

# THE WEWA

# NEWS™



AUGUST 2021 » Vol. 3 No. 006- 1 <<

A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER-Take One!

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## CITY OF WEWA 2020-21 BUDGET IS IN GOOD SHAPE!

by Tom Wynn

The City of Wewa is in good financial condition overall. The City Commission has reduced their budget down 6.8 percent from last year's total operating expenditures. The City took in over 2 million dollars in taxes and other revenue's total. See the City financial records on the City website.

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## THE GULF COUNTY COMMISSION VOTES 3 TO 2 FOR RV ORDINANCE

by Tom Wynn

The County Commission voted and passed an RV ordinance on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, after a long line of citizens gave their say, pro and con on the ordinance.

It does affect the use of RV's as full-time living housing, which they argued, for which, they are not intended. The Commission discussed the worries of continued use of RVs near the beach area, possibly causing damage to homes and business when hurricanes and storms come in tearing their roofs off and other parts into nearby homes and business, as well as cars and trucks, causing much damage. (Which occurred during hurricane Michael). Thus, approving an RV ordinance on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. Those that are living in RV's today are grandfathered in, but when they pass on, or sell their property, the ordinance will apply. How does it affect Wewahitchkans? TW

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**From the Auditors Report on The City of Wewa** Triumph Gulf Coast is the folks in charge of the BP oil spill grant money. So, it seems that they granted the City of Wewa some money out of the Spill money to help us in our time of need after Hurricane Michael. TW

## WEWAHITCHKA HISTORICAL GROUP NEWS

by Tom Wynn

*"Unearthing the past is one of the greatest joys of my life."* Samuel Hamilton Walker, Iola, Calhoun County, West Florida, Feb. 16, 1837

On July the 15<sup>th</sup>, the group met for their second meeting to discuss their latest finds as they dig into our local history. Mr. Billy Traylor gave updates on the old Gulf County courthouse condition, including the very poor shape of the old additional Jail on the backside of the building. They discussed going to the Iola grave sites to investigate their condition as well, finding their locations to restore what is there for future generations and to protect them using state laws. They agree to investigate marking them so no further damage could be done to them, by tree removal machines etc. Mr. Tom Wynn showed his 1948 fishing map that he had placed in a glass and wood protective frame (you can see it on display in the Wewa Library until a new Wewa Museum can be built. It will be donated to the Wewa Museum whenever that becomes possible). Also Mr. Wynn gave each person there a 1975 Vintage (50-year celebration) Postcard of the old courthouse as it looked in 1975.

The group decided their focus should be the Wewa area and the ghost towns of Iola (both sites) as well as Stone Mill Creek area. The air was filled with ideas, locations, and plans to dig into the history of our local area. The old courthouse, local cemeteries, family histories and talk of writing articles and digging into the past of how Wewa and the ghost towns of Iola, Stone Mill Creek area and other locations came about. Some members were unable to come due to a death in the family. Everyone was very excited about the organization and are hopeful that others will come join them. This part of Florida is the naval of this great state and is rich in historical value.

In the June meeting Ms. Mimi Minnick, the Gulf County head Librarian told us *"The Gulf County Breeze"* and *"The Wewa News"* are being archived by the University of Florida as fast as they can go. The University and the libraries would be glad to help the group in their efforts, she stated.

Please come and help us dig into our past and find even more amazing things about our local history and our founding fathers. Stone Mill Creek and the Old Court house visits are planned.

The meetings are held at the Corner Café' located on Hwy 71 North. The owners Mitchell and Ann Johnson have been generous letting the group use their business and providing refreshments as well. The next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2021 (third Thursdays of the month) at 6PM. TW

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1 Cor. 16:14

## CITY WORKSHOP NEW RV ORDINANCE & GRANTS

by Tom Wynn

The City Board members and the Mayor, Philip Gaskin, presided over the meeting, The City Manager Michael Gortman as well as the City Clerks were involved, as was the City Council (to advise us on the laws and the wording of the Ordinance). We had a discussion on the wording of the new City RV Ordinance no. 2021-1213L. The public, Mr. Gene Hanlon; Mr. Chuck Johnson; Mr. Tom Wynn and Mrs. Ann Johnson and a few of the Commissioners wanted the wording to be clearer and make sure that the new ordinance did not violate anyone's Constitutional rights or property rights. The City Lawyer assured the public and the Commission that the ordinance would not violate civil rights of the citizens of Wewahitchka.

The subject matter of grants for the City was discussed as well. Mr. Tom Wynn brought up a proposal with the Commission, whereby the City could get Federal and State of Florida Grants, that he researched, to use the Old Gulf County Courthouse as a New City Hall, a new and open to the Public, Wewahitchka & Iola Historical Museum on the second floor, as well as, using any unused offices for revenue renting to local businesses to help with the upkeep of the building. A complete restoration of the building through historical grants that would make this proposal possible (Tom Wynn would present his research on the grants at the next City meeting). The City would have to purchase or transfer the building from the county to the City for the project to be considered by the City.

Also was discussed was the condition of the playground and the park benches in Lake Alice Park. Grant money as well as the "Bed Tax" money from the county could be used to upgrade the playground and the benches, which are both over 25 years old.

Mr. Wynn asked the board to consider talking to the Gulf County Chamber about this subject matter, for them to consider a fund raiser for the park upgrades. Mr. Wynn had contacted the new Chamber President, Mr. Joe Whilmer, about the project, a few days before the workshop.

The ordinance is about RV's being used for long term living, which they are not designed for. They can be an eye sore for the City and a burden to the sewage system Mayor Gaskin stated.  
TW

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## LEARNING ENGLISH GRAMMAR

### M-Dash VS. N-Dash

Tom Wynn & Aaron Wynn

There are two types of dashes, the n-dash, and the m-dash. The n-dash is approximately the length of the letter n, and the m-dash is approximately the length of the letter m. The shorter en dash (–) is used to mark the range of numbers or span of time. This dash can be read as "to" or "through." The longer em dash (—) is used to separate extra information or mark a break in a sentence. This dash can function similarly to parentheses or a pair of commas, or in place of a semicolon or colon. When using dashes on your resume make sure to remove the space in between the dash and numbers or letters. Example  
Incorrect: March 2019 - May 2020, Correct: March 2019–May 2020

I hope this helps some of my readers I try to learn something new daily. I was never taught this in school in my 7<sup>th</sup> grade English class (I was an A student). Thanks to my son Aaron, who taught me this as of late. I loved school, so I love to learn daily,

whenever I can take a minute, to learn a new subject matter or learn something new about things I already knew. We must grow or we die of boredom. Education is very important to the individual who wants to grow themselves. So, study and grow in all areas of life, when possible. I am in school daily.

Even in the military we never worried over how long a dash was, just used them as needed. Mr. Daniel Webster in the 1700's said he regretted publishing his English Dictionary (it took him 20 years to write and publish it), as he thought he messed up the language, standardizing spelling that is. In most countries, a word is pronounced and or written as it sounds, not in English.  
TW

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**HELP!** The Senior Citizen Center in Wewa needs folks to deliver lunch to house bound Seniors. Please, if you can help, give **Ms. Renece** a call at: **850-639-9910**  
They are open weekdays between 9-2 PM. If you are eating (60 and over, eat free, under 60 eat for \$3.25) **you must be there by 10:30AM, they eat at 11:00AM.** TW

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BY DAKOTA AKE

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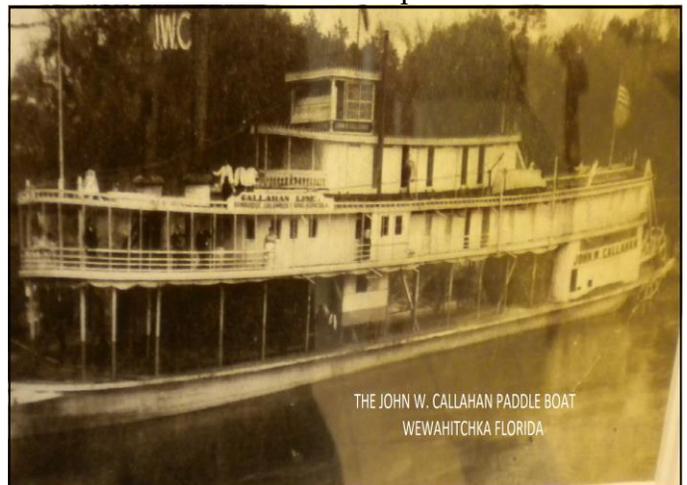
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## RUDY GASKIN MEXICAN FOOD TRUCK APPROVED BY WEWA PLANNING BOARD

by Tom Wynn

According to Mr. Gene Hanlon, a member of the Wewa City planning board stated in a phone call that Mr. Rudy Gaskin's Food Truck location was voted on and approved by the board on 20 July. The board approved the change from Residential to Commercial for the lot on the corner of Chipola Ave and 2<sup>nd</sup>. TW



The John W. Callahan Paddle boat docked in Wewahitchka Florida, most likely at Croghan's Landing (located up the road from the High School). This Paddle boat sank in the Apalachicola River, so they built a second one and named it The Callahan Junior.

## HISTORY OF THE DEAD LAKES BRIDGE AKA "THE DAM ROAD!"



The modern Dead Lakes Bridge was built in 1959. Alongside of it was the Old Railroad Track that crossed the Chipola River right next to the bridge. The Dam was put in place in late July of 1962. It had a metal sheet damming up the water and was placed directly under the roadbed of the bridge on the left side (coming from Wewa direction). It was removed 20 years later, under great controversy as it caused when it was put in place in 1962. The Dam sheet piling was 160-foot-long gate approximately. The drive pilings were driven 96 feet down. Oyster shells were dumped alongside the pilings a foot deep, 15 feet wide, and 25 feet long. Chunks of Cement were then dumped on top of the Oyster shells having come from Blountstown and Birmingham Alabama. TW

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In case you were wondering, "THE WEWA NEWS" is a locally owned and operated newspaper, created solely for the enjoyment of the people who live in the Wewa area. Our purpose is to bring "Good News" and "Whatever" to our locals' attention. I hope to bring back some joy and fun into our lives again and bring us closer than ever before. Thank you to those that support our effort with your support Ads and help bringing our local news to the sweetest little City in Florida and its surrounding areas! Thank you, City Workers and Commissioners, for your care and hard work! Keeping us safe and running like a well-tuned machine. Also thank you Gulf County workers that keep our local parks clean and in nice condition, be of good cheer, we notice your effort! We know the work is long and hard, and we appreciate your labor of love for our beautiful parks and recreation areas. TW

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## GFWC WEWAHITCHKA WOMAN'S CLUB

If you think you might want to join the Wewa Woman's Club and help our community please, contact **Patty Fisher** at 850-832-9436, or **The President of the local Club, Laura Baxley** 850-819-5827. Help them help Wewa be a better place to live and work.



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**Psalm 34:18**

**Gulf County Chamber News**

For those that are interested “Wheels On Williams” is a new event for Gulf County. It will feature local and regional cars, trucks, motorcycles, golf carts and anything with a set of wheels for a FREE community event. Food will be available from the region's most popular food trucks. Music will be provided by the communities' favorite musicians. It will be held in Port St Joe on the third Thursday of August start time is 5 pm ET.

**Good News!** The Gulf County Chamber of Commerce will carry copies of *The Wewa News* monthly, so local business will have access to the paper.

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**IF YOU STILL NEED TUPELO HONEY**

See the list of local beekeepers with their phone numbers on the last page of *this issue of the “The Wewa News”* as well as June and July Issue.

**“PICTURE PERFECT ONLY COMES WHEN IT IS SAFE TO PLAY.” Tom & Lyn Wynn**

**TOM WYNN PRESENTS PROPOSAL FOR NEW WEWA CITY HALL & CITY MUSEUM**

During the City monthly meeting (29th July) Senior Chief Tom Wynn Retired USCG Aviation read a letter he wrote to City Mayor Phillip Gaskin about the possibly of obtaining the old Gulf County courthouse building from the County, then writing grant requests to obtain Federal and State Grant money as well as The BP Oil money and other sources necessary to restore the old 100-year old historical site for a new city hall and the second floor converted into The Wewahitchka/Iola Historical Museum. He mentioned in the letter about renting out unused offices to local businesses to help pay for maintenance of the building and its grounds upkeep. With the letter came attached several documents with the Federal and State grant research information to make the proposal feasible. **TW**

**A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

by Grandpa Tom

For heaven’s sake, please teach yours kids, fathers. When you are home, take them to museums, fishing, camping, to the beach, the zoo, the library, fun parks. Stop and smell the roses with your kids. They will have good memories of it, I promise you. I know I did.

My father took us to see whatever was nearby and far off. Since the age of 5, I have traveled the world and seen things and places that few people get to see, touch, or remember. I learned how electronics work, AM and FM radios, Television, black and white, color (1967), RADAR, microwaves, etc. and so much more by the age 10.

Thanks to his love to learn and teaching himself new things, made it better for me. If he learned it, I soon learned it too. He carried me on his hip until I could walk on my own. He took me everywhere he went when he was not at the base working, saving lives for a living (USCG Aviation Electronic Tech and Air crewmen).

Fathers are so important to the common things in life to do and learn, but they can be much more of a teacher if they take the time to bring a kid or 2 along as they work on things, i.e., cars, trucks, boats, or whatever. I know it can be a job to do so, but you will be glad you did someday. My father was a teacher, 24/7. If he was not learning, he was teaching me or my brother, amazing things. I have seen and done things before the age 17 then most kids ever get to see or do or know about.

I learned the Bible at his bedside at the age of 8, college level. He was a Theologian and loved history and science (how things worked).

We need to be teachers, Dad. Mom can only teach so much, the good and wonderful things Mom teaches must come first, but don’t forget, you too are teachers Dad, give your children something that they will never forget about you, being a good teacher that loved them, wholeheartedly. **(Cont. page 5)**

**(Grandpa Tom Cont.)** He, my dad, often had me by his side learning those amazing things that he had learned lately. Your kids will remember you when you are passed on, thinking of how much you taught them and how much fun that was. Take at least 2 days a month and do something the kids will enjoy Dad. Let them hang out with you, play in the floor in the living room when you get home from work, while Mom makes dinner, give her a break!

It is your legacy that stands before you, don't let these days go by. They grow up so fast and then they are gone, living their own lives. You need those memories too! Enjoy your family while they are still asking you to do things with them. Make that fort, boat, or backyard swing with them.

When I was a teacher at Gulf Correctional Institution, I studied my inmates as they departed the prison system. I noticed 91 percent of them in my classes had no father in the household for sure, and many had no mother as well. So, you need to be there for them, during times of trouble and times of great need, and times of play and learning to be a man someday.

We all must have mentors, leadership in life issues and spiritual leadership to grow into a productive individual, or we will think we are just a worm with no future and no accountability for our own actions. A real man does not just happen, he must be taught how to become a man, a father, a dad. Love is expressed in many forms, but only a man can teach a boy how to be a real Man.

A man needs to know proper chain of command in life. They must have responsibilities, or they will feel like they are missing something in their daily life. They will question themselves and worry, "Am I doing the right thing?" Give him direction and teach him fatherhood.

Who do we turn to for good advice, someone with major addictions? Or personality disorders? A party hounds. A criminal minded individual? Who? Shouldn't you look up to the Creator who made you, giving you good advice, and or, a father who looked up to the Creator and took his advice for a better life? Who? What does the wise man do? In your heart you know the truth of the matter. Be a Real Man, and teach love to your children, so they too can teach their children. Be a light unto the world as often as the sun raises and until your eyes grow dark. Let your eulogy be a man who was wise, full of knowledge and expressed love for others, daily. TW

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### ***Wewahitchka, Its True Meaning By Tom Wynn***

**Polly Bee wants you to know...**The true Creek Indian name, English Translation for "Wewahitchka" means, "Place of many waters" or literally, "Water is Here" as per the then sitting Creek Indian Chief, Alonso, when we questioned him about the name during an interview in the documentary I filmed, produced and directed, called: "Tupelo Honey & The Amazing World of Beekeeping". We filmed it in the 2002 Honey Season in Gulf County. Featuring our local beekeeper James E. "Jim" Rish I put it on Youtube for all to see.

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## THE NEW WEWAHITCHKA FIREHOUSE TO COST

**\$1,126,000...But!**

by Tom Wynn

Our brand new, shiny penny of a Fire House will have all the new whistles and bells according to the plans. Our City fathers are hard at work making sure that the construction is moving along and keeping an "Eagle Eye" on the cost changes. FEMA granted our sweet little City the money to build us a new "hotspot" to store all our firefighting trucks and equipment. Due to all the rain days, the Contractor asked for an additional 72 days to completion, it was granted by the Commission by vote. All said and done should be finished by December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, paid in full. Our City Commissioner Brian Cox is on top of things and keeps a very close eye on the work and the costs.

Thank You Brian! TW



## Health Benefits of Honey

by Tom Wynn

Honey is a wonderfully sweet concoction that is made by our local European bees. Our local beekeepers charm the bees for them to create honey (and of course, several other products, i.e., wax) using nectar that they obtain from different flowering plants and trees. There are many forms of honey available from our local beekeepers/bee charmers. However, if you are looking to get the most health benefits, it is recommended that you find honey from a local beekeeper in our immediate area.

The color of honey ranges from being a bright golden color to a darker brown. Honey with lighter tones typically will have a much milder taste, while the darker colored honey will have a flavor that is a bit more pungent and tangier. Tupelo honey is very light in color with a hint of green in it as you hold it up to the sunlight.

Both processed and unprocessed honey is readily available in our area, but raw uncooked honey is the best for you and is not just a jar of sugar.

Typically, raw, or unprocessed honey provides the most benefits for the human body. This golden treat has a lot to offer when it comes to your health, and the best part is, you can easily add this sweet treat to your regular diet. Health benefits of honey to consider:

### 1. Antibacterial and Antiseptic Properties

Honey has a wonderfully rich natural sugar content. Also, it contains properties that can help fight off bacteria and other germs. The antibacterial properties of honey make it an excellent choice to consume if you are fighting off any type of bacterial infection. Honey has long been used as a form of medicine for many kinds of ailments. In addition to the antibacterial agents, honey also has antiseptic properties, I use it on cuts and sores, for fast healing. I was taught by an Egyptian beekeeper who came through years ago to visit our Tupelo Honey Festivals. He stated that honey is the only food product that can go into the blood.

Honey-stream without digestion. He proved it by putting honey on my hand and rubbed it until it was completely gone. He then asked me, where did the honey go? I said, "in my skin." He said, "you are correct." WOW! The antiseptic properties of honey can help fight off germs as well. If you are suffering from a cold or allergies, adding a tablespoon of honey to your morning routine each day can go a long way when it comes to fighting off the infection. It is best to choose raw, unfiltered honey whenever possible. You should also try to get honey from a local source if you can, as this will be the best option when it comes to helping with symptoms of allergies. TW

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Gen. 1:1; John 3:16-18; John 14:16



## **MILLER'S**

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Listed below are societies in Gulf County. For state-wide genealogical societies, see [Florida Societies](#): Gulf Co. Genealogical Society PO Box 541 Port St. Joe FL 32457; Wewahitchka Historical Society(no address as of yet) Florida Historical Society 435 Brevard Ave. Cocoa FL 32922 Phone: 321-690-1971\_P.O. Box 940927 Maitland, FL 32794-0927 Phone: 407-494-3747

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**Please Pray for those with Covid-19. Prayer changes things folks. James 4:2-3 and Matthew 7:7-11**

## **Open Letter to the Public**

The Wewahitchka Chamber of Commerce, as a collective, raised the money to build the Lake Alice playground equipment for the City to install. In the amount of \$60,000 dollars. During those days, we were a very powerful influence and money raising machine. It helps when it is for a good cause.

Our, Lake Alice playground, is now 25 years old and is in need of repair and replacement for our kids and grandkids to play on safely. Our Park benches are wearing out! Growing old, like us old timers are, who paid to put them in the park. My question to you is, can you help? The City has some TDC money, but it is not enough folks.

Gulf County Chamber of Commerce? Can we do it again? We are now countywide strong. **WE ARE IN 2021 TODAY...**The City Commission is in favor of replacing and or restoring our Lake Alice resources. "Come to the City meetings and give your support to our commission to help us keep Wewa safe, clean and in good condition.

*With all sincerity, Tom Wynn, The Wewa News TW*

## **2019 Florida Statutes**

### **Title XIV - Taxation and Finance**

#### **Chapter 205 - Local Business Taxes**

**205.055 - Exemptions; Veterans, Spouses of Veterans and Certain Servicemembers, and Low-Income Persons. Universal Citation: [FL Stat § 205.055 \(2019\)](#)**

205.055 Exemptions; veterans, spouses of veterans and certain servicemembers, and low-income

persons.— (1) The following persons are entitled to an exemption from a business tax and any fees imposed under this chapter: (a) A veteran of the United States Armed Forces who was honorably discharged upon separation from service, or the spouse or unremarried surviving spouse of such a veteran. (b) The spouse of an active duty military servicemember who has relocated to the county or municipality pursuant to a permanent change of station order.

(c) A person who is receiving public assistance as defined in s. 409.2554.

(d) A person whose household income is below 130 percent of the federal poverty level based on the current year's federal poverty guidelines.

(2) A person must complete and sign, under penalty of perjury, a Request for Fee Exemption to be furnished by the local governing authority and provide written documentation in support **(Cont. On Page 8)**

(Cont. Taxation) of his or her request for an exemption under subsection

(3) If a person who is exempt under subsection (1) owns a majority interest in a business with fewer than 100 employees, the business is exempt. Such person must complete and sign, under penalty of perjury, a Request for Fee Exemption to be furnished by the local governing authority and provide written documentation in support of his or her request for an exemption for the business under this subsection.

History. —s. 1, ch. 2018-80; s. 24, ch. 2018-118.

**Disclaimer:** These codes may not be the most recent version. [Florida](#) may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained on this here or the information linked to on the state site. Please check official sources.

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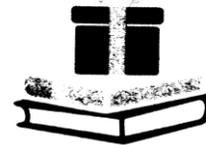
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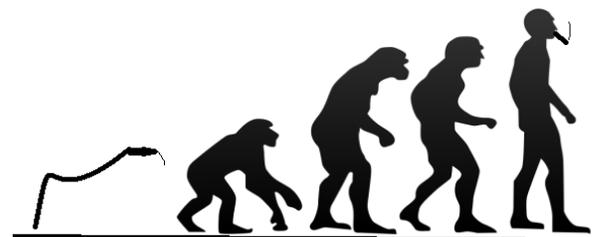
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John 8:44



## How Much Does a Splash Pad Cost?

by Tom Wynn

Ms. Jodi Rustin and Tom Wynn discussed what the possibilities of a Splash Pad for Lake Alice Park that our kids and grandkids could enjoy on hot days, which is often in most of the year. So, off I went to discover if it was possible. Brittany, one of the Wewa City clerks was ahead of us and had been researching the prices and the possibly of having one at Lake Alice Park.

Splash pads are basically playgrounds that incorporate water to create a fun and wet atmosphere, making water play safer since there is less of a risk for accidents like drowning. Features like ground nozzles, on most splash pads, will spray either freshwater or treated water upwards out (Cont. on page 9)

(**Splash Cont.**) of the rain deck. The nozzles are controlled by sensors or can be run on timers. Some splash pads have movable nozzles and may also include different types of showers and other features. Depending on the setup that you want, the costs to install a residential splash pad can vary anywhere from \$4,000 to as much as \$35,000, for the one that would go into Lake Alice Park.

However, most residential splash pads can cost around \$6,000 to \$12,000 as a norm. The costs depend on the size, surfaces, options, and other provisions such as electrical work and excavation (the City would provide most of installation for sure. Since every job will be unique, it can be hard to pinpoint an exact cost, and for that reason, we recommend the City commission, get multiple quotes for free [by using HomeAdvisor.com](#). Here, you simply explain your job and licensed contractors will contact you will their quotes for free. Then having that estimate, the City of Wewa could decide to do it themselves or bid it out. In any case, the money could come from the TDC account, grants for parks from the State of Florida possibly. The Gulf County Chamber may be able to help as well and other organizations local and statewide. TW

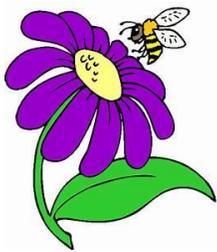
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**SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT EACH DAY OF THE CREATION WEEK WAS 1 MILLION YEARS EACH...**They have a big problem folks! The bees and the flowers were created on separate days, the flower would



die before the bee could come and pollute it and the bee would die before he could get food from the flowers. Wise up! "Evening and Morning was the first Day." And so, it goes...

Genesis says that plants were created on the third day (see Genesis 1:11-13) and that sunlight was created on the fourth day (see verses 14-19). If the third day is actually a long period of time, how could plants have existed without sunlight? Likewise, many plants require insects for pollination. How could these plants have survived and reproduced without insects which were not created until the sixth day (see Genesis 1:24, 25) The wording of the creation account in the first two chapters of Genesis is best understood as meaning literal days. Such expressions as "day and night," "evening and morning," "light and darkness" can hardly be understood as indefinite periods of time. TW

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## INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE COUNTY

by Tom Wynn

The City entered an interlocal agreement in July 2006, with Gulf County, Florida, whereby our County of Gulf, Florida, assumed full responsibility for a period of 25 years for paving, resurfacing and maintenance of all roads within the City limits of the City of Wewahitchka. As consideration to Gulf County, Florida, the City agreed to waive its rights to receive the **six-cent local option gas taxes** for a period of 25 years. Source: Wewa City documents TW

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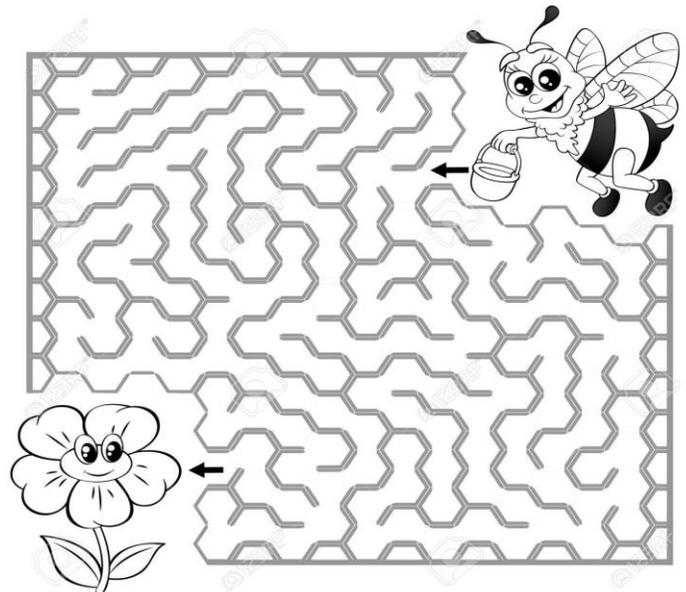
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**Happy Birthday  
USCG!  
August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1790**

Each August 4th the U.S. Coast Guard celebrates its birthday. The Coast Guard is one of America's six armed forces and traces its founding

to Aug. 4, 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue.

**“THE DAY THE U.S. COAST GUARD SAVED MY LIFE”**

by AECS Tom Wynn Jr. USCG Ret.

It was a bright and sunny afternoon, a perfect day for fun and swimming. My father was an Aviation Electronic Technician stationed at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station located in St. Petersburg Florida. This day was a very special day for the station and its crew. It was the annual Coast Guard Day Picnic (August the 4<sup>th</sup> 1964), “Coast Guard Day” Picnics’ are always fun. A day off for the crew and their families, time for a family picnic and celebrate the Coast Guard’s birthday. I was nine years old.

All met on Treasure Island in Clearwater Florida for a fun day at the beach. It was Saturday just before Coast Guard Day officially, which landed on Tuesday that year. A day of fun in the sun, swimming with a large picnic paid for by the base. We all met under a large Pavilion that day, the crew brought in half barrels of ice-cold soda and bottled beer.

I thought all was wonderful! I was excited to be there. The first thing we did, to my delight, was my father took me in the water and played with me. He was swimming around me and just having a good time. He soon found out that I could not swim... nothing! Notta! He was shocked to find this out. He told me he could swim since he was 5 years old (he grew up in Florida since his own father was a Depot Agent for the Railroad during the Great Depression and WWII and so ran Depots all over Florida). He told me his father just tossed him in the

water and he learned on his own, he told him what to do from the shoreline. He had access to the beaches and lakes at a boy. Not me, he had been so busy standing duty and working that he never took me swimming until now. I just never learned. Well as soon as he found this out, he told me he would teach me that day.

First things first, how to dog paddle was first up. After just a few minutes I could do it. I felt empowered. I could swim, wow! I started dog paddling around him. So, after all the rules and practice we headed back to the pavilion where my mom and all the rest were setting up for lunch.

Dad told me a major rule, “never swim alone.” But soon after all got busy in preparation for lunch, I sneaked back out to the beach. I walked in the water, after looking around I saw no one around. I was alone. You see I was very excited and knew I would not go out deep and I had to just try out my new skills (disobeying my father’s warnings). This turns out to be a very dangerous idea, I was about to lose my life!

As I approached the water, I spread out to begin to dog paddle, out about 10 or so feet from the shoreline. I was able to kick a few strokes and my thigh hit a submerged log. Just on the other side of the log the water had washed out the sand and the water depth drop a foot or so deeper than I could stand. As I hit my thigh on the log, it hurt badly, and so I lost my ability to dog paddle. I immediately stood up.

Big problems! I could not stand in the deeper water; I was in the hole behind the log. All I could do was bounce off the sandy bottom until I could get my body back up to dog paddle again. It was not happening! I was just bouncing up and down taking air in with each bounce. It soon wore me out, as I was trying to yell for help, there was no time to do that, I could not stay up longer then to take the next breath of air. I put my arm straight up hoping someone could see it, but no one was around, no one! I was about to drown, going down for the last time. My body would have been found to the horror of my family when all came down to swim after their lunch. My parents would have been looking for me for lunch, but it would have been too late.

Just as I went down for what I thought was my last bounce, I saw a man running from my left side toward me. He saw me and was running at a high speed.

I notice he was a very handsome man; his body was well muscled, not too much, just perfect in appearance.

He was a sandy blonde with a touch of red in his hair and on his chest. He was barefooted, had no clothes on, except an Official U.S. Coast Guard swimsuit that was issued to boots in Boot Camp. I knew this because my father was issued one of these swimsuits when he came back in the Coast Guard. He came back in the Coast Guard after a few years at TWA as a Radar tech in Miami and then as a Bible College Teacher in Lakeland Florida (approx. 2 years out total).

He got orders to St. Pete upon reentry into Coast Guard Aviation and so my fate was sealed. I nearly drowned because I disobeyed my father's loving warning about swimming alone. Now I live because a Coastie would come and save me from certain death, a watery grave, all alone, my body possibly floating out to sea.

This man came running into the water and swam toward me as fast as he could swim. As I saw him coming on the beach, I knew he could save me if he could get to me before I went under for the last time. I made one more bounce with all the energy I could muster. I took my last breath and went back down to the bottom, with my arm in the air. I felt his hand grasp my arm firmly. He lifted me up directly out of the water. I took a large gasp of air and he walked me to the shore. He stood next to me, with his arm around me, as I gathered my breath. He asked me if I was okay. I assured him I was and thanked him.

Now, as we began to walk, we came around the bushes and trees along the beach to the clearing where we could see the Pavilion up the small hill. He turned me toward him and warned me to never again swim along and pointed to my father and said, "Your dad is up there, go tell him what happened." He was so gentle and kind to me. Even his admonishment was kind. I was in amazement, and knew I nearly lost my life, just a few moments ago. I was seconds from drowning at the young age of 9 years old. But I had no one to blame. I did not listen; I did not think of the dangers of swimming alone. A lesson for life, well learned.

After he pointed me to my father, he started running in the opposite direction from the Pavilion...he quickly ran out of sight. He just disappeared! I immediately thought this was strange, "why didn't he follow me to the Pavilion?" I thought to myself.

I went to my father under the pavilion near the picnic tables. As I approached him, he was smiling and asked me where I had been, thinking I had been playing with the

other kids. I told him what happened and about the Coastie that saved me from drowning. He stopped in his tracks (putting food and drinks on the picnic table from a cooler)! He asked me what his name was, I told him I didn't know, he then asked me what he looked like, I described him to the tee as it is burned in my memory to this very day. With a strange look on his face he said, "There is no Coastie that looks like that at the Air Station." I insisted that he was in fact a Coastie, and so I described his bathing suit to him. I remember seeing the Coast Guard patch on his swimsuit and it was dark blue, the one that is issued to the Coast Guardsmen in Boot Camp (the same one was issued to me in Boot Camp as well). He was totally shocked and dismayed. He was bewildered as to who could it have been? It was a small unit at the time, and he knew everyone on base. Who could it have been? Only the Lord knows.

Thanks to this Coast Guardsmen, who remains an Unknown Hero, I was able to live on, and at the age of 17 joined the U.S. Coast Guard in the summer of 1972. I have been retired now for over 29 years, after serving in the Coast Guard for over 20.

In turn, he gave me, life! There is no doubt about that. So, I literally owed my own life to the Coast Guard and my Heavenly Father who sent this stranger to my aid, and thus served over 20 years in the U.S. Coast Guard and my youngest son as well. I personally saved 27 lives using the HH52A Helicopter (see CG1466 in the Smithsonian) during my career in Aviation.

We are a three generation Coast Guard family. I have saved many lives in my flying career as my father did as well. He did 20 years and has passed over the bar, in 2007.

Coasties have always been a blessing to me, true lifesavers whose devotion to duty is beyond measure. Every Person, Pilot, Crewman, Yeoman, Seaman, Officer, Petty Officer, Cook and Civilian of the U.S. Coast Guard support the effort, all have had a hand in every life that the Coast Guard saves daily. Each man or woman and their equipment that they maintain, contributes to the effort of Lifesaving.

The Unknown Coast Guardsmen who saved my life, if not for him, I would never have had the opportunity to save many lives myself.

THANK YOU! U.S. Coast Guard for your love and respect to the stranger. You saved thousands of times the

lost at sea, the cold and lonely, the broken, the hurt, and those that Nearly drowned. Thank you for your Acts of loving kindness. You are all indeed, true Heroes!

**AECS Tom Wynn Jr. USCG (Ret.)**

**Footnote:** At my Retirement Ceremony I told this story to my fellow Coasties at Air Station Clearwater Florida on 26<sup>th</sup> day of July at High Noon, 1992-exactly 20 years to the day, the hour, and the minute I swore into The U.S. Coast Guard at age 17. I departed the Coast Guard a very happy man, having served with honor and joy. May the All Mighty continue to pour blessings on the U.S. Coast Guard. Never stop doing what you do best, "Saving Lives for a Living."

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**"I dare you to come to Wewahitchka Florida & catch a mess of fish" Tom Wynn**



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**"Courage is Contiguous,  
so be Courageous!"**

Quote by Miss Rebecca Ward, a young 9-year-old in a speech to her School Board. Courage is contagious.

When one person stands up for something they believe in or does something courageous, it makes it much easier for other people to join them and do the same courageous act. One courageous act can inspire many others to do the same. Love one another, there is no lost in that effort. *Everybody wins. TW*

**A BLAST FROM THE PAST-FROM THE BREEZE!**  
The Gulf County Breeze Edward Bandjough, Editor, & Publisher August 20, 1959, 8¢ per copy. Written by Walter Twiggs, Newnan, GA Submitted by Tom Semmes

### "The Golden Years"

How do I know my youth is all spent? Well, my "get up and get" has "got up and went." But in spite of it all, I'm able to grin, when I think of where my "get up" has been. Old age is golden, so I've heard said. But sometimes I wonder, when I get into bed, with my "ears" in the drawer, my "teeth" in a cup, my "eyes" on the table until I wake up. Ere sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself. "Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?" But I'm happy to say as I close the door my friends are the same, perhaps even more. When I was young my slippers were red. I could kick up my heels right over my head. But when I grew older my slippers were blue. Still, I could dance the whole night through. Now that I'm old my slippers are black; I walk to the store and PUFF my way back. The reason I know my youth is all spent; my "get up and go" has done "got up and went." I get up each morning and dust off my wits, pick up the paper and read the "Obits." If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead, so I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed. TS

Hosea 4:6

## COACH DREW HALL SPEAKS!

Letter to the Editor-July 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

“Thank you for taking the time to hear our story. My name is Drew Hall, and I am the head coach for the Wewa 12u Xplay Ponytail Dixie Youth Softball team. This past weekend my girls were robbed from getting their opportunity to represent the state of Florida in the World Series due to wrongdoing by the tournament committee and the official representatives. My girls were disqualified due to a negligent “official scorekeeper” assigned by Dixie Softball State Director Danny Brooks. She failed to record my substitutions and then took upon herself to tip off the opposing team who then made an illegal protest in the 6th inning. The protest should have been made before 1st pitch in the 5th inning, according to the Dixie Youth Rule Book. With parents and assistant coach from opposing team, West Pasco, admitting they saw my substitutions go into the game, my girls were robbed of the opportunity. For several of them, this was their last chance at a Dixie Youth State Championship. The exact same issue took place later in a second game with the same scorekeeper involved, which resulted in the team who won the championship to be disqualified. The next day the decision was reversed giving the Paxton team their rightful title. When I appealed again for the wrongdoing to our team the head of the whole Dixie Softball organization blew me off saying we weren’t done wrong. So as of now my girls haven’t received any justice in how they were treated.” **DH**

---

### ETYMOLOGY OF “FRAUD!”

1. Where relation of trust or confidence exists between two parties so that one places peculiar reliance in trustworthiness of another, latter is under the duty to make full and truthful disclosure of all material facts and is liable for misrepresentation or concealment. See *Steward v. Phoenix National Bank*, 64 P-2d, 49 Ariz. 34 (Ariz.1937)

2. ” Concealing a Material Fact when there is a duty to disclose maybe actionable Fraud.” See *Universal Inv. Co. v. Sahara Motor Inn, Inc.* 619 P-2d 485, 127 Ariz. 213-(Ariz. App. 1980). “Fraud and deceit may arise from Silence where there is a Duty to speak the truth, as well as from speaking an untruth.” See *Morrison v. Action Acton*, 198 P. 2d 590, 68 Ariz. 27 (1948) “Fraud maybe be committed by a failure to speak when the duty of speaking is imposed as much as by speaking falsely.” See *Batty v. Arizonia State Dental Board*, 112 P.2d 870, 57 Ariz. 239 (1941). Etymology of the Word: “Fraud”- Etymology from Middle English fraude (recorded since 1345), from Old French fraude, a borrowing from Latin fraus (“deceit, injury, offence”).

From the Desk of Tom Wynn August 2021

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**John 14:16**



**JUSTIN BARNES  
FOLLOWS IN HIS  
FATHERS  
FOOTSTEPS AT  
GULF COAST  
ELECTRIC CO-OP  
-A LOOK AT ONE OF  
WEWA’S HIGH  
SCHOOL GRADUATES**  
by Tom Wynn

Justin Barnes is now Vice President-Member Services at Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. He graduated from Wewahitchka High School, home of the GATORS. He also received an undergraduate degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee in Accounting. He had previous experience working in the accounting field before coming to the Co-op. He has held the titles of Corporate Services Specialist, Supervisor of Office Services, and Manager of Member Services for the cooperative before being promoted to his current position.

Barnes holds an Associate in Arts degree from Gulf Coast State College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Florida State University. He followed his father’s career in Finance and Accounting. He has worked outside of the Gulf Coast Electric before joining the team after his father retired from the Co-op in Wewa, he joined the Co-op team with great success over his career.

He has grown into a fine young man and represents his Wewa High classmates with high honors and success in life thus far. *The Wewa News* is proud of him and his labors of love for his community, having stayed here and making us proud of him.

Thank you, Justin, for being a good example to our children who live in north Gulf County.

Justin is the son of Mr. Roy & Debbie Barnes of Wewahitchka Florida. Roy Barnes is a Military Veteran having served in war zones. He also served as Chief Financial Officer and The CEO of The Co-op, having retired several years ago. Thank you for your Service Roy to your Country and to Wewa. **TW**

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### UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY IN FLORIDA

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**THE CHARLES WHITEHEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**“BLUE GATOR”**

**BY JOYELLE LINTON-THE WEWA LIBRARIAN**



The Wewa library has recently received several indoor and outdoor beatifications. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to each one of you that helped make these projects come alive!

Volunteer master gardener, Patty Dunlap, in conjunction with the University of FL agricultural extension office, completed the landscaping for a native educational garden at the parking lot entrance to

the library. Please let us know If you are interested in helping us keep this area tidy.

Two generous anonymous donations were received, allowing the library to purchase ten 16x20 black and white photographic reproductions from the FL Memory web site that represent Wewahitchka and its history. If you have not yet done so, we invite you to stop by and look. A Wewahitchka high school student and president of the WHS National Art Honor Society has been busy this summer painting murals of children’s book characters on the wall of the children’s department. We expect this project will be completed by the end of the month.

An arrangement has been reached with the Oklahoma Correctional Industries Records Conversion Project - a project that provides job training to inmates, and services to government agencies and non-profits to digitize The Wewahitchka High School yearbooks. Any handwriting in the donated albums will not be shown in the final digitalization. There will be no cost to the library or county for this service. We are asking for donations of the following years: before 1948, 1950-1955, 1964, 1968-1969, 1974, 1976-1979, 1983-1992, 1999-2002, 2005, 2011, 2012, 2015. The yearbooks will be available for viewing in the local history area of the library, as well as a copy of the digitized school yearbooks. If you are unable to donate your albums to the library, loans will be accepted for the digitization process. Please contact the library for more information. The Charles Whitehead Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9-5 C.T. We are closed on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. Free computer uses and Wi-Fi is available. **JL**

Joyelle Linton is the Library Branch Manager of The Northwest Regional Library System-Charles Whitehead Public Library

Email: [jlinton@nwrls.com](mailto:jlinton@nwrls.com) office number: 850-639-2419



**“Old Blue Eyes,” soul piercing ocean blue, shining white teeth that would make steak out of you and me, in a heartbeat!**

by Tom Wynn

Meet “Blue Gator!” He is what is called a Leucistic Blue Alligator. I have always been interested in why Mr. Whaley’s Fish Camp was called, “Blue Gator”, so I studied the history of the area deeper. In another article soon, I will tell all about Blue Gator Fish Camp and who own it before Whaley.

Several years ago, I was half owner of the Blue Gator Boat Ramp (Mr. Hatcher was the other owner, he lived next door to the boat ramp). I later traded my half for another piece of property with Jamie Lester. Why was it called, Blue Gator”? No one could tell me thus far. But finally, a little light came into the window. Navy Veteran Ray Hatcher said, one morning when I asked him, at the Corner Cafe’. Ray told me some wonderful little stories about Mr. Whaley when he was just a boy. It was called Blue Gator because that is where the Indians lived, back in the day, thus that is how it came to be called, “Blue Gator Fish Camp”, he told me.

He grew up down in them parts of Wewa and personally knew Mr. Claude Whaley. He told me some great stories about how Mr. Whaley (Note: Jamie Lester called him Uncle). He was a very smart man as well as a sharp businessman. He lived a long time and could train animals to obey him by name and by hand movements. Several Dogs, a pet Squirrel and a Duck, Mr. Whaley had trained to do amazing things, Hatcher said... I know, I know! I gotta hear more stories to share. Stay tuned! Same Bat channel, same Bat time!” (Referring to Bat Man TV show, 1965) TW



**Patriot Chiefs & Loyal Braves S. Pony Hill**  
“A settlement or Town of their own”

## “Scott’s Ferry, Florida”

After 1850 at least six of the original fifteen Catawba households had resettled at the newly acquired land of **Jacob Scott**. Jacob owned and operated a ferry service and mill (just as the Catawba had done on the Catawba River), and became quite prosperous, even in comparison to his white neighbors.

The movement of the Catawba into southern Calhoun can be tracked by **the written history of the local Stone family**. In the book “History of Jackson County” it is recounted that:

“**Lackland M. Stone, whose father was Colonel Henry D. Stone**, one of Jackson County’s first settlers, was also an Indian trader. His family settled on the upper Chipola, near the future town of Webbville. When the Indians were moved to Ocheesee, he followed them, as he did later to Iola.”

The Stone family had apparently continued to carry a family legacy of Indian trading, because as early as 1691 the Council of Colonial Virginia had recorded: “Thomas Blunt is appointed interpreter to the Indians on the south side of the James River, David Whitley to the Indians at the head of Rapp’s River, and **William Stone** to the Indians on the head of Yorke River.” And also in 1778, The North Carolina General Assembly enacted that, “Be it enacted, that Willaim Williams, Thomas Pugh, Willie Jones, Simon Turner, and **Zedekiah Stone**, be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners for said Indians..”

The reference to the Indians being moved to Ocheesee, does not describe any documented Creek band, as they had never maintained a village on the Chipola, did not have a village at Ocheesee, and had emigrated to Texas or Indian Territory before the Stone family moved to southern Calhoun at Iola. Bird Attaway (first husband of Elizabeth Perkins) and Horace Ely were contracted by the Jackson County Commission to build the first bridge across the Chipola at a location described as “Near Webbville.” Combine all the above with the fact that the 1840 census of Calhoun County records Joe Scott as a family of 17 free colored persons living next to John Chason and **Henry D. Stone at Iola**, and there can be no doubt as to this identification of the Catawba.

**The Scott’s Ferry settlement** was located at Range 9 west, 2 south, section 21, adjoining the Chipola River. This was the route used to travel from any spot in eastern Jackson or Calhoun Counties along the Apalachicola over land to Port Saint Joe. The Scott’s Ferry settlement appears on the 1860 census as a clearly defined separate community, and the families living there were recorded on a special census page, though the racial identification of them was confused and clearly tainted by racial prejudice. The 1860 federal census was performed during the height of the racial tensions between the pro-slavery South and the abolitionist North. On this census families which had been previously identified as “free persons of color – non Negro” or “Mulatto” are suddenly reclassified as “free Negro” (though they were still ‘white’ or ‘free persons of color’ on local tax records).

In 1848, legislation was passed in Florida which required free Negroes to have white guardian appointed by the local Courts (no Catawba was assigned a guardian), free Negroes and mulattoes could not legally own land (Jacob Scott and Absalom Scott held clear title to their land), and in 1861, legislation passed which required free blacks to register with a probate judge or be classified as a slave and claimed by a white person. None of these laws were ever applied to the Apalachicola Catawba. An 1840 perspective jury list included Robert and Joseph Blanchard (originally of Gates County, North Carolina),

Joseph Montford, Jonathan Jones, and Robert Scott. John Chason and Jaspers Scott were called as witnesses in the Jackson County Court case, State V. James Butts in 1857 (Butts had been living with Mary Ann Jones since at least 1850), and Martha Hill Minton was reimbursed for traveling 24 miles in 1863 to testify for Sherrod Scott. Samuel Scott was even an eligible voter in Jackson County in 1869.

In 1860 the census reflects the Scott’s Ferry settlement as consisting of six households. Living there at that time was Jacob Scott and his nephew Joe living in one household along with Joe’s wife Sarah Brown Castleberry, and Sarah’s daughter Emiline Brown. Francis “Frank” Hill and his wife Elizabeth Perkins Attaway held one home, and William Stafford and his wife Polly Harmon Scott (former wife of Jacob Scott) held another. Jack Howard inhabited a household along with Lofty Bunch as his wife, along with his two sisters-in-laws Betty Bunch and Molly Thompson (who later married Shurard Scott). Paschal Loftis and Olive Jones shared a home along with her granddaughter, Jane Scott. The last remaining household was that of Isham Scott and his wife Jane Manuel who shared their home with her father, Edmund Manuel (originally of Sampson County, North Carolina, and a veteran of the Sampson County Regiment 4th Company in 1812). **TW**

*Source of Information: Mr. Tom Godwin Archives*

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## INFORMATION

GFWC Is selling Bricks for The Veteran's Park at Lake Alice. Price is \$56 for each Veteran brick and that includes the name of the Veteran, rank and service emblem they serviced in. Mail all information and check to P.O. Box 94 Wewahitchka, Florida 32465. Make check payable to: GRWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club. Local Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Contact Patty Fisher @ 850-832-9436 or President Laura Baxley @ 850-819-5827. Ms. Peggy Causey is selling a 1875 commemorative plates with most of the City of Wewa 's old land marks on it. It is a great piece of history. The cost is \$20 and is a fund raiser for the Woman's Club. Check it out at Fisher's Building Supply.

NOTE FROM TOM WYNN USCG (RET.) IF You are 50 to 100 percent Disabled Military Veteran, you may qualify for Property Tax Reduction each Year. Contact "Ms. Karen" at the Gulf County Property Appraisers Office in the Gulf County Court House. Enjoy

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## *Local Church has AA meetings*

By Jodi Thibodeau Rustin

Are you struggling with addictions? Wewa has an AA group that meets Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 to 7 PM CST at the First United Methodist church in town, right on 71 downtown, next door to Dr. Lister's office, our local Dentist. This group has helped many people change their lives. There is hope! *JR*

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