



# THE WEWA NEWS™



## SAVE THE OLD GULF COUNTY COURT HOUSE EDITION

AUGUST 2022 >> Vol. 4 No. 08-01 <<A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!

### GULF COUNTY COMMISSION VOTES ON THE OLD COURT HOUSE

by Tom Wynn



During the July County Commission meeting, Commissioner Ward McDaniel discussed the old courthouse located in the center of Wewahitchka and its condition after

the county employees did an inspection of the buildings condition the day prior to the meeting. The big question was what was the possibility of restoration of the main building? Was the big question.

County Administrator, Michael Hammond, said that he personally inspected the building inside with several other county employees and noted that the structure was sound, the windows are okay, and it was, “dry as a bone inside.” As did others reported to the board as well.

**(Story continues page 2-Old Court house)**

### THE CORNER CAFÉ IS CLOSING ITS DOORS!

by Tom Wynn

After many years of feeding the locals and feeding the hungry daily with some of the best cooked country style food and one of the most loved businesses in Wewa, the Corner Café will be closing its doors. Mitchell and Ann Johnson, the owners of the café started out with a donut shop making some of the best donuts, but soon decided to turn their donut shop into a small local diner where breakfast and lunch would be served up!

Ms. Becky Linton became the manager and gave us some of the best lunch specials daily. I loved the 2-2-2 breakfast and shrimp dinner for lunch. I was always served with a smile. **(Story continues page 2-Corner Cafe’)**

### WEWA VOTES NO INCREASE IN TAXES

by Tom Wynn

In July’s city meeting, the commission voted to not increase Ad valorem (means based on value) taxes after the city’s accounting auditor explained that they were doing a good job concerning the city financials. The city was spending wisely and is in good shape, he said. Comments were made of the excellent job our clerk’s office is doing on their bookkeeping. Mayor Gaskin commented, how well everyone is doing, and we are proud of them he said.

Job well done!

### THE LOCAL CANDIDATES DEBATE IN WEWA

Come one, come all! Senior Citizen Center 6pm 4 August.

### GULF COUNTY COMMISSION VOTES 5-0 TO REDUCE TAXES

by Tom Wynn

All five county commissioners voted to reduce the Gulf County property taxes down to 6.5 Mil during the county budget meeting. They said that our Ad Valorem taxes were less than the surrounding counties. This decrease should take effect October 1, 2022-2023 budget. Commissioner Ward McDaniel, District 2, explained that the county commission worked hard to reduce taxes for the public while keeping quality services to the county.

He discussed the Ad Valorem taxes of other surrounding counties as they compared to Gulf County. See YouTube, special meeting 7/18/2022. County Administrator Michael Hammond went line by line for the important items and their amounts.

### “HONEY HOLE” RESTURANT IS OPENING!

by Tom Wynn

After three long years, Donnie and Brenda Gail Arnold informed The Wewa News an opening date has been set for August the 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 the doors will open for all to enjoy their hard work. The restaurant will be serving a full menu with various drinks and other delights. The restaurant will be open from 6am to 9pm and the parking lots are sufficient to accommodate RV’s and large trucks, so all can stop by for a meal.

Donnie even included a place for golf carts to park and charge while you dine. They are presently hiring day and night shifts and will take applications during the day for anyone interested in joining the team. See Honey Hole ad for details.

### CITY LIBRARY WANTS TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE BUILDING

by Tom Wynn

Mr. Tom Semmes asked the City Commission for an okay to add three rooms to the library building, as more space is needed for a children’s library area and storage spaces. The city agreed if all the proper engineering plans and other required paperwork were done. Mr. Semmes said that all the paperwork would come after a Grant was obtained.

### GULF COUNTY COMMISSION ASKS EVERYONE TO WRITE THEM LETTERS OF SUPPORT ON THE OLD COURT HOUSE RESTORATION.

**(Old Courthouse continued from page 1)** After much discussion, the board voted 5 to 0 to seek funds to restore the main building. But the old jail, not part of the original structure, would have to be removed with engineering supervision. This is necessary to ensure no damage will be done to the old courthouse walls in the process. There is a possibility that the county work crew could take down the jailhouse to save money instead of hiring a contractor. The county grant writers were instructed to basically get busy on the project. To everyone's delight the county is moving to bring back the old courthouse and upgrade it to today's standards. Commissioner Ward McDaniel said the first step would be to bring the electrical up to current requirements so the power could be turned on. The attitude of the Board was positive on the restoration project and the outlook appears bright folks!

We will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Gulf County in 2025. Construction on the old courthouse was started in 1925 and completed in 1927.

**Look for the video on Youtube.com**

**(Corner Café' story from page 1)** I was always so happy to see the room full of locals who had plenty of stories and local history to tell. We all would laugh and tease each other.

Strangers would come in and we would invite them to move to Wewa or just spend a little time and see all that Wewa offers. Soon they came repeatedly to the restaurant and reported their findings.



What a pure joy it has been to know Ann and Michell. Ms. Becky and her crew would always make you feel at home and wait on you hand

and foot. No matter how busy they were, they were always kind and fun to laugh with. I will miss the Corner Café. For sure they will go down in Wewa history as one of the best places to love others and enjoy a quick meal of country cooking. This is the last photo of the Crew: Becky Linton with Ann and Mitchell Johnson. Tom and Chris Wynn were their last customers, departing at 11:59AM July 30, 2022.

Wewa Loves you!

TW

**Matthew 22:31**

## **The Star Newspaper Rumor**

In speaking with Ms. Wendy Weitzel, The Star Newspaper Editor, she said the rumor that The Star was no longer being put out in public newspaper stands was not true. The Star has had issues with their distribution system, but it would be remedied soon. If you would like to buy the weekly Star newspaper you can pick one up at their main office in Port St. Joe, or you can have them mailed to your home or office.

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### **THE WEWA WOMEN'S CLUB FLAG PARK**

The WWC is still selling bricks for the Veteran's Flag Park at Lake Alice. The **price is \$56** for each veteran brick which 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: GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club. Local meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Contact Mrs. Terri Norris at: 850-832-9670. Ms. Peggy Causey is selling a 1875 commemorative plate 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.

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### **THE HISTORICAL VIEW OF "FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WEWAHITCHKA"**

by Tom Wynn

West Arm Creek bridge just north of the sweetest little city in Florida was the beginning of what we now call today Wewa. Just to the right before you get to the bridge is Jehu Cemetery Road. As you come around the road on the right you would see the original First Baptist Church of Wewahitchka (having been organized about 1840). It was built by the pioneers who settled here back in the beginning of the state of Florida (circa 1838).

For those that remember Bo John Lester and where his house is located, that is the very spot where the original First Baptist



Church stood. Later in 1891, the church building was moved to its present location today on highway 71. It was pulled down the road by oxen, from Jehu, leaving the gravesite as it is today. The Deacons (Trustees) E.Z. Taylor, Dawson Stone, and N.A. Connell were listed on the original deed.

The old church was rolled down the dirt road on large tree trunks to sit directly facing Highway 71, about a mile south to its present location. Later in years, the church, which was

moved back and turned to its side, becoming the educational building later. I remember sitting in the chair on a Wednesday night, many years ago, looking up at the ceiling trying to see the remains of the old church structure. One evening after the service, I asked Brother Mike Stroud what part of the building was the original church? He told me to take a chair and look up in the drop ceiling that had been removed for some lighting work. I saw that the original ceiling was way up, a large void was present between the drop ceiling and the top of the roof. A Wow! moment for me. I love Wewa history as you all know by now. So, this was a nice treat for me. I finally saw what was to see and understand just how big the old church was originally. Brother Mike loves to work on the Baptist Church and thus knows nearly every inch of the old parts. Our First Baptist Church is one of the oldest in the State of Florida.

In the early years of Wewa life, preachers would come down from our neighbors in the north end of the county (we were part of Calhoun County back then, prior to 1925) from Blountstown and from the south, Apalachicola as well. They were known as Circuit Preachers back in the day, traveling to areas that had no preachers' pastors or church buildings. Remember this is in the early pioneer days of Florida. These preachers traveled through the woods on dirt roads and trails with swamps, bugs, snakes as well as bears and Indians. No telling what else all in the name of the Lord to share the gospel ministering to anyone that came to the meetings.

They were welcomed and paid for their time as well as a dry place to sleep while they visited Wewa and its surrounding area. God was blessing our ancestors with His word, via horseback and tough men that knew his word, sharing it with a passion most of the time. They also gave our pioneers the latest news and shared their love, including letters from relatives that lived north or south from us. Blountstown and Apalachicola conducted services monthly.

During the early part of the last century, some of the pastors who served were the Rev. Wright (1906), Rev. Juda (1917), Rev. Bryant (1920), Rev. Bridges (1921), Rev. Wilkes (1930), Rev. Garrett (1935), Rev. Moncrief (1936), and Rev. Hodges (1936), to name a few. During WWII years, the church was served by Rev. J.A. Nichols. It was during that time that the first parsonage was built. Brother G.T. Hinton succeeded Bro. Nichols in January of 1944. During Bro. Hinton's ministry, the old sanctuary was found on the back of the property and a brand-new sanctuary was built in its place. It was dedicated during November in 1952.

Bro. W.A. Frye was pastor from August 1955 to August 1962. While Brother W.J. Runnels served the church from September 1962, until July 1969. The church built the educational building on the south side of Church

Avenue and started the Dalkeith Mission. The present parsonage was built while Brother Charles Johnson was pastor during the early 1970 until April 1972. Brother Harvey English was pastor from June 1972 through May 1975 and led the church in a major renovation of the old auditorium. Brother Davis Ramsey was pastor from February 1976-through March 1978. In April 1978, Brother English was called again and served until October of 1979. In November 1979, Brother Adolph Bedsole was called as interim pastor and served in that capacity until he was called as pastor in March of 1980. Brother Bedsole led the church in surveying the entire area to find prospects and instituted a workable visitation program. Also, during that time, the church bought a brand-new "Rodgers" organ.

During October in 1982, Brother Richard Bloodworth assumed the pastorate. In 1987, the church bought a Yamaha grand piano and completely refurbished the auditorium which included painting, carpet, new pew upholstery and drapes. Brother Richard Maddox served as pastor from December of 1989 until June 1995. January 1991 gave witness to dedication of the former home of Mrs. Alma Lee Jones, which the church bought and named it, "The Jones House." It was used for Sunday School, VBS and youth group meetings. The home was remodeled in 2006 and is used as a Youth Minister home today.

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

Due to the growth of the church and answered prayers, they have added a 16,200 square foot Family Life Center that was completed in February of 2007 (which I lovingly nicknamed, "Noah's Ark") The FLC has a fellowship hall/gymnasium, kitchen and classrooms, and serves the Church and the community of Wewa for various functions. Wewahitchka First Baptist Church also has an ongoing bus ministry running on Sundays and Wednesdays. To God Be the glory for His increase in souls. Thank the Lord for such works in our community as well as all the other ministries in our area.

Several years ago, I counted how many churches were in the Wewa area, there were 21 at the time. Then I looked at the population of Wewa proper, approximately 2200 folks live here. Now that is amazing! 100 people average per church. "God is Good! God is Great!" The Youth Minister Brother Allen Singley would say, back in the 1990's, when my children were part of youth group. Now they are all grown up and having kids

and grandkids for themselves to enjoy. Time passes fast, if only we could enjoy those moments again. (Note: The historical history above, for the most part, was provided by Mrs. Ferald Greer, who is a great source of local history.

## WHAT SAY YOU?



**Thomas Paine once wrote:**

“Give me Liberty or give me death!”

“A body of men holding themselves accountable to nobody ought not to be trusted by anybody. “

“We have it in our power to begin the world over again.”

“The real man smiles in trouble, gathers strength from distress, and grows brave by reflection.”

“He who dares not offend cannot be honest.”

**George Washington once wrote:**

“Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.”

"In matters of Power, let no more be heard of confidence in men, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."

**Thomas Jefferson once wrote:**

"I swear upon the altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

"Timid men prefer the calm of despotism to the tempestuous sea of liberty."

“The best governed people are the least governed people.”

TW

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

Did you know your bad habits are most likely holding you back from doing even greater things in your life? Your bad habits are most likely hurting those around you that you love and truly care for...it is up to you to make changes in your life. Ask for help, it is only a phone call away in most cases.

Ephesians 4:22-24

TW

## Know The Law-Protect Yourself

### U.S. Code/Statutes

**U.S. Statutes protecting “We The People” from abusive servants:**

18 USC §241 Conspiracy Against Rights.

18 USC §242 Deprivation of rights under color of law.

18 USC §645 Court Officers Generally.

18 USC §654 Officer or Employee of United States Converting Property of Another.

18 USC §872 Extortion by Officers or Employees of the United States.

18 USC §1001 Statements or Entries Generally.

18 USC §1503 Influencing or Injuring Officer or Juror Generally

18 USC §1512b Engages in Misleading Conduct.

18 USC §2071 Concealment, Removal, or Mutilation Generally’

18 USC §2076 Clerk is to File.

26 USC §7214 Offenses by Officers and Employees of the United States.

42 USC §1983 Civil Action for Deprivation of Rights.

42 USC §1985(3) Conspiracy to Interfere with Civil Rights.

42 USC §1986 Action for Neglect to Prevent.

(See FBI.com Federal Civil Rights Statues <http://www.fbi.gov>)

(See <http://crsreports.congress.gov>)

(See <http://www.law.cornell.edu>)

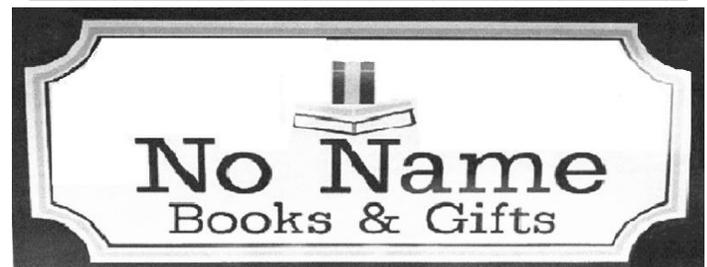
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## WEWAHITCHKA CITY FIRE STATION NEWS-CONCERNS- LACK OF PROGRESS!

by Tom Wynn



In the last city meeting, Mayor Gaskin mentioned about the lawsuit between the City of Wewa and contractor Tommy Hamm company Winterfell. The contractor who did not complete the new fire house project on time (by December 26, 2021, as agreed). In an interview with our local TV station, Channel 13, Mr. Hamm was asked, **“What is it like working with the city of Wewahitchka on their new firehouse?”**

- “I have never ever in my career of 15 years ever worked for a bunch of people as incompetent and inept as is the city commission of Wewahitchka.”

**YET!** City commissioner Mr. Ralph Fisher is known for his excellent work in the construction business of this same type buildings all over the panhandle. He has over 40 years of experience in commercial and private home building. Mr. Jackie Husband, our local engineer, he and his crew are some of the finest in the panhandle and are used and recommended by many (including Gulf County). Mayor Phillip Gaskin is well known, his work quality is superior as well, he too has been in the construction business for 40 years or more.

The City Commission’s knowledge and experience have been a major asset to our little city for many years now, and they have never made bad decisions, that I am aware of when it comes to construction and contracts with other businesses during their time on the city board.

The Mayor and Commissioner Fisher always seem to be a step ahead and ask tough questions of contractors and engineers about projects the city is hiring for. They are very much keen on what is happening and ask the right questions during city meetings of those that must come before the board on construction projects. Commissioner Brian Cox also is very keen on how a Fire House operates, and needs.

So, I personally feel Mr. Hamm’s comments are unjust and will soon be proven to be considered hateful and uncalled for, considering the facts.

During my own investigation in this matter, I have found an eyewitness that saw the concrete floor being poured on a very rainy day, and a pump was used to remove water at one end of the building as they poured concrete at that same time in another end of the building. The rain was coming into the floor area adding to the mix and watering it down, reducing its quality and strength, the witness told me. Mr. Fisher saw the same event as I questioned him on the matter later during the construction, as he too was worried over the floor concrete construction.

During a city meeting, Mr. Fisher was asked by the public and the City Commission itself, to go and inspect the project and report back to the city commission of his findings. This was due to the various concerns of the citizens over the lack of movement of the project and the rumored poor-quality construction by Winterfell construction crews that were rampant in Wewa.

Mr. Fisher did so, then had a cell phone call with Mr. Hamm of his findings and observations of the roofing crew and concrete work. He told Mr. Hamm to read the contract and especially note page 3 about the roof construction.

Mr. Hamm and our commission did not see eye to eye on his construction and his lack of movement in the firehouse construction overall. I, as well as other Team Chipola members were checking the construction site from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and noticed a lack of construction crews on beautiful days as did many other citizens of Wewahitchka. As it was said to me in an interview, after Mr. Hamm’s comments on Channel 13 News, “We maybe hicks, but we are not stupid hicks!”, a comment made in a joking manner. The truth of the matter folks is that the construction of the firehouse was and is sorry and slow coming, as so many citizens complained to our City Commission, as time went on. As so many folks that live in the Wewa area are in the construction business including our own City Commissioners. Wewa had to act after Winterfell Construction Company did not meet the contracted deadline after they granted an extra 72 rain days to Mr. Hamm’s construction company’s timeline-deadline, as he asked.

He was to hand over the keys to the completed firehouse on December 26, 2021, after the rain days were figured in. NOPE! NATTA! No keys! And the firehouse still sits incomplete to this day! It saddens me to see our new fire house sit without the beautiful, well maintained fire trucks sitting in their new castle, facing 2<sup>nd</sup> Street made ready for the next fire call.

As the frustration grew, the city board did all they could legally to give Winterfell rain days and other requested things important to the completion of the building, the city was under a FAMA Grant completion date.

As I travel around our fine city, around Gulf County in general, as well as Bay County, comments are made to me to watch YouTube to see more about Mr. Tommy Hamm. And so, I did.

Today the city is still involved in a lawsuit with Winterfell Construction and its Bonding Company. Now, as of the July meeting the city is to sue the Bonding Company and ordered our city Lawyer to make hast! The latest word is that Mr. Hamm's Lawyer finally sued the correct city (they had tried to sue Port St. Joe on this manner, and has yet to serve The Wewa City Mayor, as it proper in this type Lawsuits), thus the lawsuit was dismissed by the judge, meanwhile, the city fire trucks, and equipment are temporarily parked in the city barns on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, awaiting their new home. Ms. Michelle Jordan, the city lawyer, continues to work behind the scenes to get our fire station situation dealt with legally, but has not commented much on the situation, as lawsuits can take time.

I told the city council of my own research in finding a contractor that has built several fire stations in North Florida successfully. The contractor (Mr. Jason Alderman, the North Florida area leader of MADRID Engineering Group-CPWG) was interested in finishing the project for the City of Wewa.

Since the contractor's termination, no one is allowed to enter the building. So, it sits with no doors and unfinished construction and wooden walls exposed to moisture. See YouTube video by Burnie Thompson  
The Burnie Thompson Show **see YouTube:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmQWOMzHZI0> it shed more light on the situation.

The Commission has decided to borrow the money and finish the firehouse, then sue the Bonding Company.

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## **SUBWAY GETS A NEW MANAGER**

by Tom Wynn

Wewa's Subway, that feeds hundreds of Wewahitchkaians weekly have served up a new manager, Mr. Mike Thomson. Mr. Mike has a pleasant personality and remembers to give a military discount and ask for your Subway card at every visit. The Wewa Subway was first opened in 1996 by Jamie Lester and later traded hands once before Beverly and Herman Pitts became the owners. Subway has a new menu displayed and the sandwiches seem to be very tasty. Stop by and say hi to Mr. Mike as he has become the official head manager. TW

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**Romans 5:8**

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For those of you who may not know all that Janet Wood, owner of Heaven-Sent does, is she helps those in need as she is able, weather it is monetary or material needs. She is able to do this by us shopping at her store.

Someone she has helped is Carie Watts Kemp. Carie has a genetic disease called Huntington Chorea, Janet has gone as far as taking her in to live with and care for her. The disease is progressing to the point that it is time for Carie to go live where she will be with medical personnel who will be able to meet her health needs. They need funds/donations to help her go live in a special place for those with her condition.

Please find it in your heart to go by Heaven Sent on Highway 71 North in Wewa and give what your heart leads you to give. Janet and Carie will fly up to North Carolina for Carie to see her grandmother before she goes to this special hospital to live. This place was created especially for those that have this rare genetic disease that Carie has. Her brother passed away 2 years ago at the age of 38 with the same rare disease. Your donation will be greatly appreciated. Thank you, to all that have already donated and thank you to those who plan to donate.

The Wewa News

**LW**

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**THE LOCAL CANDIDATES WILL DEBATE IN WEWA**

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## A BUSY BEE BIT OF WEWA HISTORY THE MOVIE MADE IN WEWA "Ulee's Gold" Starring Peter Fonda

by Tom Wynn

Back in the day, when I started "The Wewa News" in 1995, a movie was about to be filmed in Wewahitchka and in some other locations in the Panhandle area to create what is famously known today as the movie 'Ulee's Gold' starring Mr. Peter Fonda (the son of the famous actor Henry Fonda) as well as others including Patricia Richardson of "Tool Time" a funny TV show loved by most Americans; and a young teen named Jessica Biel, who would go on to be famous as well. The director was named Mr. Victor Nunez who happened to be traveling through Wewa when he discovered L.L. Lanier's fine tasting Tupelo honey, and so the story of "Ulee's Gold" was born.



The Lanier family (L.L. and Ben) of Wewa were instrumental in the development and financing of the film. The movie made its rounds to the world theaters, in DVDs and on TV. It has become a must-see video to watch if you know anything about the sweetest little city in Florida.

Many locals were in the movie (I was offered a part as an extra by the casting director in Papermakers Credit Union one afternoon but told her that I would rather report about the filming of the movie to the locals than be in the movie itself). I was thankful to enjoy the filming from the back of the camera on Main Street, then in front of the camera.

Ben and Glynnis helped with the film's production, Ben taught Peter Fonda how to work the bees for the movie and his family was cast as extras as well (you can see them in the restaurant scene filmed in Apalachicola sitting at a table). Ben played a key role in making Fonda look like a real beekeeper in the movie. It is told that all the swamp scenes and bee yard scenes were filmed on Lanier property. I loved to show family and friends, which come to visit, the old truck that was in the film. Not sure if it is still there today. Hmm... Just a final note folks! Peter Fonda (who passed away in LA from lung cancer on August 16, 2019, at age 79) did receive an Oscar Nomination for his role as the beekeeper Ulee, a U.S. Veteran-Beekeeper in the movie.

Romans 5:1

## "SAVE THE OLD COURT HOUSE" THE COUNTY COMMISSION AGREED TO RESTORE THE OLD COURTHOUSE BUILDING IN THE CENTER OF WEWAHITCHKA

by Tom Wynn

Courtesy of The Wewa News via private photos and an Internet photo search of our beloved old courthouse for your enjoyment. Please help and encourage our Gulf County government, local businesses and others to restore it beyond its former glory giving it a new life and purpose. A tribute to our beloved: Notice the changes in trees and bushes. The County Commissioners



have asked our citizens to write letters to them expressing our concern for the old Gulf County Courthouse to be restored to its former glory and upgraded to modern condition and equipment. This will help them greatly with requesting grant money from government sources, and as well as private sources. Thank you, Gulf County, for helping each other in this project to restore and keep our history Alive!

TW

Opening Date Set For August 11, 2022

## HONEY HOLE RESTAURANT Wewa's newest restaurant

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## LIFT UP WEWA!

Bring joy to someone today! Tell someone you love them, tell someone you care about them, tell someone you miss them. Lift our leaders up and pray for those that run our government. Be kind when others are not! Be joyful when you see your friends, for tomorrow they or you may be gone. Not to worry, He has your life in His hands. Remember who you are, LOOK UP in the night sky, say "Hello Father, I see you own everything!" Live at peace, all is according to His will.

TW

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Romans 6:23

## TEAM CHIPOLA HAD AN OLE FASHION ICE CREAM SOCIAL

by Tom Wynn

On Saturday, July 30, 2022, Team Chipola (Ave.) had a yummy ice cream social event. Homemade ice cream of various flavors with all the fixings was had by the friendly



neighborhood. All the street was invited. Approximately 15 folks showed up. For hours we shared stories and laughed so hard! A day was had by all. We love one another and it shows. Just one more thing Wewahitchka Florida enjoys! TW

## DOMINO'S Paint & Body

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**Wewahitchka Historical Society  
July 21, 2022**

President Ann Johnson led the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes to the June 16 meeting were read by Dianne Semmes, Secretary. Minutes were approved. Tom Semmes gave the Treasurer's Report. Our current balance is \$799.99. We have our new Afghans in and have begun selling them.

Carol Wood gave an updated report on the Presbyterian Church. She stated that the church has a piano and two organs to give away to anyone that wants them. She is trying to get an amendment to the appraisal for the church. Several contractors have given estimates on what the cost will be to replace the frames for windows in the church. This is needed due to the fact that there could be leakage from rain.

Ann stated that we will start cleaning the bricks from the old city hall sometime in September. Members from the community are invited to help with this project if interested. Ann had made a request to all of the county commissioners to attend a town hall meeting in Wewa so that the citizens of Gulf County would have the opportunity to ask questions that they may have concerning the county. She was informed that they could not attend due to conflict with the Sunshine Law. She was told that if there is a meeting that it would have to be held in Port St. Joe!!

Ann let members know that we need letters of support from the public, businesses, etc., to request grants to refurbish the old courthouse. Casey Rhodes is currently working on writing grants.

Tom Godwin informed members that Shane Fuller, a member of the Sons of the Confederacy, have identified four cemeteries where veterans are buried. This group will be working on headstones at both Iola and Jehu cemeteries in the near future. Tom stated that there is a specific headstone that he has searched for, but up until now he has been unable to locate it. We plan to work on the property at Iola in December and hopefully some of the headstones will be located. Ann announced that we now have a website – [www.WewaHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.WewaHistoricalSociety.com).

Ann went over a list of upcoming events that are happening in our area from August- December such as the Apalachicola Riverkeepers Ice Cream Social on August 13, 2022, at the Honeyville Park, the Wewa Fall Festival will be held on October 1, 2022, at Lake Alice Park. Wewahitchka Historical Society

Ann said that she has emailed the by-laws and would like members to review them. A discussion of these will be done soon. Tom Semmes moved to adjourn the meeting, and this was second by Carol Wood. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 6:00 CST, at the Corner Café. Please come and bring a friend. D. Semmes, Secretary

---

**What are Some Common  
VA Disability Claims? Let us Help!**

If you think you have any of these and was in the U.S. Military for 90 days, during wartime or 180 days during non-war time, call **Mr. Joe Paul and or Ms. Lynn Lanier Gulf Co. Veterans Reps at 850-229-6125, leave a message, they will return your call:**

#1. Tinnitus-#2. Hearing Loss-#3. Limitation of Flexion of the Knee-#4. Post-Traumatic-stress disorder (PTSD)-#5. Lumbosacral or Cervical Strain-#6. Scars, General-#7. Paralysis of the Sciatic Nerve (Sciatica)-#8. Limitation of Range of Motion of the Ankle-#9. Migraines (Headaches)-#10. Limitation of Motion of the Arm-#11. Degenerative Arthritis of the Spine-#12. Sleep Apnea-#13. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)-#14. Major Depressive Disorder-#15. Asthma-#16. Diabetes Type 2-#17. Cancer-#18. Generalized Anxiety-Disorder-#19. Pes Planus (Flat Feet)-#20. Radiculopathy-#21. Adjustment Disorder-#22.-Somatic Symptom Disorder (Chronic Pain Syndrome)-#23. Gastroesophageal Reflex-Disease (GERD)-#24. Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)-#25. Erectile Dysfunction-#26. Plantar Fasciitis-#27. Arthritis-#28. Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)-#29. Degenerative Disc Disease (DDD)-#30. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS)-#31. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS)-#32. Fibromyalgia-#33. Eczema-#34. Allergic Rhinitis (Hay Fever)-#35. Sinusitis-#36. Meniere's Syndrome-#37. Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease (coronary artery disease)-#38. Chronic Conjunctivitis-#39. Limited Motion of the Jaw (Temporomandibular Disorder)-#40. Hiatal Hernia-#41. Hemorrhoids-#42. Varicose Veins-#43. Nephrolithiasis (Kidney Stones)-#44. Hypothyroidism-#45. Anemia-#46. Peripheral Neuropathy-#47. Prostate Gland Injuries-#48. Ischemic Heart Disease-#49. Vertigo-#50. Urinary Incontinence

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**Gulf County Extension  
to Offer Fall/Winter  
Master Gardener  
Volunteer Program**



The 2022-23 Gulf County Master Gardener course will be taught on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 AM to Noon. Part A session will begin on September 7 through October 19th. The class will regroup in the winter of 2023 for Part B. Classes will then begin on February 8<sup>th</sup> through March 29<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, (6) field trips are being planned on various Fridays. Depending on roster size and other logistics, the course will be held at Gulf County's Coastal Extension Office in Port Joe at 402 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street or PSJ Library.

**Requirements to become a Master Gardener:**

- Paper applications will be available for pickup/return at the Extension Office in Wewahitchka or either library location beginning **Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>**
- Complete a Master Gardener Application by **Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**.
- Pay a \$125 application fee (check) with application (will be refunded, if not selected). Check should be made payable to Gulf County Extension.
- Complete interview & background check during the last week by August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Complete 50+ hours of training (includes classroom and field trips).
- Complete 75 volunteer hours within the first year of certification through the Gulf County Extension Office.
- Master Gardeners can fulfill their volunteer hours in a variety of ways, including: answering horticultural questions, participating in community and school garden projects, giving educational programs to the public, supporting youth activities, and more.

**Remember space is limited!**

For any additional information, contact the Gulf County Extension Director & Master Gardener Coordinator, Ray Bodrey at 639-3200.

## Alzheimer's PROJECT

**Our Mission is to provide comfort, support, and assistance to persons with memory disorders and their caregivers across Gulf County. Email us for more information:**

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**Ephesians 6:4**

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## THE WEWA LIBRARY

by Joyelle Linton



It's that time again! City and county officials are preparing budgets for the next fiscal year. Have you ever wondered how the Gulf County libraries are funded? Here is a little information about how our library works. We are part of the Northwest Regional Library system, which includes three counties (Bay,

Gulf and Liberty), and is headquartered in Bay County. Gulf County is by far our main source of funding, along with the City of Wewahitchka and the City of Port St. Joe. We also get some funds from the State. All these government entities provide funds that cover the operating cost of our facility, and Gulf County's funds cover operational costs for both libraries in the county. Operating costs include, but are not limited to staff salaries, electricity, and water. The City of Wewahitchka owns the building that the Charles Whitehead Public Library is in, so they also pay the building insurance and provide maintenance for the building. We are grateful for all that our county and city commissioners do to support our library!

Still, after running costs are covered, funds for programming and items such as books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, and audiobooks are limited. There is a very small budget for these items, and it is split between the two libraries. Recently, a group of Wewahitchka citizens created an organization to support the library: The Friends of the Wewahitchka Library. This organization - a 501(c)3 - raises money to supply books and other items that cannot be bought within our limited budget. The Friends also volunteer to aid with programming. Since their start, they have already bought new tables for the conference room and take-home craft kits for children. If you would like to join the Friends of the Wewahitchka Library, or donate to help us grow, please contact the library at (850) 639-2419 for more information.

Over the last couple years, the library has experienced many challenges from Hurricane Michael and COVID-19. Nevertheless, the need for our library has never been greater. New programs and services are constantly being added to help our local community. Of course, with the addition of these services, as well as rising cost in the economy, added funds would be extremely helpful. The Wewahitchka Library would appreciate any direct donations to aid with the growing needs of our wonderful library. Your financial support is valuable to us in continuing to supply the level of service we offer.

Wewahitchka Library hosted a children’s summer reading program art contest, “Oceans of Possibilities. One winner from four age groups was chosen by totaling the in person votes and Facebook votes. Each child received \$25.00 from the Friends of the Wewahitchka Library. Winners are as follows: Ages: 3-5 Soren Sylvester, Ages: 6-9 Raina Vinson, Ages: 10-12 Haleigh Helms, Ages: 13-17 Allie Archibald.



The Wewa Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5 CT. Please contact us at (850) 639-2419 for more information. JL

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**Ecclesiastes 3:11a**

**IS THE FLORIDA SUNSHINE LAW VIOLATED IF THE COUNTY COMMISSION COMES TO WEWA AREA TO TALK WITH CITIZENS? THE ANSWER IS NO! SUNSHINE LAW MANUAL QUOTED BELOW:**

“3. Community forums sponsored by private organizations A “Candidates’ Night” sponsored by a private organization at which candidates for public office, including several incumbent city council members, will speak about their political philosophies, trends, and issues facing the city, is not subject to the Sunshine Law unless the council members discuss issues coming before the council among themselves. AGO 92-05. Compare Inf. Op. to Jove, January 12, 2009, concluding that a public forum hosted by a city council member with city council members invited to attend and participate in the discussion would be subject to s. 286.011, F.S. Similarly, in AGO 94-62, the Attorney General’s Office concluded that the Sunshine Law does not apply to a political forum sponsored by a private civic club during which 22 GOVERNMENT-IN-THE-SUNSHINE-MANUAL county commissioners express their position on matters that may foreseeably come before the commission, so long as the commissioners avoid discussions among themselves on these issues. And see AGO 08-18 (participation by two city council members in a citizens police academy does not violate the Sunshine Law; “[t]he educational course is not changed into a meeting of a board or commission . . . by the attendance and participation of members of the city council in the course work of the academy”).”

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**YOU MIGHT BE FROM WEWA IF...**send in your own answers that are funny to: [thewewanews2021@gmail.com](mailto:thewewanews2021@gmail.com)  
 Keep it family friendly and try to be original. I will share your best answers in upcoming issues, Grandpa Tom

## St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church



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## THE WEWA NEWS

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## The Constitution for the United States of America...Lets take a look!

by Tom Wynn

**Article VI:** *The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution. Sheriffs are judicial officers. In case you were wondering which oath of office the County Sheriff gives, see below: **Sheriffs Oath:** "I hereby do solemnly swear that I will support and defend this Constitution for the United States of America, against all enemies, foreign and domestic, so help me God". Don't be deceived the Law is not complex; Thomas Jefferson said that "Common sense is the foundation of all authorities, of the laws themselves, and of their construction."*

**The Law of the Land consists of:** (1) the Constitution, written by "We the People", under the authority of The Creator, to empower, control and restrict government servants, those that swear an oath of office in government. (2) Common Law which is written by God in the hearts of men; and (3) Constitutional Statutes which are written by voted into service, legislators. Any statute or code outside of the above mentioned, and there are many, is null and void and that is why we need a Constitutional Law protector who knows the difference. Who could that be per county? The local Sheriff.

The advent of the written Word of God among the Anglo-Saxons in England brought a desire to read and then to write. Reading was necessary in order to discern the mind of God through His written Scriptures. God's Word encouraged writing that men may copy and translate the Scriptures", writing also enabled the production of the Lex Salica - the earliest known record of Anglo-Saxon folk law-issued on the European continent under King Clovis following his conversion to Christ in A.D. 496.288 The earliest written compilation of the Anglo-Saxon Volkriht (folk law) in England was issued by Ethelbert, the Christian king of Kent, about A.D. 865.289

HOSEA 4:6

JOHN 8:32



## Wewa RV Park & Trading Post

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### FOR THOSE THAT ARE INTERESTED

The UF/IFAS Honeybee Research and Extension Lab is hosting the next Bee College in Panama City on August 12-13, 2022. Bee College is a training event for beekeepers of all experience levels. Bee College participants get the opportunity to learn about honeybees and beekeeping from the state experts. Class topics include beginner beekeeping courses, in-hive skill practice, research updates, native bees, and more! For more information on Bee College and the registration link, please visit: <https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honey-bee/extension/events-and-activities/bee-college/>

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Romans 3:10-18

## WEWA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

by Polly Romiti

For August, we have a few topics of interest. First, thank you to the City of Wewa and the County Commissioners for the new stove. It has been installed and as the saying goes, "Now we're cooking with gas!" If you or someone you know is over the age of 60 and would like to see what programs you may qualify for, please contact our center for more information. 850-229-8499. Or [email: oaagulf@aanfleads.org](mailto:oaagulf@aanfleads.org).

We are need of volunteers to deliver for our Meals on Wheels Program throughout the Gulf County area. We have clients on the waiting list needing home delivered meals. Due to limited staff, volunteers would be instrumental in filling this void.

Next, the dog days of Summer are upon us and the temperatures have been running pretty doggone hot! The Senior Center has programs available for Gulf Coast Electric Coop customers needing assistance in paying their energy bill for qualifying individuals.

Finally, all our activities are free for seniors 60+. Our activities offer a great opportunity to socialize in a cheerful atmosphere. We are also seeking volunteers to help expand our activity programs by leading physical, mental, spiritual, cultural, and social activities to enrich the lives of our seniors.

These include exercise, support groups, arts and crafts, car/board games and more. We are thankful for our community's continued support. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to build and expand our programs.

**HEADS UP! Friends of the Library 4<sup>th</sup> of August meeting is Cancelled.**

# Tobacco, A Parable

By Grandpa Tom Wynn

**Note:** This Parable was written by an unknown author and was in a Bible School magazine back in the 1930's (the wording and spelling left as originally written). My father copied it out of the old magazine in the early 70's trying to get me to quit smoking. Thanks, Dad, for helping me see that smoking is dangerous to our health and our families' health. January of 2023 will be my 42<sup>th</sup> year of being Smoke Free. For those of you that want to quite the habit, can do so if you want it bad enough. Keep trying! Don't give up! And if you haven't started using it yet...DON'T! If you have, seek help, today there is approximately 11 percent more nicotine in cigarettes then when I was a smoker, back in the 1970's. Prayer helps too!

“Then shall the kingdom of Satan be likened to a grain of tobacco seed; which, though exceedingly small being cast into the ground grew, and became a great plant; and spread its leaves rank and broad, so that the huge and vile worms formed a habitation thereon.

And it came to pass in the course of time, the son of man liked upon it, and thought it beautiful to look upon, and much to be desired to make lads look big and manly. So they put forth their hands and did chew thereof. And some it make sick, and others to vomit filthily. And it further came to pass that those who chewed it became weak and unmanly, and said, “WE ARE ENSLAVED AND CAN'T CEASE FROM CHEWING IT.”

And the mouths of those that were enslaved became foul; and they did spit even in Ladies' Parlor, and in the house of the Lord of Hosts. And the Saints of the Most High were greatly plagued thereby.

And in the course of time, it came to pass that others sniffed it; and they were taken suddenly with fits, and they did sneeze with a great and mighty sneeze, inasmuch that their eyes filled with tears, and they did look exceedingly silly.

And yet others cunningly wrought the leaves thereof into rolls and did set fire to the end thereof and did suck vehemently at the other end, thereof, and did look grave and calf-like; and the smoke of their torment ascended forever and ever. The cultivation thereof became a mighty business on the earth; and the

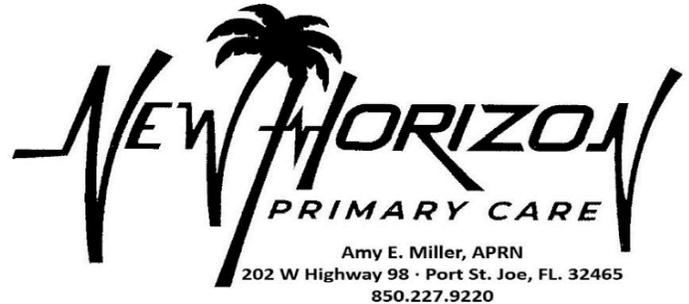
merchantmen waxed rich with the commerce thereof.

And it came to pass that the saints of the Most High defiled themselves therewith; even the poor who could not buy shoes, or bread, or books, for their little ones, spent their money for it.

And the Lord was greatly displeased therewith and said: “Wherefore this waste; and why do these little ones lack bread, shoes, and books? Turn now your fields into corn and wheat; and put this evil thing far from you, be separate, and defile not yourselves anymore; and I will bless you and cause my face to shine on you.

But with one accord they all exclaimed, “We cannot cease from chewing, sniffing, and puffing----

**We are slaves!”**



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## U-HAUL RENTAL TRUCKS MOVING ON TO GREENER PASTURES

By Tom Wynn

If you haven't noticed as of late, many folks are moving into our area, via U-Haul trucks, personal trailers and some 18 wheelers. Gulf County, Bay County and other local counties are filling up with new people wanting to live in one of the best places in the country. So, as a result they have moved themselves down or up to our area, leaving many U-HAUL trucks in their wake!

U-HAUL is moving them back to other states to recycle them for even more folks to use their services (Alabama, South Florida, Georgia and Mississippi as well).

If you see many heading down the road of Bay and Gulf counties, you will know why. I noticed a new place on Overstreet that has U-HAUL trucks and trailers in case you need one.

Having contacted my real estate advisors they seem to think that sales are slowing down a bit overall, but Port

St. Joe seems to be moving to North Gulf County as our taxes are lower, our water taste better and housing is much cheaper. Now this is what those that moving up here say and the Real Estate folks agree for the most part. As time moves on, the interest rates will affect the market here, but some folks are paying cash because they sold their old home and are ready to make a life in our area, time will tell. **TW**

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### **CHIEF "PREACHER" J.H. GLASS June 1971**

On a hot and rainy day in mid-July my neighbor, Chuck Johnson, and I were heading back to Wewa from a county meeting and decided to take a short stop at Roberts Cemetery in Honeyville.

He wanted to see it, as he was new to Wewa and kept forgetting to, look see. As we walked the rows, I was amazed how many folks I knew or knew about that are buried there. We stayed about an hour, looking at nearly all the grave sites.

I have been wanting to go get the wording on Preacher Glass' tombstone for The Wewa News, so I could share the words with my readers, he was an important part of Wewa history for sure.

He was an amazing lawman, and his memory is so important to us locals to not forget his legacy. He helped so many folks, mainly boys, that were heading down the wrong road. He quickly showed them the error of their ways or wish they had listened to him. He knew what he was talking about. So here is word for

word what is written about him on his tombstone that lays over his remains, I have been told that Sheriff Frank McKeithen was trained by Preacher and loved him very much. Sheriff McKeithen wrote these endearing words that are engrave on his gravesite:

### **THREE MEN DIED TODAY**

Three men died today.

YES, three men passed away

A father who loved his kids

A husband who loved his wife

A man who wore a badge for almost half his life

Yes, three men passed away

A loving father, A faithful husband

And a police officer you knew little about

Preacher was a legend

A legend in his own time

A faithful friend of yours

And a faithful friend of mine

He wasn't highly educated

With books and years of school

But with the knowledge he had of people

He was very seldom fooled

He knew more about people

Than most people knew about themselves

I never asked him a question

He didn't have an answer to

Regardless of the subject, it's like he always knew

He was kind of different as we all know

And if he was ever scared, he never let it show

Yes, Preacher was a legend

A Legend of our own

And even though he's passed away

His memories will live on

And when you think about this man

Remember the father, The Husband,

And The Policeman

**For three men died today.**

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### **Up Coming Events For August**

**August 2, 2022:** The First meeting of the Gulf County Beekeepers Association will be at the UF/IFAS Extension at 232 East Lake Ave., Wewahitchka, Florida 32465

**August 4, 2022:** at the Senior Citizen Center behind the Wewa Library at 6pm, candidates running for County Commission District 2 will give speeches and answer questions in a public meeting. Please attend.

**August 13, 2022:** Apalachicola Riverkeepers Ice Cream Social at Honeyville Park 2pm. Everyone is invited.

**Romans 6:23**

**THIS PAGE AND THE WEWA NEWS PHONE BOOK IS SPONSORED BY The Shrimp Lady and Coastal Realty Group**



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- WEWA BEE & HONEY–Greg Skipper.....(850) 819-4458

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- SUBWAY–Mike.....(850) 639-4100
- ST. JOE LIBRARY–Mimi Minnick.....(850) 229-8879
- TAUNTON BUILDING SUPPLY–Adam.....(850) 639-2336
- THE WEWA HISTORICAL Society–Ann.....(850) 867-5970
- THE WEWA NEWS-Tom.....(850) 404-2914
- TUPELO NUTRITION.....(850) 639-1007
- WEWA CITY HALL.....(850) 639-2605
- WEWA LIBRARY–Joyelle.....(850) 639-2419
- WEWA RV PARK–Bob.....(850) 639-5721

**National and Community Phone Numbers**

- National Runaway Hotline.....1-800-621-4000
- National Child Abuse Hotline.....1-800-422-4453
- National Domestic Violence .....1-800-799-7233
- Center Missing/Exploited Children.....1-800-843-5633
- National Poison Center Hotline ..... 1-800-222-1222
- Substance Abuse Help Line.....1-800-662-4357

**THE SHRIMP LADY**

**CALL (850) 866-8520**



**WE ARE ON HIGHWAY 71**

South just before downtown Wewa. Come on in! We have **Cantu Family Tupelo Honey**, too. We also carry the Wewa News, while supplies last.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Charlie Pettis and Johnny Paul for begin returned to there position on the city council board. Been there and done that and know you don’t get many thank you’s. Thank you, Mayor Gaskin and board members, for doing a great job of taking care of our beautiful city. Sincerely, Mr. Daniel Eugene Hanlon **DEH**

**INFORMATIONAL NOTICE**

The Wewa News is a locally owned and operated newspaper, created solely for the enjoyment of the people who live in the Wewa area. Our purpose is to bring “Good News” and “Whatever” to our locals’ attention. I hope to bring back some joy and fun into our lives again and bring us closer than ever before. Thank you to those that support our efforts. **TW**

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**The Friends of the Wewahitchka Library** meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be July 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. CT. Anyone is welcome to attend. The Wewa Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm CT. For more information, please call us at: (850) 639-2419. **August meeting is cancelled.**

**FREE!**

The Presbyterian Church in Wewahitchka has two instruments that perhaps someone can use: >Kimball Entertainer Organ > Hammon Organ - needs work. James Rish can be contacted to pick up these items. 850-639-3645 **CW**

**Romans 8:38-39**