



# THE WEWA NEWS™

## TUPELO HONEY FESTIVAL SPECIAL EDITION

JUNE 2022 >> Vol. 4 No. 06-02 <<

A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!

### **BURGER KING POND MUMMIFIED REMAINS OF A HUMAN INFANT FOUND IN A LOAD OF SAND**

by Tom Wynn

On the 31st of May the workers at the new Burger King construction site on Chipola Ave. and State Road-Highway 71 South found the mummified remains of an infant in one of the sand mounds that was being spread in the retention pond behind the building. The Gulf County Sheriff's Office was called in to investigate according to the news release to The Wewa News and The Star Newspaper in Port St. Joseph.

"The Star" News Editor, Ms. Wendy Weitzel came on site shortly after the news broke and took photographs of the location. Currently, there is no further information to report. Please do not enter the scene as it is blocked off by the Sheriff's Office at this time.

### **I AM SAD TO REPORT THE DROWNING OF A LOCAL WEWA MAN IN THE CHIPOLA RIVER**

by Tom Wynn

John Michael "Mike" Ludlum drowned while fishing with his wife not too far from Lister's Landing in the Chipola River. The Gulf County Sheriff's Office and a dive team found Mike later during the search on Sunday. The S.A.R. (Search and Rescue) Team found him after a large effort of boat crews and divers located his body. Mike was a Devout Christian, and Mike will be sorely missed by his longtime friends and family. Please pray for them as they prepare a place for his rest.

Gulf County Sheriff Mike Harrison, who took part in the search and rescue efforts, estimated that there were about 75 people aiding in the search efforts, between law enforcement, SAR personnel as well as volunteers. "I'm thankful that the family can get some closure now," Sheriff Mike Harrison said.

The drowning occurred about 3 or 4 miles downriver from Lister's Landing, near the Dalkeith area.

"We had an elderly gentleman fall off a boat, and he did not come back to the surface of the water," said Herring. "It is a local gentleman from Gulf County."

Mr. Wayman Hanlon said he went to school as a boy with Mr. Ludlum, they were classmates.

"He was fishing with his wife and lost his footing and went overboard," Harrison said. "It's just very, very murky water, and there's almost zero visibility, but we're using all of our normal techniques to try to recover him." Mike's body was recovered Sunday afternoon.

### **WEWAHITCHKA TUPELO HONEY FESTIVAL A GREAT SUCCESS!**

by Tom Wynn

The festival this year was a remarkable success. We thought it would rain, and it did, about 45 seconds for sure. The day was overcast for the first half and sunshine the rest of the day. Not too hot, exactly right!

Thousands of folks showed up, so it was truly a Gulf County/Wewa family reunion. The Beekeepers had a great supply this year of one of the finest honeys nature has to offer to mankind. The price was right and there were lots of choices including gallon jugs. **(Festival Story continues page 8 with photos).**

### **WEWAHITCHKA CITY-MAY MEETING FIRE STATION NEWS -NORTH FLORIDA CONTRACTOR IS INTERESTED IN FINISHING THE PROJECT!**

by Tom Wynn



After the city meeting finished with last month's business, the floor was open to the public to address the city council. Tom Wynn told the city council of his research in finding a Contractor that has built several Fire Stations in North Florida. The Contractor (Mr. Jason Alderman, the north Florida area leader of MADRID Engineering Group-CPWG) is interested in finishing the project for the city of Wewa. **(Fire Station story continues on page 2)**

(Fire Station Story continued from page 1) The mayor was thankful of the information and passed the package to the city lawyer, Ms. Michelle Jordan for review with the contact information provided by Mr. Wynn. Jordan was extremely interested in the information and will investigate contacting Mr. Alderman and his firm. Cross your fingers folks- "Lets Getter Done!" At present, the city of Wewa is in a lawsuit with the original Contractor who did not finish the project by the deadline of 26 December 2021, nor , to my knowledge, has their bonding company hired anyone to make the repairs to the cracked floor, improperly installed roof and poorly installed sidewalls since The Contractors termination. No one is allowed to enter the building, since the firing of the Contractor. I will do my best to keep you informed. The City Lawyer said Wewa could enter meditation on the Fire House lawsuit on 17 June 2022.

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### **CITY OF WEWA NOISE ORDINACE 2022-1219L-First Reading!**

by Tom Wynn

The city commission has been getting complaints about people blasting their car stereos as they park at local stores and in parking lots pass 10 pm. The Sheriff said, Gulf County Commission and Wewa Commission needed a Noise Ordinance passed for him and his deputies to take action without them hearing the loud noise to do something about the abuse. Keep your music to yourself, folks. Be respectful of others when in public please!

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### **CITY MEETING CEMETERIES NEWS**

The city clerk said that there was only \$600 dollars in the Jehu account. Maintenance is an ongoing job for our family members who were laid to rest on hallowed ground folks. If you have family buried in Jehu Cemetery and would like to donate some money for its repairs, contact Mrs. Ann Johnson (W.H.S. president, checks or money orders only please) at the Corner Café across the street from the bank. She will see that funds will go toward the cemetery repairs.

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### **JEHU CEMETERY IN BAD SHAPE**

by Tom Wynn

Mayor Phillip Gaskin made a visit to the Jehu Cemetery this past month to inspect its condition. The Wewahitchka Historical Society has been working with the city to make repairs and clean the area over the past year. The mayor agreed the road and some of the graves need repair. The city will transfer money to the Jehu Cemetery fund from Buckhorn Cemetery to make the much-needed repairs.

### **"HONEY HOLE" RESTAURANT HOPES TO OPEN IN JUNE, BUT FOR SURE BY JULY!**

by Tom Wynn



The newest restaurant in Wewa opens this month. It promises to be serving our favorite delights, southern style foods like, STEAK! SEAFOOD! OYSTERS! SHRIMP! and so much more, according to Ms. Brenda Gail, the owner of the Restaurant. The restaurant was in the making now for 3 years in construction. Delays were due to government requirements, licensing and additions to the original building. They will serve fresh seafood as they have their own boat, pizza and other things that will bring the customers in. Donnie Arnold has worked extremely hard to make Brenda Gail's dream come true. A restaurant for everyone to enjoy.

From 4 am to 9 pm everyday except Wednesdays they will be open, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Located on Hwy 22 just 1 mile west of the red light in the center of Wewahitchka. 1790 Hwy 22 for those using GPS.

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### **DEAD LAKES RV PARK IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

by Tom Wynn

Mr. Jason Alderman in an interview showed me the finished RV spots, 21 spots built so far with a grand total of 81 when he is finished. Jason said the next section would be completed by August for sure.

He showed me his new store which will carry all the things needed in an RV park, including things that most parks do not carry.

His manager is Ms. Debbie Duke, and she will manage the office as well as the store. Her number is: 850-340-0645. You can call her and ask questions or take a tour of the place. It will be beautiful and full of life again. The restoration plans are greater than I ever thought, so I promise you, it will be a great place to fish and RV park. When you have time, go take a tour and meet and greet those that are running the place. They are genuinely nice folks. A terrific addition to our RV parks in the area.

## Senior Citizen Center Stove update

by Tom Wynn

During my investigation into the delays of getting the much-needed new oven for the Senior Citizen Center, I discovered Mr. Michael Hammond, the Gulf County Admin officer was not given a written request for their half of the bill, thus causing the delay in getting the Oven. Commissioner Ward McDaniel was asked verbally to approve the money, but never informed Mr. Hammond of the request. Hammond needs paperwork to spend county money, folks. The must needed oven will be purchased.

The City of Wewa did in fact quickly supply their share of the agreed cost of the oven. So, the County Administration was not at fault for the delays in the purchase of the oven, nor was the City of Wewa.

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, is working to get the new oven. Stay tuned folks! The oven is coming.

The Mayor asked about the various repairs of the Senior Citizen Center and the progress in which City Manager Mike Gortman and City work crew supervisor Chipper Wade was coming along on those projects. Gortman and Wade expressed concern about the floor in the AC unit closet, needing replacement.

Furthermore, he asked the city maintenance supervisor, Chipper Wade about the repairs to the doors and other items that need repair in the Senior Citizen Center. Chipper's crew as well as the City Board are looking into a grant for the building. Commissioner Cox said the entire doors and frame needed replacement and to get them ordered soon. Now that the Tupelo Honey Festival is over and the fence was installed, the workforce can investigate the repairs of the Senior Citizen building/ city meeting place. As for the roof leak, the city was unable to find a roof leak, so no repairs were needed at this time.

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**Harvey Joe Campbell II**

On Saturday, May 21, Harvey Joe Campbell II of Wewahitchka, Florida, graduated with his master's in project management at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Pensacola, Florida. He received his undergraduate degree in Aviation Administration with a minor in business/geomagnetic engineering. Joe is an active member of the U.S. Air Force and is stationed at Tyndall AFB. He lives in Wewa with his family. Congrats Joe!! Job well done.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022  
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6<sup>th</sup> Graders at THE WEWAHITCHKA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL! WEWA LOVES YOU  
AND HOPES THE BEST FOR YOUR FUTURE!  
BE HAPPY YOU MADE IT!**

**John 1:1/Gen. 1:1**



## **WEWAHITCHKA HISTORICAL GROUP**

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, normally, but in June the meeting is set for 16 June.

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## **Wewahitchka Historical Society**

**May 19, 2022**

Dianne E. Semmes

Mitchell Johnson opened the meeting by saying a prayer and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Some members worked at the Tupelo Festival on Saturday, May 21, 2022. They sold raffle tickets for two different Afghans that were donated by Robbie Sexton. The winning tickets will be drawn at the October Festival and the winners will be announced and

contacted. If anyone would like to buy tickets, they can go by the Corner Café. There were some copies of the old Breeze on display, as well as one of the Afghans that were sold in 2021. This is just to give the public an idea of what the 2022 Afghans will look like.

Carol Wood informed members as to what some of the plans were for the Presbyterian Church. They want to clean out one of the Sunday School classrooms for an office, which Carol offered our group. She said it would be a good place for us to store artifacts that we

have collected. Carol said that several grants have been applied for, and they did receive one from the Tapper Foundation for \$2500. The Florida Department of State has a grant to help with the exterior painting and to rebuild the floors. Also, the Division of Restorative Department has grants available. We will be aiding Carol in preparing a letter in hopes of receiving funds to help on this especially important project. Tom Semmes noted that 20 bricks from the Presbyterian Church have been sanded and will be sprayed and stenciled. Carol Wood stated she would like to sell these bricks to help with restoration costs for the church.

The Wewahitchka Historical Society meets the third Thursday of every month at the Corner Café at 6:00 PM. Please come by and learn some things about Wewa that you might not have heard before. **Our next meeting is Thursday, June 16, 2022, 6:00 PM.**

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Deuteronomy 31:8



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## THE WEWA LIBRARY

by Joelle Linton

We are excited to share with you about this year's summer reading program, "Oceans of Possibilities". Dive into the summer with exciting tales of pirates, sea creatures, mermaids, and more! There will be two programs for each age group held during the month of June. One for children up to age 6 and one for 7–11-year-olds. However, anyone is welcome to attend. Programs for children 6 and under will be every Tuesday in June at 10:00 CT. For children ages 7-11 the programs will be every Friday in June at 2:00 CT. Prizes will be given for a variety of challenges. Several special guests will be joining us this year: The Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association, The Florida Coastal Conservancy, and a pirate and mermaid! Please contact the Wewa Library for more information.

In conjunction with our children's summer reading program, we are offering an art contest. Create a work of art that represents this year's summer reading theme, "Oceans of Possibilities". Express yourself with paint, color, pencil, or collage! Must be no larger than 8x10 inches. One winner from each age group will be chosen by the community's votes: ages 3-5, 6-9, 10-12, 13-17. Each winner will receive \$25.00. Art may be dropped off at the Wewa Library during normal business hours from June 1 until June 30, 2022. Voting will be held in the Wewa Library and on Facebook from July 1-10, 2022. We would like to thank the Friends of the Wewahitchka Library for sponsoring this event!

An adult craft program will be held on Monday, June 6 at 3:30 CT to make an ocean themed mason jar. Enjoy a relaxing event with friends! Please call the Wewa Library to register. This month's adult book club will be held on June 13 at 2:00 CT. The book will be *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See.

Chess Club will be meeting on Friday, June 10 and Thursday, June 23 at 3:30 CT. All levels of experience and ages are welcome! Chess boards are provided, or you may bring your own.

The Friends of the Wewahitchka Library meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be June 2 at 9:30 a.m. CT. Anyone is welcome to attend.

The Wewahitchka Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9:00-5:00 CT. Please call us at (850) 639-2419 for more information.

The Wewa Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00-5:00 CT. For more information, please call us at: (850) 639-2419. JL

## BURGER KING OPENING SOON!

By Tom Wynn



The latest on BK is that due to yet another improper pour of the sidewalk concrete they are shooting for June 16<sup>th</sup> for

opening according to folks on the build. They are hiring now. Thank goodness! No more having to drive 22 or 26 miles for a Whopper! Team Chipola is looking forward to a walk down (maybe we will take the golf cart on lazy days).

**Proverbs 18:24**



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**Wewa, Florida Psalm 34:18**

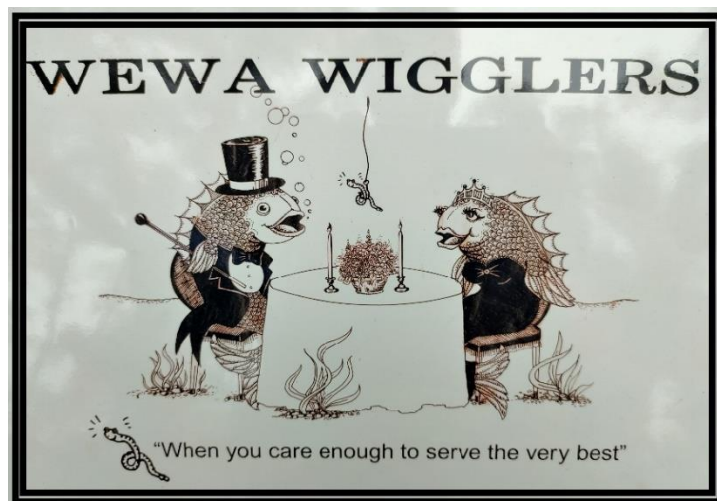
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**Deuteronomy 7:21**

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(Tupelo Honey Festival Article Continues with Photos) All kinds of venders came and filled Lake Alice with things to see, taste and feel. Artwork to candles were available. The Wewahitchka Historical Society was asking for signatures to present to the Gulf County Commissioners to restore our beloved Gulf County Court House in downtown Wewa, it belongs to all the citizens of Gulf County, so all should be concerned.

Everyone was in good spirits and enjoying the music and food. As always, the big family reunion of Wewa and surrounding area families were loving one another, sharing stories, music, food and buying their Tupelo Honey supply for the year. The Tupelo Honey Festival is my favorite day of the year. SEE YOU NEXT TIME!



Jim Rish selling his Tupelo Honey- Bee Ladies roaming the festival



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## Happy Father's Day!

Ephesians 6:12



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AND LYNN, WE HAVE A MUCH BETTER LIFE TODAY.**



Lynn is a Navy Vet and has served her country well with honors. She has served Gulf County for many years as well. She is a lifesaver, and a great person as well. She has given more of her life to the Veterans of this county and to her nation then most people.

She has given me her time and devotion in helping me as well as my fellow Veterans. Without her and Joe Paul

working to get the veterans what is due them, we would be at a loss as to how to get the Veterans Administration to help us.

**She is our Hero!**

Joe Paul will retire soon, but the County does not plan on replacing him. Lynn will have to continue to help us Vets all by herself. This is unfortunate folks! Please help us Veterans and Lynn get another qualified VA County Rep before Joe leaves us for his well-deserved retirement.

Thank you, Joe, for your support, service and love. You are the best. Thanks to you I can hear better and feel better. Joe will leave in September of 2022 for retirement from the County VA and SHIP Program jobs. Lynn will be left to do it all by herself. She needs help folks. Ask our County Commission to replace Joe now, while Joe is still around to teach a newbie. Thank you, Lynn, for your love and support as well as your hard work for the Veterans in Gulf County. Job well done!!

### **«« WEWAHITCHKA »»**

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

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## **BRANDI WHITFIELD IS OFF TO A NEW LIFE!**

### **Do I hear Wedding Bells?**

by Tom Wynn



Brandi Whitfield the receptionist at Dr. David Lister's office since 2014 will unit with Jay Shiver, a lineman at Gulf Coast Electric(since 2015). He is a son of Pam and Phillip Nunnery and Glynn & Karen Shiver.

The wedding is set for June the 4<sup>th</sup> 2022 in beautiful Wewahitchka Florida, home of the famous DeadLakes

and Tupelo Honey. Sorry fellas, Brandi is Officially OFF the Market. She has found her BO!

**"But officer, I am just going to Nana's house, I haven't seen her in months and months and she bakes the best cookies and plays with me all the time. Officer trust me, this is essential travel for my sake and for hers!"**



## SHIP PROGRAM COMES THROUGH!

by Tom Wynn



On Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of May at 10 am The Gulf County Representatives Mr. Joe Paul and Mrs. Lynn Lanier of the SHIP Program had a ceremony for Mr. Houston Bennett. He received a new home thanks to the Gulf County SHIP Program. He

waited 3 and a half years for the program to give him a new home. He became homeless after Hurricane Michael did its damage to his life. Houston was born in 1955 (67 years old and lives alone) in Tallahassee Florida. His father was a builder, Houston claims his father built most of Tallahassee as a Contractor over many years. Houston help build I-10 when he was a young man, he told me. He had been a construction worker most of his life. David Rich sold him his lot after hearing of this man's need for a place to put his new Single-wide Home. Pastor Joey Smith of Glad Tidings was on hand for Prayer. Lutheran Pastor Rob Rose was on hand as his Church organization gave 250,000 dollars in donation to the program. Mrs. L. Costin of Port St. Joe was on hand as well, Nancy Steward, Eddie Fields the Head of the Gulf Co. Senior Center was on hand as well. The two Gulf County Commissioners came to the event as well, Commissioner David Rich and Ward McDaniel. Chipper Wade represented the city of Wewa. Bennett was pleased with his new home and gave all the glory to the LORD he said in his speech to the group that showed up for the event.



**Call (850) 481-9392 to Sponsor this Newspaper.**

## Doctor David Benjamin Lister

by Tom Wynn



David was born on June 24, 1970. He was a beautiful baby boy. His parents were happy to have him in their arms. David graduated from Maclay High in Tallahassee Florida in 1988. He later attended Hampden Sydney College in the great state of Virginia. He also graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree, then attended Temple University Dental School in Philadelphia (the city of brotherly love).

David came home to Wewa to practice dentistry for over 20 years now. He has been my dentist for all those years. He is an amazing Dentist and has fixed me several times in an emergency. He has helped me keep most of my teeth in my old age (no thanks to the USCG Dentist who did a poor job when I was young).

David's family life has been good having a beautiful daughter named Sydney Clay Lister who recently graduated from the University of South Florida.

Doctor Dave, as I love to call him, had his Great Grandparents home turned into his Dental Office. Some of the material for the home came from the Bob Jones College campus buildings in Lynn Haven Florida which his great grandfather bought when Bob Jones College moved from Lynn Haven to Cleveland Tennessee and later to Greenville South Carolina.

Doctor David has served his community well for over 20 years. He could have practiced his trade anywhere, but he chose to come home to Wewa and give us a much-needed Dentist. He is one of my heroes in Wewa today. Thank you, Doctor Dave and Happy Birthday! Wewa loves you! And so does your staff. Thank you again for being my dentist and saving my teeth for my old age. Have a blessed birthday and may God bless you David.

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**1 Peter 5:8-10**





New Horizon Primary Care and Pediatrics have two providers accepting patients: Amy E. Miller and Candi Dodson Calderon.

Amy E. Miller is an autonomous, board-certified adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner who joined the New Horizon family in November 2021.

“Serving the underserved population in rural care is my passion; and it is truly an honor to serve our community at New Horizon Primary Care, as a Nurse Practitioner led practice.”

A native of Adel, Georgia, Amy has been in healthcare for over 35 years. She was a licensed practical nurse for 25 years. Finally realizing her dream, she became a registered nurse in 2012, graduating with honors from ABAC, in Tifton, Georgia. She went on to receive a bachelor’s and Master of Science in nursing from Walden University, graduating with honors in 2016.

Before joining New Horizon, she served for five years as a primary care provider with Ascension Sacred Heart in Wewahitchka, Florida.

She has been married to Derrell for 37 years. They have two grown children, and four grandchildren. Her favorite pastime includes her family, enjoying outdoor activities.

Affiliated associations: Florida Nurse Practitioner Network, and American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Candi Dodson Calderon is a board-certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and the newest addition to the New Horizon Family. Candi is originally from Bainbridge, GA and served on active duty in the United States Air Force for 3 years before completing her first Bachelors of Science degree in Exercise Science, with

honors, from Georgia State University in 2009. Candi then pursued her passion for nursing and graduated, with honors, from Emory University with both her bachelor’s and Master of Science in Nursing. After completing her board certification in January 2013, Candi at once began her career at a busy pediatric practice, as a part of Piedmont Healthcare in Newnan, GA.

In 2014 Candi commissioned into the United States Air Force as a Primary Care Provider where she had the honor of serving as a Primary Care Provider to the children of the Active-duty members. Candi was stationed at Whiteman AFB, MO from March 2014-April 2018 and then at Robins AFB, GA April 2018-April 2020. In 2020, Candi transitioned into the Air Force Reserve Command, where she currently serves as the lead nurse in her unit at Eglin AFB, FL.

Candi has a special interest in quality preventive care and health education especially in rural and underserved areas. She specifically enjoys newborn care, collaborating with new mothers, and preventing childhood obesity.

Candi is married to her husband, Matt and she has 3 kids, Miller (10), Carmen (6), and Mason (3) they live in Mexico Beach. In her free time Candi enjoys running, biking, playing ball with her kids and of course going to the beach.

## BOOK REVIEW

I read a little book this past week written by a local writer for young children. It was simple and easy to read to children. It was a delight to read and a fun story with a moral behind it. The book is called, “One Fin Tim” by Louis Wade (a pen name). The writer of this book is a local person in the Gulf County area. You can get the book online at Walmart.com or Amazon.

The story is about a Shark who loses most of his fins when a fisherman cuts them off and throws him back in the sea. It is a wonderful little story book that will be remarkably interesting for a child to read or have read to them. So, check it out! Enjoy the read, I did. I will send the book to my Great Grand boys for their mom or dad to read to them at bedtime. Grandpa Tom



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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 efforts. TW

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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

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