Market Analyst Job Assigned

Rio Grande's campaign to "outsource" services to the needs of transportation customers received another boost July 18 with the appointment of Timmy C. Day as market analyst in Denver. The announcement was made by E. J. Moore, director of Market Research Development.

Day, 38, is a native of Ireland, and a former student of Haver College and Purdue University. In recent years he and his wife, Ann, have been residents of Littleton, Colo., where he was community service director for a Denver branch of the Y.M.C.A.

As market analyst, Day will assist in a liaison program to fully coordinate the needs of customers and the expanding services of the Rio Grande, a function that his position is important in recent years.

Day also will help develop new business and encourage the industrial growth in a Rio Grande area, also a service of Market Research Development.

Florida General Agent Appointed

George A. Lee, who first joined the railroad as ticket clerk at Atlanta in 1951, has been named general agent at Jacksonville, Fla., replacing the late Adlan Barron. The appointment, announced by Traffic Manager R. N. Westenstein, is effective Aug. 16.

Lee was born in Utah, Ill., and received his education at East Aurora, Ill. He has 27 years of practical experience in the railroad industry, having worked for several years in this field prior to entering service with the Rio Grande.

In Nov. 1963, he began working in the general offices in Denver, where he subsequently held several clerical positions. He was promoted to district freight agent at Denver in 1964, and has since held similar positions at Portland, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and Greenhouse.

Lee and his wife, Barbara, have moved with their family to Jacksonville. They have three children, John S., Mark T. and Susan S.

Old Switch Keys Will Be Saved

The famed switch key collection of Benjamin F. Kerr, retired Rio Grande switchman, has been added to the State Historical Society of Colorado in Denver, the society's bulletin reported in August, 1996.

Kerr died in Oct. 1995 and left the collection to the Society. The

Railroad Keeps Rolling Along

Rio Grande Railroad net earnings for June increased 55% over those of the flood-riddled month of June 1995, and were 19% higher than in the normal June of 1994.

Net earnings for the first six months of 1996 were up 10% over the same period last year and were the second-highest for any first-half period in the company's history.

For the first half of 1996, compared with the corresponding period of 1995, profit margin increased from 12.4% to 13.2%, and return on shareholders' equity increased from 7.4% to 8.2% on an annual basis, a recent financial report said.

Net earnings for June totaled \$260,000, compared with \$227,000 in June 1995. For the six months, net totaled approximately \$2,000,000 compared with \$1,800,000 in the same period last year.

Total operating revenues for June were more than \$7,000,000, against \$6,800,000 in the same month last year. For the respective first-half periods, the totals were \$43,000,000 this year and \$40,000,000 in 1995.

MOVING ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE from west to east July 18, special train symbolizes the railroad's modern philosophy to match transportation needs of customers.

THIS IS THE "MUSTANG SPECIAL" of 1966 sports cars to Denver for "High Country" training site. The locomotives are 1996 models, two - CP-40's, each with a rating of 2,000 h.p. Photo was made at Rocky, Colo.

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Our current “healthcare” system is huge, and often so confusing that it can make patients and their families give up on trying to get answers. People will often feel helpless and without a voice when it comes to developing a care plan for themselves or critically ill loved one. Goldcrest Wellness & Patient Advocacy can act as a guide, to bridge the gap between wellness and healthcare. Our board-certified patient advocate, Jennifer Navarette, is also a Registered Nurse with over a decade of experience in the healthcare setting, including critical care, emergency medicine, telehealth and long-term acute care. She is passionate about enhancing the lives of others and work hard to be a strong patient advocate.

Our goal is to help individuals understand and navigate their health challenges. Getting a new diagnosis such as Congestive heart failure or diabetes can be overwhelming and difficult to process. We can attend doctors’ appointments with you virtually, help explain diagnosis and treatment options, taking a more holistic approach and supporting your personal health goals.

If a family member is hospitalized, your advocate will connect directly with doctors and nurses to make sure that you are getting all the required information and options regarding potential treatments and help solve disputes.

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These are just a few of the many benefits of having a holistic patient advocate by your side!

Jennifer Navarette RN, Board Certified Holistic Patient Advocate, FFSS Certified Coach, Doula

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Psalm 25:21

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National Poison Center Hotline 1-800-222-1222
Substance Abuse Help Line.....1-800-662-4357
Wewa City Hall.....1-850-639-2605

A SHOUT OUT TO:

Ralf Irom of Helsinki, Finland

Your brother loves you and misses you!

We are glad you read The Wewa News!