

THE TUPELO COUNTY NEWS™

THE WEWA NEWS™



“The Good News Newspaper”

MARCH 2023-02 >> Vol. 5 No. 03-03 << A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!

MS. VERA and MS. ERA CELEBRATED THEIR 99th BIRTHDAY!

by Tom Wynn



(Photo by Tom Wynn)

On February the 8th, what was described by several old folks who came to the party, told THE WEWA NEWS that this was the largest party in Wewa since the 1960's. Panama City's CHANNEL 7 NEWS, Port St. Joe Local Newspaper THE STAR and THE WEWA NEWS was on hand to interview the lovely ladies. Many came from afar to help celebrate their 99th birthday in full splendor! Even the Gulf County Sheriff, Mike Harrison, was on hand to hold back all the suitors waiting in line to have a word with the lovely widows.

The Wewa Senior Center was decorated in their birthday colors and was so filled with family and friends that there were no more chairs to be had. The joy was thick in the air and the twins were in total shock of how wonderful the event was and how many people came to help celebrate their birthday.

Thank you WEWA and Family for giving them such a party they or we will never forget.

(Story continues- Vera and Era page 2)

CORN GRIFFIN STREET FROM DIRT TO PAVEMENT-WILL IT EVER HAPPEN? GOOD NEWS! COUNTY AND CITY CAME FOR A LOOK SEE AND HAS A PLAN!

by Tom Wynn

Mr. James Royce Watkins, one of the spokesmen for the 24 families on Corn Griffin dirt road, who stood before the City Council several times was with Commissioner Johnny Paul and watched as the Contractor bulldozed Corn Griffin Road moving the dirt and small rocks in attempt to make it better for traffic down the road. The Gulf County Road Department and Administration offices are working to improve the road by digging ditches and correcting the edge of the road for better water drainage.

Later in the February city meeting County Administrator Michael Hammond and County Commissioner David Rich (District 1) were on hand to discuss the road and other topics of interest to the city and to the public. (I was not able to attend, due to an out-of-town family visit. Please see Ms. Wendy Weitzel, editor of The Star Newspaper article on-line for more details, as she attended the meeting).

The residents of the dirt road community on Corn Griffin continue to ask Gulf County and the city to fix their road and its various issues.

The mayor, Phillip Gaskin and the city commission, as well as, Michael Gortman, the city manager, continue to work with the Gulf County admin to find money and make repairs as rain and truck traffic makes the road unbearable for those that live on Corn Griffin Road. As we approach another rainy season in the Springtime here, it will become important for the CGR community to have it drained properly, as a minimum. By all accounts the city and the Gulf County Road crew are working together to help out until money comes to pave the road. (See CGR story on page 2)

(CGR story from page 1)

The Gulf County Road department has been overwhelmed this past year with flooding and ditches filled with tree branches and other things, needing cleaning out all at once. They are hard at work to make things better with their present workforce and budget.

Gulf County Commissioner Mr. David Rich agreed to come to the February City Commissioner's meeting to discuss the situation. He too has been working to find grant money to pave the half mile dirt road. Mr. Watkins, Mr. Michael Hammond, the County Administration Officer and Commissioner David Rich are in communication with the city and the families of CGR community.

Mayor Gaskin and Mr. Jack Husband agreed that the cost in today's dollars would be about \$220,000 to have the road paved properly. The County and the City are working together now to improve the situation on CGR. City Clerk Rachel Jackson has researched infrastructure grants and is an expert in grant writing, we are told. The city commission said in the January meeting that the bond money would be about half a million dollars for Wewa to re-pave roads. Commissioner Rich and Watkins are in contact with each other on the matter since the city meetings, over the past month now, it pays to come to city meetings and let them know, when things are not right in the community. In most cases, if possible, the Commission moves quickly. TW

(Vera and Era story continues from page 1)

The Governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis was invited but had an earlier commitment, so he sent his best regards to the birthday girls in a formal letter. Which they were happy to receive. The sweetest twins in north Florida had a joyful time and received many presents, including gift cards from local restaurants and roses from The Wewa News and our local florist, Bayside Florist of Port St. Joe on Reid Avenue. TW

BEES & BOTANICALS LLC

"From the Heart of the Hive"

(Beauty Products made with Tupelo Honey)

www.beesandbotanicals.com

Call LESLIE CANTU 863-781-1210

Father & Son Steven & Joseph Cantu
"Tupelo Honey & Other Various Honeys"
County Road 386 N. Wewa, Florida 32465

IF you were put on trial for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to find you guilty?

BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

If you are interested in using Bible study tools online for free, check this website out:

www.esb.bible

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...you are reading a free local newspaper, who exercises any and all rights given by The Most High and supported by the community we call, These United States of America, The United States Inc., The U.S. Constitution and the three bodies of government in their various institutions as protectors of our rights and privileges of "We The People". We all stand in unity to protect one another from domestic and foreign governments and individuals that may infringe upon our eternal rights as children of the Most High, as contractually given by the author of, "The Holy Bible."—The Editor

RAMSEY'S PRINTING

& OFFICE PRODUCTS

"We Serve the Entire County! Come down and see our in-house products & Services."

We Can Do- LOGO CREATION-PRINTING-COPYING & MUCH

MORE. Give us a call at our Office 850-227-7468

We are located @ 209 Reid Ave. in Port St. Joe
KEEP YOUR MONEY LOCAL! WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!



DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THESE OLD
FLORIDA POST CARDS?



DO NOT TRY THIS IN WEWA!

(Courtesy of Mrs. Jodie Rustin)

CITY LAWYER REPORTS NEW ISSUE WITH FIREHOUSE LAWSUIT

by Tom Wynn



The City Attorney, Ms. Michelle Jordan notified the city mayor and city commission that Mr. Tommy Hamm (the contractor who was building the new Fire Station on 2nd

street) has filed for bankruptcy and Wewa will have to hire a bankruptcy attorney to assist her in the lawsuits with Mr. Hamm. She stated that she is not a bankruptcy attorney and could not represent the city in that matter. Winterfell Construction Inc. and the owners of said company, Mr. Tommy Hamm and his wife Mrs. Jamie Hamm has filed for chapter 11, according to Attorney Jordan. In the February meeting, County Admin Officer Mr. Michael Hammond offered the city the county's assistance in the matter, including a possible interest free loan from the county to finish the project. (Personal note-in my service in the USCG Aviation community for over 20 years, we had to wash our aircraft every time we used them within 25 miles of the saltwater to prevent rust and corrosion. So, I know the effects of what salt air can do to metal aircraft as well as trucks and cars. They need protection from the salt air, and Fire Houses do this, with their closed doors, and careful washing of all equipment regularly).

Our Fire Department is top-notch! And does all it can do to protect our valuable trucks and equipment which cost the tax-payers thousands of dollars. Our trucks are presently being stored at the city road department under a roof of protection. They can be easily accessed for fire and other needs, quickly! So not to worry over that. The City Commission and the City Manager are doing all they can to get them under a new roof of protection and safety for fast deployment in case of fire and emergency. TW

FISHER'S BUILDING SUPPLY

Your Local Home-Grown Place For Lumber-Tools-Nails-Screws-Paint-Keys-Wheel Barrels-Doors-Concrete-Lawn supplies. Remember to:

"Always Check with Fisher's First!"

Call 850-639-5102 Est. 1989

Watch Tom Wynn and James Rish's

Documentary called: "Tupelo Honey and the Wonderful World of Beekeeping" on Youtube.com it's Free!

Harvell's Cajun Chicken & Foods SPRING HOURS

OPEN: Mon·Thru·Fri 10am-7pm

We have a new Seafood menu, fresh hand pressed ½ LB Burgers. Hand battered chicken in our award-winning breading. Homemade hot sauce, try our jumbo wings with any of our 29 sauces or dry seasonings.

Wraps, Gyros, Quesadilla, Phillies and Po-Boys!

We are family owned and operated. We continue to have Burgers, BBQ Sandwiches, Fries, Philly Cheese Steaks, Wraps, Wings and Onions rings. Let us not forget Sweet and non-Sweet Tea and Sodas. Come by or call your order in 850-247-0575. We are located on Highway 22 near the red-light. The owner, Senior Chief James Harvell retired from the U.S. Navy.

Charlie Pettis
Pest Services
"The Bug Man"
(Certified Pest Control Operator)
(850) 381-2942
P.O. Box 1205 Wewahatchka, FL 32465
charlie@mybugman.us

MAYHANN'S USED CARS

Open 8 to 5 CST

Call (850) 639-5810/(850) 819-1136. We have trucks and cars just waiting for you to come see.

Let's make a deal today!

Located right next door to Dixie Dandy on the lake on Highway 22, just before the light. Come check out our lot, plum full of nice rides"

DOMINO'S Paint & Body

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

8 AM to 4 PM

(850) 340-0953

MV-95178 Email us at:

dominod26@gmail.com

HEAVEN SENT

A 501C3 NONPROFIT

"A Thrift Store Full of Love"

Help Us Help Others – Janet Wood

Located at 515 Hwy 71 North in Wewa

Come check us out! (Isaiah 61:11)

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

FRIENDS OF THE WEWAHITCHKA LIBRARY EVENT

by Carol Childress

The Friends of the Library are hosting a fund-raising event in support of our local library. Spring Into Bingo will be held on Monday, March 20th from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm central daylight time at the Honey Hole Restaurant. This will be a fun night with prizes awarded to the winners. The cost is \$20.00 for 24 Bingo tickets. There will be 8 rounds of Bingo. A cash bar for drinks and food will be provided by the restaurant. Tickets are limited, so, call the library at 850-639-2419 or contact Mary Jones at 850-832-9988 to buy the tickets. All proceeds will go toward helping our library purchase needed items, books, crafts, furniture and supplies. Come out for a night of food, fun and fellowship!

The Friends of the Wewahitchka Library is a 501c3 organization founded to assist our local library with volunteers, programs, and funding to purchase needed furniture, crafts, office supplies and books.

The Friends renewed the Ancestry.com subscription for the library, so you can research and discover your family tree. We need volunteers to help with the library's Native Garden Landscape. If you have gardening skills, please contact the library.

The Friends meet the second Thursday of each month in the library at 9:30 am. We look forward to seeing you on next meeting, March 9th. CC



HAROLD'S RV & ELECTRIC
GOLF CART REPAIR
CALL 850-943-5118
We Do Emergency Calls too!
50 mile radius of
Wewahitchka, Florida

1 CHRONICLES 16:1

HIGHWAY 22 STORAGE

P.O. Box 182, Wewahitchka, Florida

IN GOD WE TRUST!

Betty Cleckley 850-227-8384

Cleckley Enterprises, LLC

Real Estate Rentals <> Land Sales



**SEASCOPE INSURANCE GROUP, INC. &
AMERICAN FOUNDERS INSURANCE GROUP,
INC.**

Contact Us at: (918) 508-2904 ext. 102.

"If you or anyone else you know needs help with their insurance needs Home, Auto, Business give us a call!"

GASKIN-GRADDY INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

An Independent Agent – 156 N. Second
Street Wewahitchka Fl. 32465

Call or come in 850-639-5077

Serving the Panhandle Since 1931

Abigail Taunton
BROKER

Gulf County

R E A L T Y

850-639-2337 850-639-5599 850-819-0401
OFFICE FAX Cell

A BIT BUSY CLEANING LLC

Katie Bryant Kohler-Owner 850.532.8583

abitbusycleaning@gmail.com

HEY VETS, NEED HELP WITH YOUR VA
CLAIMS? CONTACT: Ms. Lynn Lanier, Gulf
Co. Veterans Reps, at 850-229-6125. Leave a
message and she will return your call.

If life is not joyful for you, time to rethink your life plan folks. Be happy, you live in the most beautiful place and can live in peace with your friends, family and neighbors. Be thankful for those things. TW

THE WEWA LIBRARY

by Joyelle Linton



It has been busy at the Wewahitchka Library lately! Spring has sprung, bringing in many eager taxpayers. VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) in partnership with United Way, has returned for the second year at our library to provide FREE tax preparation services to our community. Last year the VITA

team completed 196 tax returns and residents received \$230,000 tax returns in both Gulf County Libraries. As of February, our numbers are double compared to 2022. If you are interested in having your taxes prepared for free by a VITA volunteer, please call (850) 227-8737 and leave your name and phone number for a return call. Appointments are required. VITA offers free tax filing help to residents who earn a moderate income, to people who are over the age of 65, disabled or do not speak English well. IRS-certified volunteers provide basic income tax preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

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

Please contact the Wewahitchka Library at (850) 639-2419 for more information or assistance in accessing these databases. Our normal business hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00-5:00 CT.

St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church



St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church
4060 N. Hwy 71 Wewahitchka, FL

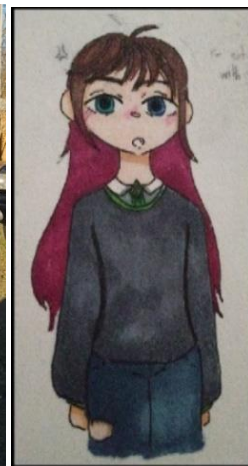
come fellowship with us!

see <http://mukappa.net/sjbec> for full schedule

ARE YOU IN NEED OF A MOW MAN?
CALL WILLIAM LINDSEY
850-639-2218



Miss Haleigh Helms Wins!
Submitted by Mrs. Laurel Helms
Miss Haleigh Helms is a 7th grader



Miss Haleigh Helms won February's artwork contest. She came by the Editors home to pick up her prize. She was unaware that her grandmother had submitted her artwork for consideration in the contest. The Wewa News hopes to reward our young folks for their effort to be their best. This is one way I, Tom Wynn as a member of this sweetest little city in Florida can encourage our young folks to be better and work hard in reaching their goals in life. To be the best, not because it is easy, but because it is hard, and your reward is coming. Miss Haleigh is winner of a Silver Dollar Coin, presently valued on the open market for about 24 U.S. Dollars. Wewa High Students submit your drawings via email: thewewanews2021@gmail.com



TUPELO NUTRITION'

104 North Highway 71 Wewahitchka, Florida 32465

Monday thru Friday 6am-2pm

Saturday 8am-1pm "Call aheads" are welcome

850-639-1007 We are here to serve you the best meal replacement shakes and energy teas. We also have Iced Coffee, come see! We are located just behind The Corner Café'

THE WEWA NEWS CELEBRATE'S TWO YEARS

by Tom Wynn

It has been two years this month that Tom Wynn asked a question of the Mayor, Phillip Gaskin: **"Mayor, what happened to the 6 million dollars BP Oil Spill money that Wewa was supposed to get?"** The mayor replied, with a pointed finger and a smile on his face, "I want to know too Tom!". I told him I will investigate it for both of us. And so, history was made, **THE WEWA NEWS**™ was reborn since its closing back in 1996.

Back in 1996 the Wynn family shut down The Wewa News newspaper to help the Brown Family start up the old Gulf County Breeze Newspaper of the good old days (started by Mr. Claude Hanlon back in 1925) and sold to Ed Bandjough. The Brown family purchased the paper from Mrs. Bandjough in the mid 90's.

My investigation of the BP Oil Spill turned out to be a two-part series in The Wewa News, March and May issues of 2021. It was not 6 million dollars, but 12 million dollars and has yet to be given to Wewahitchka to this day. It was scheduled to be given to Wewa back in 2018, and it was in LOT 3. At the time, no one could answer my question, what is LOT 3? Mrs. Becky Norris (Gulf County Clerk of the Court) was asked about the money and later on she provided an email with the original documents attached. So I went from there. Two articles told the story and the plan for Gulf County and especially for Wewa and what the money would be used for. Check, THE WEWA NEWS website (the.wewa.news) to read the rest of the story. Enjoy the read! TW

HONEY HOLE RESTAURANT

Come one, Come All!

We are doing breakfast again, 5 am to 10:00 am.

Now open Monday thru Saturday, 5 am until 9 pm

We have parking for large trucks and RV's

WE ARE SERVING BREAKFAST!

Located On Hwy 22, just 1 mile West of the red light in Wewa, or 1790 Hwy 22 for those using GPS, Call **850-639-1009**

WHS ALL CLASS REUNION 2023 A BIG SUCCESS!

By Tom Wynn



There was a large turnout for the first annual WHS All Class Reunion which was held on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM CST, at the Wewahitchka Elementary School Cafeteria.

(Diane Semmes pictured below)



This reunion was not only for former students, but also for anyone who would like to have attended. The house was full of great-tasting food and cakes and all kinds of goodies.

The place was full of joy, many hugs and kisses were given out by everyone. What a joy it was to see such an event in Wewa. Finally, the love fest had returned. People loving people like Wewa used to do.



Many came from long distances, while yet others came from a few blocks away. All were there to see and enjoy each other after being gone for many years. I got to talk to folks I only heard about, yet never met. Others I have known for many years but have lost contact with. It was pure joy to see and hug so many folks. I learned new things about Wewa and was able to ask those questions I always wondered about.

I got to see photos I have never seen before of Wewa, and of those I have known for 40 years, as they were teens in the photographs. What a treat that was, to see all these old folks as beautiful teenagers, kings and queens of their day. Also, pictures of them when they were in elementary school. As well as their teachers when they were so young. I was so impressed with their kindness; their joy filled the air. I was so proud to be there and act as the MC for the day. I gave away old copies of THE WEWA NEWS™ past issues that I had left over.

I was very disappointed not to see folks that had yet to grow gray hair. My son Chris Wynn was the youngest there at age 46. The oldest was in their 90's. Why didn't the younger folks attend? It made me sad! You sure missed out people. Mrs. Dianne Semmes was the host of the party and did a fine job of getting the word out.

There was no charge for the event, but there was a donation jar. The Wewahitchka Historical Society sold several historical Afghans for \$48.00 each, yet another big success. Please contact Dianne Semmes on FB, phone, text or Messenger at 850.277.6425 if you have any questions about the next big meet for next year. We all look forward to the day when we can meet again. You are all family Wewa, please come be together, before we cannot. I look forward to seeing everyone next year. **GO GATORS!!!**

PSALM 34:4-5

TAUNTON'S LLC

FOR YOUR BUILDING NEEDS CALL

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

Located in Honeyville-Gulf County Industrial Park

5441 Hwy 71 South, Wewahitchka, Florida

"Community Watch Group-building relationships and promoting good local government"

WHAT IS THE POPULATION OF GULF COUNTY FLORIDA?

by Tom Wynn

Well, I am glad you asked that. The current population of Gulf County Florida is 15,205 as of 2022 and growing fast!

As of the last issue I told you that the sweetest little city in Florida, Wewahitchka has a population of **2,101**. The last official US Census in 2020 recorded the population at 2074. Did you notice all the new houses going up in the Wewa area and the remodels? We are growing folks. Several on Team Chipola (Chipola Ave.) have been remodeled and modernized. We are getting cleaned up and fixed up, Thank the Lord for that! We even have our own private Burger King to boot! Brand New! "Don't let the Golf Cart fail me now!" I would have to walk two blocks, or is it three? Hmmm...

Wewa is home to the finest honey in the world, called **Tupelo Honey**, it never turns to sugar. We have the best fishing in nearly every direction, people come here from all over the world to catch fish, eat fish, mount fish, and oh yea! Eat Honey!

The women are beautiful, smart and kind. They are respectful, loving and polite to talk with. Our city and county are just full of U.S. Veterans, so no foolishness around here. Wewa folks are known to carry, in case you didn't know.

We have some of the smartest kids, great athletes, super sharp hunters, fine land and property, full of green trees and bushes to escape from your busy life. We enjoy all the good things in life here.

But do not come here, it may be too quiet for you, too peaceful and too Religious for your liking. We love the Lord and each other as well, I know that may sound shocking to you, but it is true!

We are like a real family here, we have mom's and dad's and grandparents that care about one another, and the nation called "America, the beautiful." We have great schools, great teachers who have devoted their lives to their students and this sweet little city. We have bus drivers that will not put up with disruptive behavior from the children and

quickly tell their parents about their bad behavior. They care about the kids that they have been entrusted to them.

Be warned, we love one another, so be careful that you don't get involved in one of our groups or societies. Lord help you if you have some fun doing that!

So be careful, not to drive too fast here either. We have a great County Sheriff office. A shout out to 911 Dispatchers as well, they keep a watchful eye out for bad behavior. Best you stay in your own town or city if you are looking for trouble.

They are known to use their patrol cars to patrol the neighborhoods, WOW! I know it is shocking to you, but it is true! They are professional, they look like a new penny in their sharp uniforms, it makes me proud! I love folks in uniform, reminds me of my USCG days on inspection day.

We enjoy the company of State Troopers on our highways and in our restaurants like Subway and Harvell's and The Honey Hole. We even have our own largest prison in the State of Florida, just in case you decide to do something bad to our people, land or vehicles (automobiles).

Yes, Gulf C.I. is one of the nicest places you can stay in. They just remodeled it after Hurricane Michael. They wear sharp uniforms too.

We all speak Southern here, we say, "Yes Sir" and "No Sir!" I know that is a lost art in this world, but we say it anyhow! As I always like to say, **"Even the bad boys and girls say, Yes Sir! and No Sir!" in Wewa.**

Enjoy your stay, and do not forget to visit the SHRIMP LADY on Highway 71 South, she has fresh Shrimp daily and, you guessed it! A free copy of the latest edition of THE WEWA NEWS NEWSPAPER™©. If you are very nice to her, she may let you have one. Be nice and enjoy your time here, just clean up after yourself please. Thank you for visiting WEWA FLORIDA and GULF COUNTY. Oh, I almost forgot to tell you, we do have beautiful lakes downtown just in case you want to cool off. The Tupelo Honey Festival is in May so be don't late! TW

BACK STREET MOTORS

— financing available —

850-568-1174

Located on 2nd Street

Wewa's Full-Service Florist



Flowers-Gifts-Jewelry-Cosmetics & More

Located at 208 Reid Ave.

Port St. Joe Florida 32456

BaysideFloridaPortStJoe.com

BaysideFlorist@gmail.com

850-229-1111

VITA

IRS TAX PREPARATION IN THE WEWA LIBRARY GIVE THEM A CALL

by Tom Wynn

Ms. Joan Hill, a volunteer of United Way of Northwest Florida is head of the service VITA, that has set up in the Wewahitchka Library for those that live in the area. Several citizens of Wewa have been specially trained to help locals get their tax returns completed.

This program is in both counties of Bay and Gulf. They have two locations in Gulf County, Port St. Joe Library and Wewa Library. The United Way of Northwest Florida asked for a grant so volunteers can be trained to help our local folks with their income tax returns. With their aid our people can use the "Vita" program, which is the funding for them to buy much needed supplies, like computers and other equipment, in order to help "low to moderate income" taxpayers. The money for this grant comes from the IRS. They applied for a grant for 2021 tax season and were awarded the grant, which they were able to buy printers and banners to let people know they are there in the library to help them with their IRS taxes.

VITA is a 501-C3 organization. United Way of Panama City handles the Gulf County area. They will aid Taxpayers up to April 18th as their final day in Wewa and as for Port St. Joe it will be April 17th.

Ms. Hill, how long does it take to get Tax refunds right now? "It takes about three weeks for returns to come back to the taxpayer at this time in the season. Right now, at the beginning of the season people were getting them as soon as a couple of days later, but as millions of people start filing their returns, it will take a little bit longer, so early bird gets the worm! The money comes faster for those that file early. So, the later you wait the longer it'll take for those that wait to the last minute. We did 200 tax returns for the whole season last year by the 20th of April. This year, on the 20th of February the numbers are already at 100, they are going to surpass all numbers from last year. Word of mouth has

certainly worked, she said. "We do have volunteers, but we are still looking for more volunteers."

"But as the program gets more and more known, in the area of course, the numbers get higher and higher. As far as the extensive training, we have two types of volunteers at our tax sites here in Gulf County, there are greeters, and then there are tax preparers.

The Greeter's do have to complete two certification tests. They serve a very useful role because they're kind of "crowd control" you know when you have 10 people waiting on you, so they help with that. We are on an "appointment only" program. That makes a difference to make things go easier for us and the taxpayer.

The second type of volunteer is the tax preparer. Those that do that are Ms. Barbara Matthews and Ms. Carol Childress who are tax preparer volunteers this year.

As for the military personnel, I've got in Port Saint Joe a gentleman that is certified in the military and ,myself as well, the two of us, can do military tax returns, we must have two people because we don't have just one person do a return-one person prepares it and another person reviews it and that's why if I make an error, or a data problem they'll catch it and then when I print it, I might catch something also. That's kind of how it works, we always must have two people, especially for military tax returns."

What kind of I.D. must someone show to the tax preparer? "Yes, they will need two forms of I.D., a picture I.D. and their social Security card for everybody on the return, including the dependents (for military dependents as well) for us to operate as a free site we have to do an Identity check."

How does a Taxpayer contact you? "Let me give you the phone number for appointments. Sometimes taxpayers do have a difficult time going online and making their appointment themselves, or they just rather talk to somebody, and they would call our tax site cell phone, and that number is 850-227-8737. They should leave a message because we are typically with taxpayers and cannot pick up the phone. They should also leave a message with their name and number, and someone will get back with them typically within a day or two."

Thank you for the Interview Ms. Hall.

Wewa RV Park & Trading Post

Dry Old Growth Cypress

Slabs for Sale

I buy Cypress -See Bob Sutton

(850) 639-5721

First Baptist Church of Wewahitchka The Old Makes Room For The New!

by Tom Wynn



West Arm Creek bridge just north of the sweetest little city in Florida was the beginning of what we call today Wewa. It was first named "NEW EDEN". Just to the right before you get to the bridge is Jehu Cemetery Road, as you come around the road on the right (having been organized about 1840), the First Baptist Church of Wewahitchka was built by the

pioneers who settled here back in the beginning of Florida. A Methodist Church was first, then came First Baptist Church. That building was later moved to Highway 71 across from what is "The Subway" restaurant today having been moved by giant trees as used for rollers, with oxen and horses, then turned to face the highway. Again, later it was turned sideways facing Church Street and new construction was attached to it.

As of this week, the FBC tore down the old building in the back due to Hurricane Michael damage, with plans to build anew. I was there to capture a few pictures of the event. Brother Mike Stroud was the team leader in its safe removal. They saved several pieces for historical reasons and other pieces of wood for reuse. It was an amazing event to see. I was thankful I was there for this historical event in Wewa.

For those that remember Bo John Lester and where his house is still standing on Jehu Road-that is the very spot where the original First Baptist Church stood. Later in 1891, the church building was moved to its present location today on highway 71. The Deacons (Trustees) E.Z. Taylor, Dawson Stone, and N.A. Connell were listed in the original deed. I love Wewa history as you all know by



now. So, this was a nice treat for me. Brother Mike loves to work on the Baptist Church and thus knows nearly every inch of the old parts. Our First Baptist Church is one of the oldest in the State. In the early years of Wewa life, preachers would come down from our neighbors in the north end of the county (We were part of Calhoun County back then, prior to 1925) from Blountstown and from the South, Apalachicola as well. They were known as Circuit Preachers back in the day, traveling to areas that had no preachers or pastors or church buildings, remember this is in the early pioneer days of Florida. These preachers traveled through the woods on dirt roads and trails with swamps, bugs, snakes as well as bears and Indians. No telling what else all in the name of the Lord to share the gospel ministering to anyone that came to the

meetings. In June 1996, the church called Brother Mike Stroud as pastor, with his lovely wife Sister Robin and so he is the present Pastor today. At that time in history, I reported Brother Mike's arrival in the old Wewa News in the mid 1990's. I found the article when I was reading through the old Wewa News newspapers, a few months back.

NEW EMERGENCY RADIO ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED-COME JOIN US. ANYONE CAN!

by Tom Wynn

A group of worried locals have decided to create a new organization to make sure we have emergency communications in our area of the Panhandle. From the Sheriff's office to go as far as they can up Hwy 71 North.

They are seeking individuals to have a family radio for emergency comms about every 15 miles along Hwy 71, for those of us that live in hurricane country. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact: **Mr. Dudley Balmer at: 317-379-1644.**

They will create a 501-3c organization that would be ready for the next major event, having radio communications between each other and be able to relay up and down highway 71 as far as Blountstown by volunteers along the route, to get emergency services, passing important information up and down the Highway to our neighbors, if power and cell phone services fails. Your cost would be \$160 dollars for the radio and antenna in total. It would be powered by a 12v battery, it could be used in your house or in a car or truck etc. The license from the U.S. Government would cost \$35 dollars for the whole household (including children) and can be bought online at Amazon.com through a company called "GMRS RADIO SERVICE". Model: DB25-G Radioddity from Amazon.com (Radioddity email address: www.radioddity.com) TW

HIGHLAND FINANCE

MICAH HENDERSON

INSURANCE & RETIREMENT PLANNING

LIFE HEALTH HOMEOWNERS
MEDICARE LONG TERM CARE ANNUITIES

CELL 8503595989 8503784480 FAX

MICAH@HIGHLANDFINANCEFL.COM

WWW.HIGHLAND.FINANCE

Larry's
Shed Moving
Building Transport
 DELIVERY & SET-UP
(850) 522-9936
 PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

BURRIE'S PRIDE

A STORY OF A LOCAL VETERAN THAT IS LONG OVERDUE!

Steve and Debra Miller (written in 1999)

Franklin B. Sammons will be 90 years old this October 21st, 1999. In his lifetime he fought in war, married his beautiful, sweet Louise, owned and ran a drug store and a hunting lodge. And put in and worked on air conditioners in three surrounding counties.

He and Louise never had children. She died about 11 years ago. You can tell in his eyes that he still misses her. He is now in a local nursing home. Everyone there is amazed at his memory and health. He takes only one vitamin today and can quote poetry he remembered in grade school.

The reason I am writing this is that I would like everyone to know this beautiful, heart touching story.

Last year, at about the same time, my husband and I asked Mr. Sammons what he wanted to do on his birthday. He asked us to take him to see the movie Saving Private Ryan. I told him that I had heard that the movie was very graphic and realistic. "He told me I was there."

I know what it is, what it was like. So, my husband and I took him one evening and watched it. The theater was not full because the movie had been out for a while. There were only a few older couples and a few men sitting with caps on what looked like they had military insignias on them.

This was the hardest movie to watch, and I fought back tears through the whole thing. The movie was ending with the American flag blowing in the wind. Everyone was silent as they gathered up belongings to leave.

Mr. Sammons was the first up, pulling himself up and shaking. He quoted the poem "In Flanders Fields", word for word and loud enough so everyone could hear.

My heart burst. I don't think there was a dry eye coming out of that theater. That night changed the way I looked at "Burrie" Sammons. He did and said something that was in all our hearts, but we suppressed the thoughts and feelings. We know of a lot of men who fought and died in that war. It makes us proud to know Mr. Sammons and love him.

He is a fine, strong and brave soldier that still has love and pride in his country. As we all should have. "Burrie" is one of the three greatest heroes we know that fought in that war. The other two are Henry M. Miller, Sr. (in loving memory, my dad), and Shyne B. Marley. They all served in the United States Navy. We love you! God Bless them and keep them all. Close to his Heart. Steve & Debra Miller
Residence of The Wewa area.

WWJD

Submitted by Uncle Dave Hodsdon
Member of Team Chipola

Most people assume WWJD is for "what would Jesus do quote?" But could the initials really stand for what would Jesus' drive? One theory is that Jesus would tool around in an old Plymouth because the Bible says, "**God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden in a fury.**"

But in Psalms 83, The Almighty clearly owns a Pontiac and a Geo. The passage urges the Lord to "**pursue your enemies with your Tempest and terrify them with your Storm.**"

Perhaps God favors Dodge pickup trucks, because Moses' followers are warned not to go up a mountain,
"**Until the Rams horn sounds a long blast.**"

Some scholars insist that Jesus drove a Honda but didn't like to talk about it. As proof, they cite a verse in St. John's gospel where Jesus tells the crowd, "**For I did not speak of my own Accord...**"

Meanwhile, Moses rode an old British motorcycle, as evidenced by a Bible passage declaring that,
"**The roar of Moses' Triumph is heard in the hills.**"

Joshua drove a Triumph Sports car with a hole in its muffler:
"**Joshua's trump Triumph was heard throughout the land.**"

And, following the master's lead, the Apostles carpooled in a Honda... "**The Apostles were in one Accord.**" !!!(Must have been a Station Wagon)

MILLER'S

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

"Your Local AC Company"

(850) 639-3319 812 Hwy 22 WEWA Florida

"For all your Air Conditioning needs!"

"WE DO OUR BEST TO KEEP YOU COOL"

TAUNTON FAMILY HOME

For Sponsorship Opportunities Call

Diana Taunton Miller 850-819-0451

**THE DEAD LAKES RV PARK AND THE DEAD
LAKES PRO TACKLE SHOP HAS GRAND
OPENING!**

A DADDY DOC JOKE

Roses are red

Violets are blueish

If it was not for Christmas

We all would be Jewish!

How Weather Affects Citrus and Other Dooryard Fruit Varieties

by Ray Bodrey

Gulf County Extension Director, UF/IFAS

The weather is the most important factor determining where certain fruits can be successfully grown. Terms such as chilling requirement and cold hardiness play a major role in both species and variety selection.

Most fruits which grow in the Panhandle are deciduous, meaning that during the winter, they lose their leaves and go through a semi to full dormancy period. This period is a much-needed rest and reset for the plant. The cool season actually helps the plant to rebound for another fruiting season and affects how well the plant will yield fruit. This is where the term “chilling hours” comes into play.

Temperatures below 45 degrees Fahrenheit are considered “chilling”. The number of hours below 45 degrees accumulated throughout the winter determines the total number of chilling hours. Different species of citrus and dooryard fruit, along with different cultivars of these plants differ in the number of chilling hours needed for that all important rest/reset period. Satsuma is a popular fruit tree in our area, as it is by far the most cold hardy citrus. Evidence suggests that the satsuma can survive a temperature as low as 14 degrees Fahrenheit.

Mature Satsumas Ready For Harvest

What happens if the plant doesn’t receive the needed number of chilling hours? Plant hormones can be disrupted, and both leafing and blooming could be light and occur outside of the normal range of the season. So, where do we stand in the Panhandle for overall chilling hours? Typically, we see approximately 500 chilling hours. Therefore, it is best to plant citrus and dooryard fruit that have the characteristic of needing 500 or less hours for chilling. Please see this informative document on citrus and dooryard fruit varieties: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/MG248> Now, on to the term cold hardiness. By definition, this is the plant’s ability to withstand cool season temperatures without injury. Most tropical fruits cannot tolerate our Panhandle temperatures. Those of us that cut back banana trees every year know this all too well, our hardiness zone is either 8b/9a, depending on your location within the county. To check your plant hardiness zone, please see the

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map:
<https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>

COMFORTER FUNERAL HOME

JARED “TATER” WHITEHEAD
OWNER/LFD

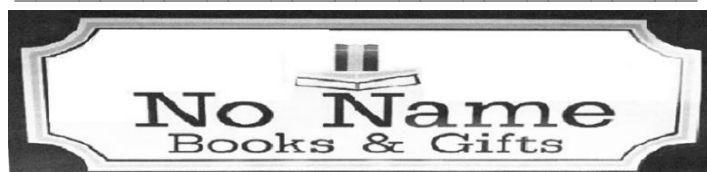
601 Long Ave. Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

“If you need us, call us, we are here to help!”

Call 850-227-1818

ComforterFH@gmail.com

www.ComforterFuneralHome.com



850-229-9277

LOCATED AT 325 REID AVENUE
PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456

GET YOUR COPY OF TOM WYNN’S LATEST BOOK “THE RESCUE OF A LIFETIME” AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHER LOCAL WRITERS.

SUBWAY

COME DINE WITH US!

We are located at 507 South Hwy 71
in Wewa Open: 7:30am to 8:30pm daily Call (850)
639-4100 Dine in or pick up at our Drive-up
Window

Bring your Family!

IN CASE YOU DIDN’T KNOW
IT’S THE LAW!

In Hagens v. Lavine 415 U.S. 533, note 3
Once Jurisdiction is challenged it must be proven.

NEVER STOP LEARNING BECAUSE LIFE NEVER STOPS
TEACHING! Proverbs 1:8-9

Hear, my son, your father’s instruction
And do not forsake your mother’s teaching;
Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head
And ornaments about your neck.

DEUTERONOMY 31:8

THE SHRIMP LADY

CALL (850) 866-8520

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



LOCAL BEEKEEPERS & HONEY SUPPLIERS

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

CALL 911 in Case of All Emergencies

GULF CO. SHERIFF'S PSJ OFFICE.....(850) 227-1115
GULF CO. SHERIFF'S WEWA OFFICE.....(850) 639-5717
AUTO DETAILING-Dakota Ake.....(727) 916-1423
BACKSTREET MOTORS.....(850) 568-1174
BAYSIDE FLOORIST.....(850) 229-1111
BAY PROPERTIES Kathe Jones.....(850) 247-9131
BOHO 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-Joesph & Steven.....(850) 247-7176
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE-Joe.....(850) 227-1223
CHARLIE PETTIS PEST CONTROL.....(850) 381-2942
COMFORTER FUNERAL HOME.....(850) 227-1818
DOMINO'S PAINT & BODY.....(850) 340-0953
FISHER'S BUILDING SUPPLY Peggy.....(850) 639-5102
GASKIN-GRADDY INSURANCE(850) 639-5077
GULF COUNTY REALTY-Abby.....(850) 819-0401
GRACELAND PORTABLE-Jodi Rustin.....(850) 481-0855
GRI BAY PROPERTIES-Kathe Jones.....(850) 247-9131
HAROLD RV AND GOLF CART REPAIR.....(850) 943-5118
HARVELL'S RAGIN CAJUN.....(850) 247-0575
HEAVEN SENT WEWA INC.....(850) 294-7839
HIGHLAND INSURANCE.....(850) 359-5989
HIGHWAY 22 STORAGE-Betty.....(850) 227-8384
HONEY HOL RESTAURANT.....(850) 639-1009
LARRY'S SHEDS.....(850) 522-9936
MAYHANN'S USED CARS-Charles.....(850) 819-1136
MILLER'S HEATING & AIR-Jason.....(850) 639-3319
NEW HORIZON PRIMARY CARE-Amy.....(850) 227-9220
NO NAME BOOK STORE.....(850) 229-9277
RAMSEY'S OFFICE SUPPLY-David.....(850) 227-7468
SHRIMP LADY-Paula.....(850) 866-8520
SOUTHERN STYLES HAIR CARE.....(850) 381-6454
SUBWAY-Mike.....(850) 639-4100
ST. JOE LIBRARY-Mimi Minnick.....(850) 229-8879
TAUNTON BUILDING SUPPLY-Adam.....(850) 639-2336
THE WEWA HISTORICAL Society-Ann.....(850) 867-5970
THE WEWA NEWS-Tom.....(850) 404-2914
TUPELO NUTRITION.....(850) 639-1007
WEWA CITY HALL.....(850) 639-2605
WEWA LIBRARY-Joyelle.....(850) 639-2419
WEWA RV PARK-Bob.....(850) 639-5721

THE WEWA NEWS NEWSPAPER©™

Kathe Jones

Broker/Owner

GRI Bay Properties Real Estate Group, LLC

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

BUY OR SALE REAL ESTATE

COME JOIN US – BUSINESSES OR INDIVIDUALS

GRACELAND

PORTABLE BUILDINGS OF WEWA

See Jodi Rustin- Sales Hwy 71 In Wewa

We will be selling The Wewa Historical Society
Afghans and Tupelo Honey soon. Come check us
out! Call 850-481-0855

GRACELAND PORTABLE BUILDINGS OF WEWA - Sales on
Hwy 71 In Wewa. We will be selling The Wewa Historical Society
Afghans and Tupelo Honey soon. Come check us out!

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice

Copyright 2022 The Wewa News/Thomas William Wynn
Junior All rights reserved. This material may not be published,
broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed without the expressed
consent of the above.

INFORMATIONAL NOTICES

The Wewa News is a locally owned and operated local 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.

Notice: The Wewa News operates in the Private, freedom of
speech and of the Press are fundamental to our effort of expression,
as well as God given rights as men and women on the land called
Florida. I am moving the publishing day to the 7th of the
month, so be looking for paper at the local spots on the 7th
of after.

Up Coming Events and Other: Mark Your Calendars

The Local Bee Association meets at 6pm in the Gulf County Extension
Agents meeting room.

The Friends of the Wewa Library meets at the Wewa Library on the
2nd Thursday of each month, 9:30 AM. Come early and meet and greet
with us in the conference room.

Wewahitchka Historical Society meets every month on the second
Thursday at 6pm at the old Corner Café' building.

Contact us: thewewanews2021@gmail.com

Our Website to see pass issues and the latest issues
as well: google: the.wewa.news