

THE WEWA NEWS

A FREE MONTHLY ISSUE-PLEASE TAKE ONE!

VOL. 1, NO. 07

DATE: MAY 1996

A Publication of Wynn's Enterprizes, Gulf County Florida, P.O. Box 518, 639-2528

Serving: Wewahitchka, Honeyville, Dalkeith, Stonemill Creek, Kinard Area's

THE CITY OF WEWA IN GOOD FINANCIAL SHAPE!

By: Tom Wynn

During the April 22nd meeting of the City Commissioners a **Mid-year** financial statement was discussed and issued to the public. The statement gave good news. The City of Wewahitchka has over **half a million dollars in the bank in CD's and over \$104,000 in General funds, Water and Sewer funds, in ready cash.** All this money is collecting over \$30,000 interest for the tax payers of Wewahitchka.

According to the Board, the city is in very good condition and will continue to improve in the future. Anyone interested in the details may get a copy of the statement at the city hall between 7am and 4pm.

(SEE PAGE 8 CITY MINUTES FOR MORE DETAILS)

Little League Cookie Drive still on the Go!

By: Pam Harden

The Little League Association is still selling cookies. The cost of the cookies are \$2.00 a box or \$1.00 a bag. Please support our youth by purchasing from them. We appreciate all the support we have received thus far from our community.

There are still plenty of cookies left to buy so please feel free to stop by the City Hall and see me "The Cookie Monster" Pam Harden, the M.I.C. (Mom in charge) of the Cookies. I can be reached at 639-2065. We need your support!

Williams Announces for Sheriff

Jimmy Williams announced in April that he will be a candidate for Sheriff of Gulf County.

Williams said he was encouraged with the tremendous outpouring of support and the encouragement he has received from the citizens of Wewahitchka and Gulf county. Williams was born and raised in Port St. Joe. He began his law enforcement career in Gulf County with the Sheriff's Auxiliary. (see Williams page8)

Wewa/Panama City Phone Exchange Update!

By: Abel Price

The latest Information received from the Florida Public Service Commission is that the Wewa/Panama City phone exchange flat rate was approved on April 16, 1996. The implementation of this service could take up to 12 months.

THE CITY COMMISSIONERS WANT HOUSE NO. DISPLAYED!

During the April 8th meeting of the Wewahitchka Commissioners, Commissioner Phillip Gaskins displayed a great concern because a large part of our citizens have not complied with the 911 system by placing house numbers on their homes in Wewa. He stated that the Senior citizens that are not able to do the work could call the City Manager, Mr. Don Minchew for city assistance. (see House page 6)

"COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SET MEETING UP IN WEWA TO DISCUSS DEAD HEADING WITH PUBLIC"

During the County Commissioners meeting held on the 23rd of April the Chairman of the Board Billy Traylor, announced that there would be a meeting in the upper room of the Wewa Court House on the 7th of May at 7:00 pm CST for the citizens of Wewahitchka to discuss "dead heading" with state officials.

Commissioner Traylor is in support of dead heading in our county and knows how important it is to our economic condition. Many citizens of our county depend on this process for their livelihood.

NEW ASPHALT PLANT NORTH OF WEWA!

In recent weeks Panhandle Grading and Paving, Inc. of Pensacola has been building a new Asphalt plant approximately 5 miles north of Wewahitchka. The plant will meet all FDOT specifications, including lab and testing equipment. David Kennedy of Preble-Rish, Inc. will make visits to the construction site to do the inspections according to a county source. The plant will supply needed asphalt for the Gulf County 1995 Road Bond project which is presently in the works.

MAYOR DICKENS RUNS FOR DISTRICT 1

I, Ray Dickens of Wewahitchka, Florida wish to announce my intent to run for the office of County Commissioner of Gulf County, District 1.

I have been honored and blessed to serve the people of Wewahitchka as their Mayor for eleven years and also to serve as a City Commissioner for five years prior to my term as Mayor.

(see Mayor page 6)

CHIPPER WADE PASSED THE TEST!

Chipper Wade, one of the city workers, has passed the Waste Water Treatment Class C Operators Exam according to Commissioner Tony Justice during the April 22nd meeting of the Board.

Because of the new qualification as a class C operator, Chipper will receive an increase in pay and be reimbursed for his expenses with the exception of the retest fee.

Congratulations Chipper for a job well done!

Kinard Homecoming

On Saturday the 4th of May at the Kinard Community Center the folks in Kinard are having their annual homecoming. There will be plenty of live entertainment. Everyone please bring your old time photos, lawn chairs and a well stocked basket and tea to share. Lunch will be served at high noon. All starts at 10:00 am CST until everyone is worn out from talking, so come and enjoy the day!

JAMES E. LESTER JR.

WILL RUN FOR PROPERTY APPRAISER OF GULF COUNTY

Mr. Lester is better known in Gulf County as "Jamie". Jamie and his family, Robin and 10 month old son Trey, are part of 5 generations from Gulf County. This includes his father James E. "BoJohn" Lester, of Wewahitchka, and his mother Joyce D. Wynn, of Port St. Joe.

Since graduating from Wewahitchka High School, he has earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration, Bachelor Degree in Public Administration, and is also a State Certified Residential Appraiser and licensed Florida Real Estate Broker. (see Lester page 5)

MARY ELLEN GORTMAN RUNS FOR COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT ONE!

Mrs. Gortman, with great enthusiasm, announces her candidacy to run for District one County Commissioner.

During an interview with "The Wewa News" Mary stated that being a County Commissioner involves being able to, "inform, listen and understand the needs of the people." She stated that announcing is the best way to start off a good and honest campaign "The people need to know what is going on in our county", she continued.

(see Gortman page 8)



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**Latest News on Rewrite of City
Charter**

The City Commissioners appointed additional members to the Review & Rewrite committee during the last Board meeting that was held the 22nd of April.

The Board appointed 7 members to the committee that will be headed up by Mr. Ralph Fisher. The committee will review our very old and out dated city charter and write recommendations for the city commissioners to finalize before the completed new charter goes on the ballot for the Citizens of Wewahitchka to vote on.

The other members of the charter committee are: Mr. Tom Wynn, Mr. Terry Linton, Mr. Ernest Harden, Mr. Jerry Gaskins, Mr. Joe Sinclair, and Mrs. Debbie Baxley. All of the members will receive a package containing charters of Florida cities of the same approximate size of Wewahitchka and our present city charter to review.



"The Honor Roll"

A section of "The Wewa News" featuring local citizens that demonstrate a life of service to their community and family.

Virginia Ann Matlock is on "The Honor Roll" for May 1996.

Mrs. Virginia Ann Stroud Matlock, better known as Ms. Ann was born in Gilbertown Alabama on the 10th of January. Her parents, Oscar and Hazel Stroud operated a small store in Dalkeith since their retirement in 1974.

Ms. Ann studied mathematics and received her degree from the University of Montevallo in Montevallo, Alabama in June of 1956.

She married Mr. Len Matlock in June of 1956 and had two children, George and Len III, who graduated from Wewahitchka High School in 1975 and 1978, respectively.

Ms. Ann is a christian mother and has worked as a substitute teacher, health care provider, and is presently one of the Wewahitchka Librarians. She has also been a civic leader in our community and is a member of the Wewahitchka Women's club.

Mrs. Matlock in her younger days was a life guard, Red Cross Instructor, Musician and a Sunday School teacher.

Ms. Ann seems to always have a smiling face. She has a great sense of humor, is kind and has the patience of a saint. She is always calm and willing to help others during their time of need. She shows christian love everyday. Her friends admire her and feel blessed to be called her friend.

God bless you Ms. Ann Matlock and please continue the service you provide to our community, your church and family. We love you too!



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(page 2)



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**Design and Drafting Company Puts
Dreams On Paper**

By: Tom Wynn

Kay Millirons puts dreams down on paper. Kay is owner of Residential Design and Drafting, Inc. in Wewahitchka, Florida. She works with her customers to create the beautiful home they envision. Kay designs about 200 homes a year. The smallest house she has designed measured 1,000 square feet while the largest was 8,600 square feet.

While listening to the requests of her customers, Kay also keeps updated on the latest style trends and creates a few of her own. "Round columns, large glass sliding doors and high flat ceilings are popular today," she said. Florida Residents especially care about the size and location of the kitchen, master bedroom and family room. His and her vanities are popular as well as separate closets. On the higher end of the scale people want his and her bathrooms also.

Millirons is certified by the American Institute of Building Design, a national organization. She has won several state-wide contests over the years.

Her business is located at 108 N. Main St. in Wewahitchka, she is open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**THE WEWA NEWS IS GROWING
RAPIDLY!**

The Wewa News has spread to Dalkeith and to Scotts Ferry in the past few weeks. So look for it in your local stores. If you would like The Wewa News mailed to your home, office, or relative send check(s) payable to: Wynn's Enterprises, for \$15.00 plus state sales tax for a 1 year Subscription. Enclose the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the person receiving the subscription please.

Terry and Susan do custom woodworking and hand painting. Terry can work with all kinds of woods and Susan is a fine craftsman in her own right. So please feel free to come in and visit, **"THE WOOD SHOP ON THE CORNER."** Located at Overstreet road and Highway 71 between the hours of 9 to 5, Monday thru Friday and 9 to 2 on Saturdays. Custom work by *arrangement*.



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GULF COAST ELECTRIC CO-OP HELD IT'S 48TH ANNUAL MEETING!

Saturday the 13th of April was a hot day for those candidates running for office of the Board of Directors. All in suit & tie asking the members of the co-op to vote for them.

Members came out in what Roy Barnes called a record turnout to cast their vote and eat plenty of food and win what seemed to be, countless prizes. Junior Strange displayed lightening protection devices that the co-op sells to its members to reduce the damage of lightening on home electrical, cable and telephone systems.

Mr. L. L. Lanier and Eddie Jones both won their bid for the Board of Trustees. Congratulations to the both of them. Please continue to reduce our power bills and increase service to the members of the Co-op.

AREA ATTORNEYS VOLUNTEER SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

Applebaum, Shuler, Daigle, and Cothran is not the name of a new, local law firm. However, the names are those of area Attorneys who volunteered their time and expertise on the 12th of April for the **Judgment Collection Workshop**, organized by Gulf County Judge Bob Moore.

Each Attorney spoke on a topic related to the process of collection of a final Judgment in relation to creditors trying to collect debt owed to them legally.

Attorney Steven Applebaum, whose office is at Panama City Beach, provided information about properly establishing the Judgment to create a lien on the debtors property. Attorney Michael Shuler, a partner in the firm of Shuler and Shuler of Apalachicola, discussed both the informal and formal discovery techniques. Attorney Robert Daigle, the managing attorney for North Florida Legal Services in Panama City, spoke on debtor exemptions. Attorney Monica Cothran, a partner in the firm of Davenport, James and Cothran of Panama City, discussed the procedures for levy and garnishment.

Judge Bob Moore commented the audience had many questions and seemed to enjoy the presentations. The audience was comprised of representatives of business and individuals from through-out Gulf County.

NOTICE FROM SCHOOL BOARD

The Wewahitchka Schools will dismiss early on the following dates:

May 7, 8, and 16, 1996

11:40.....Wewa Elementary

11:50.....Wewa High School

Lunch will be served on each of the above days.

May Scheduled events:

9-10th Senior Exams (tentatively)

12th Baccalaureate- 8:00 pm CT

17th Graduation- 7:00 pm CT

23th Students' last day

27th Teachers' last day

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Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5, 6

(PAGE 3)

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The Meanest Mother In The World!

I had the meanest Mother in the world. While other kids had candy for breakfast, I had to eat cereal, eggs, and toast. While other kids had cokes and chips for lunch, I had a sandwich. And as you can guess, my dinner was different too.

My Mother also insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You would think we were on a chain gang or something. She had to know who our friends were and what we were doing.

I am ashamed to admit it, but she actually had the nerve to break the child labor law. She made us work! We had to wash dishes, make beds, and learn how to cook. That woman must have stayed awake at night thinking up things for us kids to do. And she always insisted we tell the truth.

By the time we were teenagers, our life became more unbearable. None of this tooting the horn for us to come running; she embarrassed us to no end by insisting that the boys come to the door to get us. I forget to mention that most of our friends were allowed to date at the mature age of 12 or 13, but our old fashion Mother refused to let us date until we were 16.

She really raised a bunch of squares. None of us were ever arrested for shoplifting or busted for dope. And who do we have to thank for this? You're right, our mean Mother. I am trying to raise my children to stand a little straighter and taller, and I am secretly tickled to pieces when my children call me mean. I thank God for giving me the meanest Mother in the world. Our country doesn't need a good 5 cent cigar, it needs more mean Mothers like mine!

**Happy Mothers Day Mom,
Tracy Wynn Jackson**

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Mower Safety

By: Tom Wynn

It's that time of year again. So bring out your mowers and check the oil and battery water before you get started. Although mowing a yard is not at the top of the hit parade of activities, it's a chore everyone must do. Thousands of people are injured, some fatally, each year in mowing accidents. The following are some safety tips for a safe and pleasurable mowing season:

1. Read your operator's manual and become familiar with your mowing machine and weed eater.
2. Know the location and functions of each control. This may help you shut down fast in an emergency.
3. Make sure safety devices, such as guards, shields and switches are in place and are in working order.
4. Before adding fuel, let the mower cool down. Always add fuel outdoors, never in a garage or a shed. Gas fumes are heavier than air and could explode.
5. Inspect your lawn for anything that can be thrown by the mower, causing damage or injury.
6. Do not mow in areas where people, especially children, are.
7. Stop the blades, then the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before you put your hands or feet near the blades.

In addition to the above tips, for riding lawn mowers consider:

1. Never carry passengers.
2. Always look behind the mower before you back up.
3. Mow up and down instead of across slopes. This will reduce the chances of the mower tipping over.
4. When the mower stops going uphill, stop the blade and slowly back down. Never back riding lawn mowers with the blade turning.
5. Remove the key when you leave the mower. Children could start your mower and cause injury to themselves or others.

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ASK ABOUT OUR FIELD
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM!

GULF C. I. EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY!

By: Abel Price

On April 20th, Gulf C. I. held an employee appreciation day at the Wewa Dead Lake State Park. The event included clowns, games, pirates and delicious food of all sorts. During the event a number of employees were commended for a job well done. Among them was James McCorvey from Wewa who received the Gulf C. I. "Officer of the Year Award" and Darlene Smith from Port St. Joe received the Gulf C. I. "Employee of the Year Award".

"Quality is Contagious"

FREE MEDICINE!

If you or someone you love is 55 years old or older and have high blood pressure and high cholesterol, you or they may qualify for free medicine and treatment for the next 8 years. For more information about Allhat (Anti hypertensive, Antipid treatment to prevent heart attack trail) please call: Dr. Misal Khan at Springfield Medical Center 904-785-9511 ask for Deana.

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(PAGE 4)

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"Locally Owned and Operated"

LESTER (from page 1)

Along with his education he has gained extensive experience in real estate property matters, budgeting, and personnel management. His experience includes working two and a half years in the Bay County Property Appraisers Office, plus being part owner in a real estate tax consulting firm, where Mr. Lester fought on the side of the property owner for lower property valuations.

Currently, Mr. Lester is working with PBS&J Inc. as a Real Estate Specialist and is a Real Estate Appraiser, appraising property in Gulf County for individuals and several financial institutions.

Mr. Lester has fought against higher property values, higher taxes, and the bureaucracy that has not been fair. He is on the same side as the property owner. He wants to put understanding, fairness, knowledge, friendliness, back in the hands of the people, and be a fighter against the bureaucracy of the State.

By electing him as property appraiser he will be that voice that stands behind the people of the county, because they are the ones paying the taxes. Gulf County needs one of its own, someone like him that grew up in Gulf County and now has experience and knowledge to help the people. This is evident in his character and personality.

Mr. Lester realizes that senior citizens have played an important role in our society and protecting their rights today ensures protection in the future. Once he is property appraiser he will strive to keep the public informed of laws that effect them and will stand firm in fighting those that try to take away home owners property rights and those that effect our businesses which create our local economy.

The people deserve someone that will stand up for them and work hard to protect their interest, along with being fair in valuing their property. Gulf County means a great deal to Mr. Lester because its his home county.

According to Mr. Lester, "Its not the beautiful rivers, beaches, or lakes that make Gulf County so great, its the people."

MARRIAGE AT LAST!

Raymond Joe Horne and Betty Ann Yon finally tied the knot! On March 1, 1996 at the home of Pat and Mike Stripling they made their vows to each other. Pat performed the ceremony. Congratulations Betty and Joe. You're the Best!

SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEEDS CONTRIBUTIONS!

The Gulf County Scholarship Committee has announced that it will launch no formal fund drive at this time due to the mill shutdown and to lingering effects from Hurricane Opal.

Contributions, however, are welcomed at any time. Those wishing to do so may send their tax-deductible donations to this address: Gulf County Scholarship Trust

P. O. Box 1094 Port St. Joe, Fl. 32456

A new fund raising campaign will get underway in the fall. Plans call for the establishment of a Scholarship Bank Draft program. At that time, other options will be considered to add to the fund balance.

Information about the scholarship program can be obtained from the above address or call the Gulf Co. school Board office at 229-8256 or 639-2871.

Wewa Liberians Choice of the Month

639-2419 Hours: Monday/ Friday 12:00-5:00 p.m.

If you want to register to vote, we have the forms available.

Fiction

Moonlight Becomes You by Mary Higgins Clark

Spring Collection by Judy Krantz

Videos for Children

•Animals of the Rainforest

•People of the Rainforest

•Plants of the Rainforest

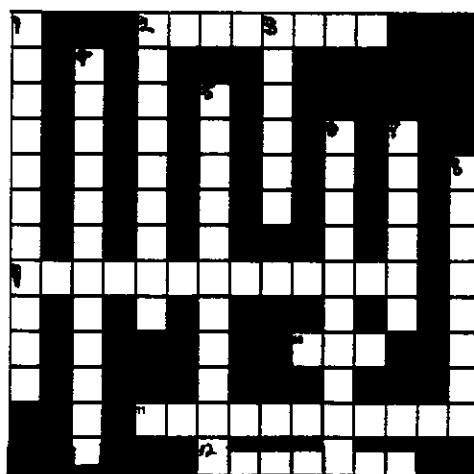
Non-Fiction

Looking For A Miracle by Joe Nickell

Gospel Fictions by Randel Kelms

Ann Matlock says, "Please come by and visit your public library!"

PUZZLE FUN!



ACROSS

2. Read all over
9. Double Ponds
10. Higher Learning
11. Lindsey Carter
12. A Restaurant

(Answers on page 6)

DOWN

1. A Founding Father
2. Wewahitchka
3. A Commissioner
4. Howie's
5. Teachers of the Year
6. Sticky but sweet
7. City in Texas
8. Still Waters

(PAGE 5)

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Owner Mary Ellen Gortman

"IN YOUR HEART MAY THERE BE A SONG"

By: Tom Harrell

The nineties are here so let's greet them tenderly, let's be nice to everyone and be kind to the one named "me". Just a little smile means so much for someone each day, and a tender hello in a soft spoken way.

If we all gave a smile to a stranger on the street, then soon we'd smile at everyone we meet. Just think a moment what a happier world this would be, and by making this a habit, a change in your life you'd see.

Life is just what we make it so let's always aim high, and stick to that aim soon disappointment will fly. When you hear that saying "the best things in life are free", there is so much truth in it, just look around and see.

So let's say hello dear nineties we're glad that you're here, may each day be your best and your heart be filled with cheer. God is with us all the way so how can we go wrong, and as you face tomorrow in your heart may there be a song.

(Tom Harrell lives in Millerlgren's Retirement Home in Wewa and is in a wheel chair)

Wewa Tee-Ball

April 27, 1996 - End of Season Party

Teams - •Boiler Makers•Whitfield Timber
•Whitfield Timber•Preble & Rish•B & B Feed
•Fleming•Cypress Photography•Wewa State Bank•Dixie Dandy

All Players received trophies, Coaches and assistant coaches received plaques, Team mothers received a rose bud and vase, and Sponsors received plaques in appreciation for supporting our kids. The kids had a picnic afterwards with pizza, drinks and cake.

It took a lot of team effort to make the Tee-Ball season a great success, thanks to all the officers, sponsors, coaches, assistant coaches, team mothers and others who made it possible, "We appreciate you Wewa Tee-Ball kids!"

Officers

President- Terri Knowles

Vice President- Carolyn Ranie

Treasurer - Cheryl McNamera

Secretary - Sonja Pippin

MR. HUB NORRIS WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE GULF C. I. FOLKS FOR BUILDING THE PARK BENCHES.

House (from page 1)

The Board voted to give the residents of Wewa 60 days to comply with the 911 system or the city workers would post the numbers for them and charge the owner of the property. The Commissioners are worried that without the proper display of the house numbers, our citizens would be in danger of delayed response time in an emergency.

WEWAHITCHKA WOMAN'S CLUB THE EARLY DAYS (PART 3)

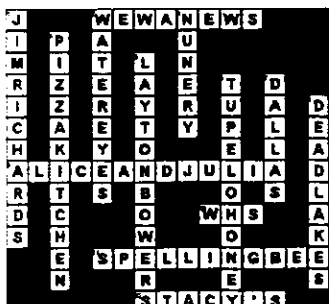
The establishment of a library in the community building was the big project in the thirties and through the efforts of Mrs. Irene Briscoe Britt as chairman, the club realized this ambitious project. Assistance was given by the County Commission and the WPA.

By 1939 membership had grown, the Woman's Club had a home, and it was on its way. Then tragedy struck. In 1942, fire destroyed the lovely log community clubhouse and the nation became involved in World War II. Only the piano, a few chairs, and two tables were saved from the fire. Over 3,000 books burned, as well as a valuable law library donated by Mr. A. W. Briscoe whose wife and daughter (Irene B. Britt) were members of the club. The building was insured for \$3,000 and the contents for \$1,000.

Meetings were then held in the homes of members until Mr. J. A. Whitfield loaned a room in his store building. It was large enough for dancing and recreational activities. The club members held their meetings there and involved themselves in selling War Bonds as well as other civic and war activities. The club sponsored Sunday invitational dinners for men in the nearby military bases.

During the war years, the club treasury was about depleted. Mrs. Irene Britt, daughter of Mrs. Briscoe, club president, tells this story:

"Things were so upset from war conditions and there was so much defense work being done that the club did well to have regular meetings. The club had no funds but was reluctant to give the go ahead for a play to be produced. My mother told the club that on a 'no risk, no gain' level, she would take the responsibility of the cost involved. She gave free room and board to the out-of-town lady who came in to direct the play using local talent." The play netted over one hundred dollars for the depleted treasury.



WEWA KIDS TO HONDURAS!

Editorial by: Rev. Michael Masse

On July 30th of this year 33 young people and seven adults from West Florida (5 youth and 2 adults from Wewa) will be going to Honduras on a one week mission trip.

The country of Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the western world and it is in great need of the Gospel message. We will be working with a missionary to plant a church in the city of San Pedro Sula. Prayerfully these young people will return to America with a greater understanding and appreciation as to what is truly important. Hopefully they will return with a greater appreciation for God, country, water, food, clean facilities, literacy, roads, and freedom. That is my prayer that they will see that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." Psalm 33:12 We covet your prayers and could use your support if you agree that this may be a workable solution to the growing problems with our youth and with our nation.

You often hear people say "The problem with young people now a days is that (fill in the blank)." Everyone seems to be able to point out the problem, which seems to be a built-in attribute to fallen man. What is needed along with recognizing the problem, is a workable solution.

It seems clear to me that the freedom and privileges we enjoy in America and in the developed western world is due to the liberation that the Gospel Of Jesus Christ brings to those that adhere to it. Could it be possible that if we were to take some of the young people in our community and bring them to a place where this Gospel has not been as received as it has in this U.S. of A., and expose them to a world where freedom is very limited and the multiple blessings are not so multiple that they may return home to a different America.

They may return to see the incredible investment that went into the making of so great a nation and perhaps they would hold more dearly the things that were treasured by those who fought to give us a land of freedom and liberty. A land where the message of God's love was received with open arms. I must admit that America is not that way today, but maybe our future leaders will work to restore that which we have let slip if they experience a place that lacks that freedom to proclaim that Jesus Saves.



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(Page 6)

"LET FREEDOM RING!"

Editorial by: James E. "Jamie" Lester

Prayer in Public Places

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." Matthew 6: 9-13. (KJV)

How great a prayer, only to have prayer banned from public schools and public places. In 1962 prayer was banned from school on the basis that it violated an individuals constitutional right on the grounds of separation of church and state.

I disagree with the Supreme Courts ruling, if I read the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution correctly, it states under the First Amendment, "Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abiding the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances".

This country was started based on the rights of religious freedom. This is proven all throughout our history and the word God, stands out greatly in our constitution. Even our money, "In God We Trust," is a prime example of our forefathers commitment in ensuring our religious freedom.

The Florida House of Representatives, just this past month, voted on a limited version to allow prayer in school. It will now go to the Florida Senate and then to the Governor to sign. I applaud this action, however, we can not think it should end here. We must continue to strive to ensure God's place in American lives by acting today instead of waiting until tomorrow. Waiting and not acting has caused us to be in this situation of not having the freedom to pray in public places on the grounds it may offend someone. How much more could a person be offended by hanging naked on a cross, like Jesus did?

In Wewa, it is great to see our own city and county leaders pray and pledge allegiance to our flag before each meeting. This is a good sign that lets others know our commitment to prayer is strong. This shows that our community is committed to those that support prayer.

The bible talks about putting on the Armor of God in Ephesians and goes further to discuss prayer in Ephesians 6:18. It says, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." God worked through the apostle Paul to give this message. Paul was on the same side as God and so should all who love God's word and prayer.

We must stand tall in protecting and uplifting prayer, because without prayer there is no faith, without faith there is no God. As Abraham Lincoln said, "My concern is not whether God is on our side; my great concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."

MAYOR (from page 1)

It has been a great experience for me during which I have learned many things about the operation of government. I believe this will aid you to check my record of service. This will aid you in making a choice for your Commissioner.

Your help, support and prayers will be greatly appreciated

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WEWAHITCHKA ELEMENTARY NEWS

By: Linda Whitfield

Early Dismissal

Due to teacher in service, school will be dismissed at 11:45 on the following days: May 7, 8, and 16th. Lunch and Breakfast will be served.

K.I.D.S.

KIDS is now accepting enrollees for their 3 and 4 year old (Pre-K) Early Intervention program, for the 1996-97 school year. For more information, please call 639-2959. Class enrollment is based on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Second Grade Skating

Teachers Tracy Bowers and April Bidwell and their students had a ball last week going skating. Sometimes that's the best kind of field trip, just relaxing and having fun.

Delegates

Attending the Representative Assembly of the FTP-NEA last weekend were teachers Debbie Cole, Natalie Wisdahl and Linda Whitfield.

During a creative writing assignment in first grade, Chris Rhames drew a picture of Jesus. When Miss Rhonda asked him about the picture, he said, "Jesus saves us from our sins." Then another student, Roy Suber, drew a red-headed man. On further inquiry, he told Miss Rhonda that it was Moses, and that "I think he's in the Bible, too."

Pepsi Winners

Winners are: K-3 Third Grades of Linda Whitfield, Randy Harper, and Marlene Whitfield. 4-6 Fifth Grades of Esther Taunton and Joe Walker. Other: CP classes tied with ESE and TEAM classes. So more congratulations to Kim Ludlam, Judi Lister, Doris Jean Whitten, Pam Sumner, Kim Whitfield, Renee Forehand, Diane Atchison, Lori Price, and Sue McDaniel.

Student of the Week

Billy Baker Rian Hall Tanisha Hellum
"STUDENT OF THE WEEK" WILL RECEIVE (1) MEDIUM PIZZA, AND (1) MOVIE RENTAL FROM THE PIZZA KITCHEN.

WEWAHITCHKA HIGH SCHOOL

BY: LARRY MATHES

Registration for next years classes went well, although some changes and adjustments might be necessary for the next year's schedule to fall into place. I hope everyone will cooperate and be patient as we make the transition to 4X4 Block scheduling.

Registration of ninth graders for next year is completed. Now we're tackling next years first master schedule, so if you try to talk to Mrs. Wooten and she looks kind of strange, give her a break. She's working hard to make some square pegs fit into some round holes.

Important note about school lunches - the layoff at St. Joe Forest Products and the corresponding reduced income may result in the temporary need for free or reduced lunches for some students.

Applications can be picked up at the schools. If you have questions call Temple Watson at 229-8256 or 639-2871.



The flu (and many allergies) is taking its toll on students and teachers alike. Substitutes are having to do "yeoman's duty" due to absences. Please remind your student that they must cooperate with subs just as they must with regular teachers. Many times some students think that substitutes have no authority, and it results in discipline problems that need to be avoided.

We talk about district tournaments all the time, and suddenly they're here. WHS hosted the district baseball, softball, and track during the April 22-26 time periods. Track was held at the PSJ track which is a little better equipped to handle a meet this size.

Gold Cards—parents, you may receive a request to donate to the Gold Card Club. Please give a cash gift to this club. Students who earn Gold Cards receive many benefits for earning this card, but it takes a lot of money to supply these benefits. Don't say, "Let someone else do it." Pitch in a little and help us continue this program. A little bit from a lot of people will help tremendously.

Just a reminder—Baccalaureate service is May 12, and Graduation is May 17.

We often miss chances to recognize students, so before I miss again I want to congratulate Jason Carter for being selected to represent WHS by the Optimist Club in their recent Oratorical Contest in Panama City. Competition from Panama City groups was tough, and although Jason didn't win he represented our school well and received many compliments on his speech. Maybe next year he'll make this experience work to his benefit.

Earth Day resulted in some much needed face-lifting to the front of WHS's grounds. A big thanks goes to Ms. Dickens and her class, Mr. Roy Carter, Mr. Oscar Redd, Mr. David Rich of IGA, the Louisiana-Pacific Company, and the Corrections people who assisted in the beautification project.

The Prom was a success, report cards have gone out, the end is in sight - but only "in light". It's not over yet, gang. Most students have a few weeks to go Don't quit now, when the last grades you make could be the ones that save you or sink you.

Gator softball hopes took a serious jolt when pitcher Thelma Bryant was injured in a serious auto accident. Her prom date Jeff Mullis was also seriously injured, and we are pulling for both to make complete recoveries from their injuries. Pitcher Ginny Hutchinson will step in and carry the pitching load.

State Track Meet

May 3 Univ. of Florida in Gainesville

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"I Wonder About"

By: Brandy Little

"I wonder about my Uncle Tommy (McGlon). I wonder if he is going to be OK. He has been in the hospital nursing home over a year. I wonder if he is thinking about Jill and me and the other part of my family. He got in a bad accident. He can not talk. He can only move his hands, squeeze his eyes, and others. This is how his accident happened. He was in Louisiana. My uncle was up there. A pipe came up and hit his head. Then he fell off the truck and messed up his head bad. My Aunt Tweeda is going to have her house fixed up so that he can come home. I'll be glad he is coming home."

Highlights from the Wewahitchka City Commission Meeting 8 APRIL 96

- House numbers- The board voted to give the citizens of Wewahitchka 60 days to have their new house numbers displayed. If numbers are not up, the City will put them up and charge the owner of the property. Senior Citizens who are unable to put their numbers up can call the city for assistance.
- Commissioner Jones expressed concern over the apparent lack of progress with the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation. Applicants are asking about the status of their homes. Mr. Minchew will call David Hines to get an update on this program.
- Mr. Ben Pridgeon asked the board to make a decision regarding his property on Hwy. 71 N. He asks that the City provide sewer service or allow him to put a septic tank in and be exempt from sewer service if it ever became available. After a lengthy discussion the City agreed to provide sewer service. The type of service will be determined when Mr. Pridgeon provides the City with a preliminary plat of his property.
- The board approved 2 variances to set-back lines requested by Mr. Will McLemore (Dixie Dandy.)
 - Variance to Conservation Set-Back Line- Remove old freezers and extend back wall 12 feet, to put new freezers in.
 - Variance to Minimum Front Set-Back Line- Remove gas pumps and install a canopy type of gas service in the front of building.
- Kelly Jo Bailey's probationary period ends on April 17, 1996. The board approved to make her a permanent employee.
- The Commission approved a proclamation petitioning the Gulf County Commission to up-grade the north end of the county's ambulance service. The proclamation reads:
Proclamation
 The City Commission of Wewahitchka Florida appreciate the dedication of the Wewahitchka Volunteer Ambulance Service, who have unselfishly given their time and effort to the people of North Gulf County. They have done an outstanding job as volunteers.
 However, when technology is available that could save lives, it should be available to all the people of our community. Advanced Life Support (ALS) is provided to the people of South Gulf County, we believe the people of North Gulf County should have this type of service also.
 Therefore, We the City Commission of Wewahitchka petition the Gulf County Commission to provide Advanced Life Support ambulance service to North Gulf County.
 Approved this 8th Day of April, 1996, by the Wewahitchka City Commission.
- The board would also like the 911 dispatchers to give names along with the address of people requesting the ambulance or fire dept. This would help improve the response time.
- The board approved a new payroll deduction policy for City Employees. Employees will be allowed to make changes to their deduction once a year during the month of April.
- The board approved the purchase of a light weight flip phone for the on-call person.
- Next City Commission Meeting will be held on April 22, 1996, 6:30 P.M. at City Hall. All citizens are invited to attend.

Highlights from the Wewahitchka City Commission Meeting 22 APRIL 96

- CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant- Mr. David Hines reported that a walk through of pre-approved contractors desiring to bid on the first four homes is scheduled for April 25th at 9:30 a.m. (CST). All bids are due by close of business on May 3, 1996. A special City Commission meeting will be held on May 6th, 6:30 p.m., to review and award contracts.
- The board received a petition from Mr. Ernest Harden and Mr. George Cox, requesting a land use change. They are petitioning to change approximately 8 acres on Hwy 71S from residential to mixed commercial / residential. A meeting of the Planning Development Review Board will be scheduled.
- A City Charter review committee has been formed to review and rewrite the City Charter. The following have been selected to serve on this committee: Ralph Fisher (Chairman), Tom Wynn, Jerry Gaskin, Debbie Baxley, Joe Sinclair, Terry Linton, and Ernest Harden.
- Harold Lester's 6 month probation ends April 30th, and was given permanent employee status. Congratulations Harold.
- Scholarship Awards- The board discussed the best method to award \$1,300.00 the City has for scholarships. It was determined that there will be 4 awards of \$250, and one award of \$300. Each commissioner and the Mayor will select a recipient.
- The mid-year City Financial report was presented. Commissioner Dallas Jones reported the City is in good shape. A copy of this easy to read report is available at City Hall.
- Revenue Year to Date \$444,167.28
Expense Year To Date \$339,159.00
Mid-Year Balance \$105,008.28
Savings/ Certificates of Deposit \$520,959.69
- Commissioner Tony Justice reported that Chipper Wade passed his Water Treatment Class C Operators exam. The Board agreed to give Mr. Wade an increase in pay.
- The City would like to purchase an ice machine. The City Manager will make preparations to advertise for bids.
- The board agreed to let the Wewahitchka VFW Post use the community building until a suitable facility could be found for their meetings.

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Williams (cont. form page 1)

During his career, he was in employment by the Mexico Beach Police Department. Williams' law enforcement career continued in the Franklin County Sheriff's Office where he has been employed for the past 18 years. During his employment he served as Chief Deputy (for the past 8 years), Chief Investigator of Criminal Investigations, was on the Big Bend Narcotics Task Force, and voted as a member to the Florida Intelligence Unit as well as the executive review committee. He also served with the Regional Organized Crime Information Center and was a member of the Florida Narcotics Officers' Association. He was selected as Law Officer of the Year in Franklin County. Williams was also the first canine officer serving with his partner "Amar" for over eight years. Williams is married to Jacque (Davis) Williams, formally of Wewahitchka. They have two children.
 He feels that he possesses the knowledge and leadership necessary to ensure the citizens of Gulf County receive the best law enforcement available.

Gortman (from page 1)

Gortman's Husband, Jimmy Gortman was County Commissioner before he passed away. "Jimmy was a good man and worked hard for this county. My campaign will be focused on my abilities to be a conservative, effective commissioner. In order to be a commissioner, one must be able to make sound decisions.

My work experience includes working in the Gulf County Courthouse as deputy clerk and I worked for the City of Wewahitchka as deputy Clerk, which both jobs gave me valuable experience and insight into the workings of Government. I have been a Business owner in Wewahitchka for the past 7 years. During those years, I have been very involved in community affairs and have served in leadership positions in the Chamber of Commerce, Secretary of the Northwest Florida Flora Assoc, Church Secretary of Glad Tidings Assembly of God Sunday School, Chairman of the Cancer Drive, and Hostess of the 1st Tupelo Festival.

I have lived all my life in Gulf County and graduated from Wewahitchka High School. I raised five children who also graduated from WHS. I care about the future of Gulf County and I would be honored to serve and represent you as County Commissioner of District One for the next four years.

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