



# THE WEWA NEWS™



## SAVE THE OLD GULF COUNTY COURT HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 2022 >> Vol. 4 No. 09-01 <<A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!

### GULF COUNTY COMMISSION ASKED ABOUT OLD COURT HOUSE UPDATE

by Tom Wynn



During the August County commission meeting, Commissioners and County Administrator, Michael Hammond reported that the old courthouse is still high and dry and that the next event concerning the building would happen in November. Mrs. Jo Ellen Campbell, a member of the Wewahitchka Historical Society went to the county meeting to ask for an update on the old courthouse status for the repairs and upgrades. The big question asked by Mr. Hammond was who will take over the building after its restoration? He mentioned the City of Wewa for their new city hall, was a good idea for its future use.

### WEWAHITCHKA CITY FIRE STATION CITY COUNCIL WILL HAVE IT FINISHED!

by Tom Wynn



For those of you that are following the new fire station story: In the July city meeting, Mayor Phillip Gaskin mentioned about the lawsuit between the City of Wewa and contractor Tommy Hamm's company Winterfell Construction. The City Council in a vote of 5-0 passed a decision to borrow the money to complete the Firehouse and to sue the bonding company for Winterfell Construction for the cost and damages to the city and the unfinished part of the firehouse construction. Also, for the repairs of what was not done according to the contract with Winterfell Construction. The mayor directed the city, "in house" Engineer, Mr. Jack Husband to develop a list of what needed to be repaired, completed, and/or fixed to finish the fire house and then put out notices for construction bids.

### MAYOR GASKIN AND COMMISSIONER FISHER RECEIVE A RESOLUTION FROM THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

by Tom Wynn



### Mayor Phillip Gaskin and his wife K-leigh

At the conclusion of the August city meeting Mayor Phillip Gaskin and Commissioner Ralph Fisher at the end of the August city meeting was presented with an award of recognition for their service to the City of Wewahitchka. Mayor Gaskins has served as mayor and city commissioner for 25 years and Mr. Ralph Fisher has served as City Commissioner for 20 years.

Mr. Fisher was not at the meeting to receive his award. Both men served well during Hurricane Michael working hard with FEMA and other agencies to get the city back up and running. Our days of turmoil has lasted for years now, but we are seeing daylight. Thank you both gentlemen for your love and care you have showed toward our little city of Wewa!

**THE OCTOBER FESTIVAL BEING HELD AT LAKE ALICE PARK 1 OCTOBER COME ONE COME ALL! HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.**

### DISTRICT 2 REPUBLICANS HAVE SPOKEN!

by Tom Wynn

With a tight race between Billy Traylor and Ward McDaniel, the Republicans voted Mr. Traylor as their Republican candidate by 12 votes for the November 8<sup>th</sup> race for County Commissioner, District 2.

## CITY LIBRARY ASKING VETERANS TO SEND IN THEIR MILITARY PHOTOS FOR WEWA HISTORY

by Tom Wynn

The Charles Whitehead Public Library has asked our local Veterans to send in photos of themselves during their military career. These photos will be on display at the library for Veterans Day and local history events.

## STONEMILL CREEK GRIST MILL WHEEL DISPLAYED IN THE WEWA LIBRARY

by Tom Wynn



The old Stonemill Creek grist mill was owned and operated by Mr. T.H. Stone with his family for about seven years before moving to St. Joe. He was the founder of St. Joseph and its first postmaster. He built the grist mill in the creek and a sawmill up the hill from the creek during the 1870's.

Mr. Domino Demunck located this part of what remains of the old grist mill wooden wheel and has placed it on loan at the city library for all to see. Please go by and look see of this piece of Wewa History.

## JOE PAUL PARTY AND CELEBRATION FOR HIS RETIREMENT

FOR ALL MILITARY VETS

October 6, 2022, Lake Alice Park 11:30 AM CT, all veterans are invited to celebrate our brother's retirement from the County VA Rep position. Thank you, Uncle Joe, for your service to our local vets and Gulf County.

## THE WEWA WOMEN'S CLUB FLAG PARK

The Wewahitchka GFWC continues to sell 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 served in. To order a brick 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 second Tuesday of each month. Contact Mrs. Terri Norris at: 850-832-9670 for further information. Ms. Peggy Causey is selling an 1875 commemorative plate with most of the City of Wewa's old landmarks on it. It is a great piece of history. The cost is \$20 and is a fundraiser for the Woman's Club. Check it out at Fisher's Building Supply.



## THE FAMOUS ACTOR AND SCREENWRITER JAMES EARNEST HURD JR. WAS FROM WEWA, A SWEET BIT OF LOCAL HISTORY

By Tom Wynn



James E. Hurd, Jr. was raised up in our sweet little city of Wewahitchka. James attended school at Wewa High he soon found his way in, "The Arts" of theatre acting in Tallahassee at Florida State University and

Florida A&M. Some of his lifelong friends were Mitchell Johnson, a local businessman, George V. Matlock a Tallahassee lawyer and James Earnest Rish, a local beekeeper, Billy Traylor and Chris Whitfield, to name a few. All grew up together in Wewa. Jim Rish gave me a short story of his and Junior's time of growing up next to each other when they were boys. Here is a small quote from his story:

"Junior got to play football in high school, but my dad would not let me. Asking why you would want to do that, I answered for exercise. I'll give you exercise he said...meaning working with the family farming and beekeeping operation. In time Junior went on to Tallahassee to attend Florida A&M and maybe even some time at FSU. At any rate he was determined to make it in the film industry out in California." So now we learn that it was his dream to be in films and move to California when he was very young.

James soon went on to be in plays and movies in Hollywood. He starred in "The Mighty Gents" and "Room Beneath the Blues." His leading role in L.A. California stage work included "Sentence of Silence," "No Longer an Alien," "Living on the Edge," "The Split," "Room 1222," (which he also wrote and directed in workshop), "Peeled" and "Speaking of Charlie," which opened at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles in October 2005. Hurd completed the feature films Columbus Day, Jive Chicken, Duplicator, Red Herring, Able Edwards, Compton Cowboy and Consignment. I remember him in movies when I was younger, but never realized he was the same James Hurd of Wewa. He was seen in various TV shows including episodes of "General Hospital", "Murder She

Wrote," and he starred in the film "Repo Jake." His film debut was in "Something Wild" with Jeff Daniels and the beautiful Ms. Melanie Griffin.

James Hurd was also a playwright and director, co-authoring civil rights subject matter that were drama based with his co-author, Linda Bannister.

He wrote "One Sunday in Mississippi," a one-act play about the murders of civil rights workers in 1964, which was featured at the National Black Theater Festival in the year of our Lord 2003.

Their movie drama called "Turpentine Jake", is a story about black laborers that were enslaved by trickery of indebtedness during the 1930's in the state of Florida. James Hurd was also director and played the title role in Turpentine Jake, which I think was based on his own grandfather.

Hurd and Bannister also did a drama on the experiences of menopause, called Cul De Sac. James was a hard worker in the film and stage industry before his passing in July 2014. He spent 13 years working in the art departments of feature films including The Five Heartbeats, Sneakers, Next Friday, Batman, What Lies Beneath, Dog Catcher and Like Mike. Poet of the Swingin' Blade is Hurd's first film behind and in front of the camera; he co-authored, directed, and produced many movies during his lifetime. He was one man that could have a story and bring it to life, with conviction and strength, giving it great value to those that he touched with his works of action and words.

Yet another famous Wewahitchkan that the world will miss. Let us not forget our sons and daughters that have made a positive mark on the world as they travel, work and play before they go home to rest.

Job well done brother. You will not be forgotten! (The photograph above is my favorite photo of him as I remember him in the movies back in the day). Jim Rish's father was close friends with James Hurd Sr. *Credit: Biography information by Ms. Linda Bannister; James Earnest Rish, Mitchell Johnson.*

## Supreme Court Overturns Precedent In Property Rights Case, In 2019, let's take a look see...

by Tom Wynn

**The justices of the U.S. Supreme Court decided a property rights case that overturned decades of precedent.**

The supreme court of the country back in 2019 made a decision that changed things for the private property owners of America. Yes, that includes Gulf County Florida too. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that property owners can go directly to federal court with claims that state, county and city regulations effectively deprive landowners of the use of their property (Ordinances and etc.).

In a 5-4 decision they overturned decades of precedent that barred property owners from going to federal court until their claims had been denied in state court firstly.

Federal courts are often viewed as friendlier than state courts for such property claims. The decision, with all five of the court's conservatives in the majority, may have effects in cities and coastal areas that have strict regulations for development, hmmm sounds like Gulf County possibly. TW

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

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**CONTACT THE WEWA NEWS VIA EMAIL:**  
[thewewanews2021@gmail.com](mailto:thewewanews2021@gmail.com)

**Attention: Tom Wynn**  
**Supply your name and contact information-Thank you for your support!**

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MICAH 7:19



**WHAT HAPPENED IN THE  
1950's AND 60'S THAT EFFECTED US  
BABYBOOMERS?**

**KNOW HISTORY...**

**Important Civil Rights Legislation**

By Tom Wynn

- ***Brown v. Board of Education (1954):*** This landmark decision allowed for the desegregation of schools.
- ***Gideon v. Wainwright (1963):*** This ruling allowed for any accused individual to have the right to an attorney. Before this case, an attorney would only be provided by the state if the result of the case could be the death penalty.
- ***Heart of Atlanta v. United States (1964):*** Any business that was participating in interstate commerce would be required to follow all rules of the federal civil rights legislation. In this case, a motel that wanted to continue segregation was denied because they did business with people from other states.
- ***Civil Rights Act of 1964:*** This was an important piece of legislation that stopped segregation and discrimination in public accommodations. Further, the U.S. Attorney General would be able to help victims of discrimination. It also forbids employers to discriminate against minorities.
- ***24th Amendment (1964):*** No poll taxes would be allowed in any states. In other words, a state could not charge people to vote.
- ***Voting Rights Act (1965):*** Probably the most successful congressional civil rights legislation. This truly guaranteed what had been promised in the 15th amendment: that no one would be denied the right to vote based on race. It ended literacy tests and gave the U.S. Attorney General the right to intervene on behalf of those who had been discriminated against.
- **November 23, 1963-**They killed our President on the very streets of America! John F. Kennedy, lest we forget. I was 8 years old, cried all the way home from

school. Got home only to see Oswald shot dead on the TV screen repeatedly. We all suffer from PTSD from such events, including our daily dose of the Vietnam War on black and white TV screens for years nightly.

Pray for America folks, love one another before it is too late and our own infighting destroys what we built together, the greatest nation to ever exist!

***Thomas Jefferson once wrote:***

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



**A SWEET BIT OF FLORIDA**

**HISTORY, *The Dirt, the Water and the Trees did not come cheap!*** by Tom Wynn

Europeans known as the Spaniards in 1513 Juan Ponce de Leon (means-from the Lion) crossed the Atlantic Ocean to come ashore at Cape Canaveral, then named the landmass “La Florida” and claimed it for Spain.

Later on, The Spanish Minister. Do Luis De Onis and the United States Secretary of State (later became president) John Quincy Adams signed the Florida Purchase Treaty, which the great country of Spain agreed to cede the remaining parts of its province land known as Florida to the United States of America (not the United States Inc., which was not formed yet, 1862-63 by President Lincoln).

The history of the Spanish colonization of our beautiful Florida peninsula began in the northern parts of Florida what is now known as St. Augustine during the year of our Lord 1565. The Spanish colonists in old St. Augustine had a moment of relative peace and stability before the peninsula came under attack from the resentful local American natives, as well as the Englishmen from the north during the 17<sup>th</sup> century period.

Spain’s involvement in the French and Indian War gave the British their opportunity to acquire Florida through the first Treaty of Paris in 1763. After an unproductive period of 20 years of British rule, Florida was returned to the Spaniards as part of the second Treaty of Paris, which ended our American Revolution with the British Army in 1783.

Spain's hold on Floridians was weak in the years after the American independence, and many boundary disputes developed with the Brits.

The United States, in 1819, after years of negotiations by John Quincy Adams achieved a diplomatic coup with the signing of the Florida Purchase Treaty. This which officially put Florida into the sovereignty of these United States of America at no cost except the assumption of some \$5 million of claims by U.S. citizens against the country of Spain. Formal United States occupation of land we call Florida began in 1821, and then, General Andrew Jackson (later President Jackson), a war hero during the War of 1812 in New Orleans, was appointed military governor of the peninsula of Florida.

Soon after, Florida was organized as a United States of America territory in the year of 1822 and was admitted into the Union as a slave state in 1845 (Florida was supposed to become two states, spit down the middle of the state. One side a slave state and the other side a free state, but at the last minute became one state).

Wewahitchka pioneers fought with the local natives and battled disease and the wild to make what we call Wewa a great place to live today.

Many family names are represented in our local cemeteries who suffered much to give their children's children a good life with abundance of honey, fish, deer, cattle, crops and many trees for harvest of their fruits, wood, turpentine and other things of value to the world. Their labor, our inheritance!

Be proud of your family history in America! We are the greatest nation that ever existed, an idea that worked and continues an artwork in the tapestry of the universe. **TW**

**Places to pick up a copy of The Wewa News: Wewa-The Shrimp Lady Store-Graceland Sheds; Wewa City Hall-Lake Alice office-Wewa Public Library In Port St. Joe- No Name Book Store-Reid Ave. Bayside Florist-Reid Ave.**

**DEUTERONOMY 19:15**

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**John 3:16**

## 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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#### Honey Processing, The Scoop on the Cottage Food Industry Regulation

By Ray Bodrey, Gulf County Extension Director, UF/IFAS

The state of Florida's honey production is a healthy commodity, no matter the size operation. Small-scale and commercial operations combined make up the roster of 5,000 registered beekeepers that in turn account for 700,00 colonies.

There's often confusion on bottling, labeling and selling honey in Florida, especially when beginners are looking to get into the market and when smaller operations are planning to make the commercial jump.

There are two directions a honey producer can choose in Florida, when it comes to food processing law. The small-scale producers are exempt from needing a permit, nor inspection inside the Florida cottage food law. Under this exemption, bottling and storing honey can be done in a home kitchen. It's important to note that a local law, ordinance, or regulation may not prohibit a cottage food operation or regulate the preparation, processing, storage, and sale of cottage food products by a cottage food operation or from a person's residence. Check with your county, local municipality, and farmers' markets before selling to the public. On the other hand, commercial operations must be permitted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) - Division of Food Safety. This level requires a bottling facility that must be periodically inspected.

How do small-scale honey producers qualify for the cottage food exemption?

- Can not exceed \$250,000 in gross sales
- Upon request, must provide FDACS with written verification of annual gross sales
- Store all cottage food honey on the premises of the cottage food operation
- Can not sell honey as wholesale commodity
- Provide proper label of cottage food product (see Figure 1)
- Comply with state and federal tax law
- Comply with all applicable county and municipal laws and ordinances regulating traffic, parking, noise, signage,

and hours of home retail operations.

What about sales? The "Home Sweet Home Act" allows producers to sell honey directly from the home, at roadside stands, festivals and markets. Producers can also advertise, sell and accept payment over the internet and through mail order. And what if you are a producer considering a commercial level?

Honey producers whose gross sales exceed \$250,000 annually and/or who sell their honey by consignment or wholesale are not exempt under cottage food operations. These operations must be properly licensed by FDACS, by obtaining a Food Establishment Permit: <https://www.fdacs.gov/>  
For more information on beekeeping, please contact the Gulf County Extension

office.

Information for this article can be found in the UF/IFAS EDIS publication, "Bottling, Labeling, and Selling Honey in Florida" by Amy Vu, Jennifer Hagen, Nancy Gentry, James D. Ellis, and Mary Bammer: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in918>

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**Who doesn't enjoy a good old water leak  
in their home? Exactly, no one!**

by Jason Miller

Who doesn't enjoy a good ole water leak in their home? Exactly, no one . When it comes to a water leak from your comfort system there are a few things you can try if you are interested in repairing yourself. Every home needs a wet/dry vacuum, these are vacuums that are made for wet or dry debris.

So, if you notice your comfort system leaking water, try vacuuming out the drain line that hooks to your drain pan , and normally runs out near your outdoor unit. Connect your vacuum hose to the outlet side of the drain and get ready to suck out some nastiness. If your drain is clear & water is still leaking , your unit could be thawing from a frozen coil, due to different reasons ( dirty coil, dirty filter, or several other possibilities).

It's a great idea to have your system cleaned yearly. If you have indoor pets , or you smoke in your home , you may need it cleaned more often. Keeping your unit maintained is a great way to help prevent water leaks from clogged lines. It's also a good idea to vacuum your drain once you first turn on your ac unit for summer use or anytime during the summer.

Hopefully this information will be helpful to you all. If we can be of any help with any of your comfort needs, please call us and we'll try our best to satisfy your comfort needs. Thanks for the opportunity, Miller Heating & Air Conditioning. 850-639-3319

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WEWAHITCHKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 18, 2022

President Ann Rish Johnson called the meeting to order. Tom Wynn led members in prayer.

Tom Semmes presented the monthly treasurers report. Our current balance is \$653.89.

A discussion was made concerning the town hall meeting, which was held on August 4, 2022, at the Senior Citizens Center. Individual Republican candidates were invited to attend, but unfortunately Billy Traylor was unable to attend due to a serious health issue, and Ward McDaniel was unable to attend due to an earlier planned meeting with his constituents in Overstreet. Tom Semmes was in attendance and answered questions from the public, as well as questions that were sent into the Republican party.

It was announced that **The Sons of the Confederacy** will be aiding our members with an upcoming activity which involves cleaning up headstones at Jehu Cemetery. More on this later. We now have a new website, [www.Wewahistory.org](http://www.Wewahistory.org), but it will not be made available for use until September.

Tom Wynn made a motion to approve July's minutes, and James Ernest Rish second the motion, all approved.

Tom Wynn made a motion that anyone joining the Wewahitchka Historical Society after September 2022, that their dues will be carried over through December 18, 2023. Gene Hanlon made a motion to approve. Approved by members.

A discussion was made about senior citizens who may know a lot of history about Wewa and would like to share it with our group is invited to attend one of our meetings. If you're unable to attend, please contact either Ann Rish Johnson at 850-867-5970 or Dianne Semmes at 850-227-6425 to set up a time that would be convenient to be inter-viewed. Some names that

were mentioned was Henrietta Branch, Ferald Greer, Buster Taunton, and Charles Mayhann.

James Ernest Rish made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tom Semmes second, all approved.

Tunnie Miller

Wewahitchka Historical Society

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## **Hey veterans! What are some common VA disability claims? Let's take a look!**

by Tom Wynn

**VA Secondary Conditions to Knee Pain, Let's talk about it here...** When dealing with knee pain, it's important to be aware of secondary conditions that can develop from that pain in your knee or knees.

One such condition is hip pain. Imbalances often cause hip pain in the muscles and joints. As a result, treating hip pain is essential for managing knee pain.

Stretching and strengthening exercises, as well as icing and anti-inflammatory medication, can help to relieve hip pain and prevent it from exacerbating knee pain.

### **How Much VA Disability Benefits Can You Get for Hips?**

If you are a U.S. veteran with a hip condition, you may be entitled to [disability compensation from the VA](#). The compensation and benefits you can receive will depend on the severity of your condition, so let's give Gulf County VA Reps, Joe Paul and Lynn Lanier (see contact info below) for getting your eval and file your claim asap. If you live elsewhere, go see your local rep nearest you.

With musculoskeletal conditions, the VA rates conditions based on pain, limited motion or too much motion, damage to the bones, diseases like arthritis, etc. The ratings for Hip and Thigh conditions varies from 10-90%, which depends on various factors. In addition, increased benefits may be available for hip

pain caused by hip replacements and those who experience markedly severe residual weakness.

If you think you have any of these above or below, 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. **TW**

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### **DO YOU REMEMBER TAKING THIS OATH OF OFFICE VETERANS? It's for Life! 5 U.S. Code § 3331. Oath of office**

An individual, except the President, **electd or appointed to an office of honor or profit in the civil service or uniformed services** shall take the following oath: "I, AB, (your full legal name) do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So, help me God." This section does not affect additional or other oaths required by law.

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## 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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## THE WEWA LIBRARY



by Joyelle Linton

Happy Fall Y'all! Have you ever considered researching your family history and learning about your genealogy? Do you find it hard to fit genealogy research into your everyday life? The Wewa Library can help you

out! We will have two separate genealogy programs during September.

Thanks to the Friends of the Gulf County Public Libraries, the Wewa Library has a free subscription to the library edition of Ancestry.com. On Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. CST we will host an Ancestry workshop. Staff will be available to help you with your research. Review our growing collection of local history and genealogy books. Free computer prints and copies will be offered during this free program. Notebooks and pens will be provided. Did I mention there will be door prizes? Call the Wewa library today to reserve your spot. Registration required. Spaces are limited.

Starting Thursday, September 29 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm CST we will have a 4-week course to learn how to use the Family Search website. In this course you will learn how to complete a four generational family tree, find new ancestors and other family history activities. The classes will be held weekly on Thursdays for four consecutive weeks. Reserve a computer or bring your laptop. Registration required. Spaces are limited.

In preparation for our second annual local history day event, to be held on Saturday, November 12 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CST, the Wewa Library is asking for your assistance. Please contact the library if you have any photographs or documents depicting local people, businesses, organizations or events. These items will be scanned and added to our collection, as well as used in slideshows and exhibits. These items will be returned to you unless you donate them to the library. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

The Wewahitchka Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST each week. Please contact us at (850) 639-2419 for more information. JL

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PSALM 55:22

## St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church



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

Services 10 am (CT) Sunday, lunch follows.  
except 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – 12 noon, lunch at 11 am.

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

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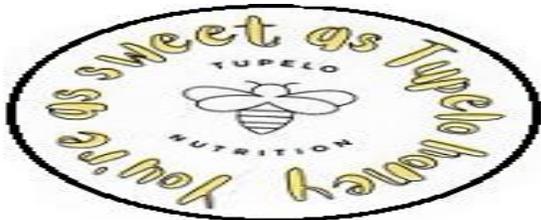
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EPHESIANS 2:10

## WEWA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

by Polly Romiti Senior Beat

Location 314 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Wewahitchka, FL 32465

In August, the staff and seniors organized a delicious Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser which was well received by locals. We thank everyone for their support.

Speaking of support, the center was the recipient of a generous donation of a pool table, dart board and big screen TV. Be sure to stop by for a game or two.

The Wewa Women's Club visited to call Bingo with wonderful prizes and even treated our seniors to an ice cream social. These wonderful ladies are working towards organizing various social activities and events for residents to enjoy. Details coming soon. Be sure to follow the Gulf County Senior Citizens Association on Facebook for announcements and calendar events.

We are looking forward this month to provides new activities and fundraisers for our Seniors. On 9/15/22, we're hosting Movie Day which includes popcorn and drinks for \$2.00. Movie title T.B.A. On 9/24/22, the Center will have a huge yard sale from 7am-1pm. Hot dogs, chips and a drink will be offered for \$5. All proceeds go to the Wewa Senior Center. Finally, we're hearing whispers of a potential project to put new signage up on our building, making the Center easier to find. Good things are happening at our Wewa Senior Center, so stay tuned for more updates.

If you or anyone you know wants to inquire about available programs, services or building rental for events/parties, please call the Center at (850) 639-9910 for information. You can also email us at: [oaagulf@aanfleads.org](mailto:oaagulf@aanfleads.org). PR

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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

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The GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club is a volunteer organization whose purpose is to promote and provide civic, educational, and charitable activities that enrich the lives and the environment in the service area of Wewahitchka, Florida.

If any local women are interested in finding out more about the club and what we do, please join us the second Tuesday of every month at Glad Tidings Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm for refreshments and our meeting starts at 6:00pm.

### REQUESTS PHOTOS AND HISTORY

by **REV. CAROL WOOD**

The hymn, How Firm a Foundation, has both spiritual and practical meaning for the congregation at First Presbyterian. On October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael pushed the historic frame church off the center of its' 1903 brick foundation. After receiving some funding from FEMA, a team from Ducky Johnson House movers raised the church up on jacks and installed a new secure foundation that includes hurricane straps. All the code compliant

improvements are hidden behind more than 1500 of the original bricks that were cleaned by members of the congregation, the Wewahitchka Historical Society and neighbors.

The congregation looks forward to the day when the remaining repairs are completed, and worship can resume inside the beloved Carpenter Gothic church. In the meantime, Sunday worship continues at 11 a.m. inside the Fellowship Hall which is found beside the sanctuary.

Originally consecrated as St. John's Episcopal, the church has served as a worship space for Episcopalians, Catholics and Presbyterians. We are grateful for the carpenters who constructed the church out of local heart pine and cypress and the people of faith whose prayers still resonate within the tongue and groove paneling, rising up and beyond the lofty ceiling.

We are pursuing grants to fund the extensive repairs for the sanctuary as well as gathering a history of the various congregations who have worshipped in the church. If you have a story, a memory, or a photo to share, please contact **Rev. Carol Wood** ([woodrink@gmail.com](mailto:woodrink@gmail.com)), or bring the photo and worship with us. CW

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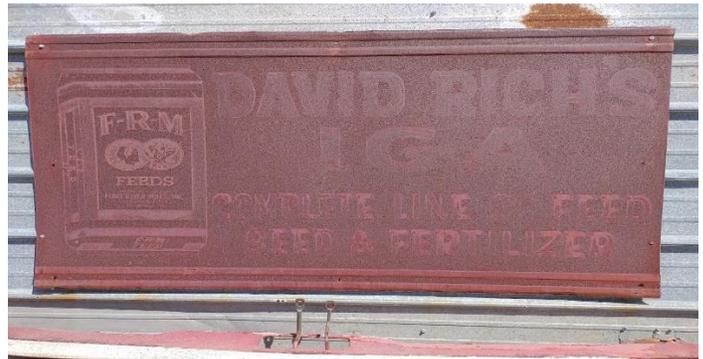
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### A PIECE OF WEWA HISTORY SAVED!

by Tom Wynn

During the deconstruction of the very old IGA store that was just in front of the old Gulf County courthouse, this sign was nearly lost. It stood abandoned for years, A food store that Wewa folks depended on, along with Dixie Dandy on Highway 22.

Mr. David and Betty Rich built a new much larger store several blocks south on Highway 71 to replace it. Today it is called, Rich's and has a gas station.

This sign was about to end up in the County Dump when Mr. Domino Demunck, a member of the Wewahitchka Historical Society, rescued it and placed it with his collection of antique signs at his place of business for all to enjoy in the Stonemill Creek area.

I was having a car repaired when I took the tour of signs. Domino pointed it out to me as we walked by it. I was proud that he had the forethought to save it for future generations to see.

If local history is not saved by us today, it will go into the darkness of time and be forgotten. Please wake up before all the memories of our little city pass in the night without our great grandchildren even knowing who they came from and why things are the way there are today.

Do not lose sight of your past, so you and they do not repeat that which was bad but savor those things that were good and faithful. Time flies by, and if we do not record moments or snapshots of our pass, generations will lose who they are and have no foundational memories. Do not leave it up to me and a few others to record the wonderful and amazing lives of those that lived here and built what we enjoy today. Help us save what we can and record our history-we will be glad we did, for future generations to come. **TW**



**This Photograph was taken by Wewa's Famous Nature Photographer Ms. Darlene Bozeman. It can be seen in person in The Gaskin Insurance Co. office on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Jasmine and Cindy placed several large photos of Ms. Bozeman's photos on their walls. This photograph can be appreciated more in the color version of this Wewa News online: <http://the.wewa.news/>**

#### **NOTICE THE DIFFERENCES OF THINGS (2 Tim. 2:15)**

In 1777, The United Colonies of New England changed their Company name to the "United States of America".

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Hello! The Wewahitchka Library is preparing for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Local History Day, and we need your help! Do you have any photos or documents that represent Wewahitchka's history? We are looking for any photos that show the town, housing, people, careers, etc. of Wewahitchka. These photos will be used in slideshows at the Local History events, possible exhibits, and archived in our local history department. Help us to preserve our history for future generations! Please call to make an appointment. Thank you! **Joyelle**

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**PSALM 50:15**

## PREPPER'S CORNER

by Tom Wynn



Just something to think about folks. Pigeons. Yes, you read that right. Some people call them rats with wings, because of the rate at which they can breed, and also survive on nothing but crumbs and trash.

Pigeons have a fair amount of meat and are really low maintenance. Pigeon coups can house many birds on a small area.

They start breeding young and can have many offspring in a year. Pigeons tend to pair up and mate for life. Once you have set up a small colony, you can open the coup up completely. Pigeons will fend for themselves, but you will need to provide them with a reason to stay. Shelter, water and seeds from time to time will keep them sticking around.

The best way to eat pigeons is slow cooked in a pot. Pigeon stew or broth will be nutrient rich and provide a few inexpensive meals a week. Furthermore, you can keep quails as ground birds in pigeon coups. Pickled quail eggs are quite a delicacy, I hear.

My father and grandfather during the Great Depression were raising and selling Pigeons Squabs and made good money when folks found out they were raising them for food. The man that taught them how to raise pigeons for food was selling them to the New York City Restaurants for big bucks. Grandpa was a depot agent for the railroad and shipped them for the man to New York weekly.

He learned how much money could be made and so he and dad started a side business. Grandpa was never out of money during The Great Depression nor during WWII because he always had a job with the Railroad and his side businesses. I loved to hear of stories of The Great Depression and how people made it during those hard times, as a boy and as a grown man before they both passed away. I am grateful for my time hearing family history and how to make it during the hardest of times. TW

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**JAMES 5:13-14**

## GULF SPECIMEN PUBLIC AQUARIUM

by Tom Wynn

Last month my great grand boys came for a visit, so they went with great Grandma Lyn to see Sea Creatures that they could indeed feel and touch with their own little hands. To say it best, they had a blast!

The Aquarium is in Panacea Florida about an hour and a half from Wewahitchka. You can book tours with guides or just do your own look see around the various tanks with adult supervision of course. Safety first folks!



My grandsons had such a great time and so did I. So many years ago, I went down there and had forgotten how much fun it was to play around with all the fish and other creatures that I could touch and play with.

The place is full of other things to look at as well. They have a bookstore as well a gift shop. This place is for all ages and groups are welcome. It would make a great senior citizen trip as well, for the Gulf County Senior Citizen organization someday...Hint!!

When I was a boy, I was fascinated with Florida's Sea life, but especially the Horseshoe crab. When I was about 10 years old, I had decided I wanted to become a Oceanographer (boy scout badge was looking good). But instead, I decided to follow my father's footprints and join the USCG and fly over the oceans. Glad I did, in my travels I saw amazing sea creatures in Antarctica and all over the Pacific Ocean. So, I got my belly full of sea life as a seaman and as a helicopter crewman.

So back to privately operated Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory. It is a non-profit, tax-exempt group, that supply live sea creatures to universities and colleges throughout the United States. Go down and check them out, bring the kids and the grandkids too. Located at: 222 Clark Drive, Panacea, FL 32346 (850)-984-5297 call for hours of operation. Bring a lunch and drinks.

TW

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**BE ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY JOIN AN ASSOCIATION OR A CLUB TODAY, COME JOIN US!**

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**1 CORINTHIANS 15:57-58**

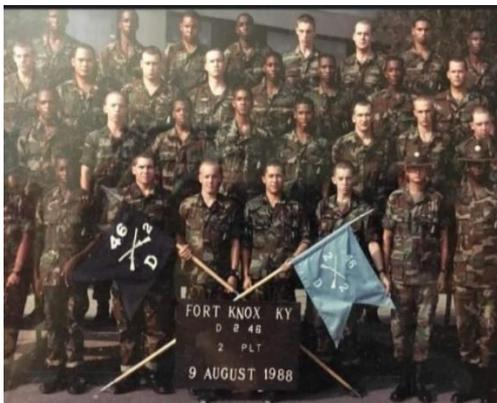
# VETERAN OF THE MONTH

## SPC Rod Cabezas



SPC Cabezas, Rodrigo (Rod) was born in Quito, Ecuador and raised in Southern California. He swore his oath into the U.S. Army July 1987, SPC Cabezas attended basic combat training at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

After training, SPC Cabezas returned to California and was stationed with the 63rd ARCOM in Stanton,



California. He served in the Gulf War, during Desert Shield as well as Desert Storm from August of 1990 to February of 1991.

After serving eight years in the U.S. military service, receiving an Honorable Discharge, SPC Cabezas went on to have a successful real estate career. He then moved to Panama City Florida in 2004. Today he presently continues in the real estate industry as a Licensed Real Estate Broker Associate for Coastal Realty Group, which is in the Panhandle of Florida.

His service to our country has been a large part of who he is today, a very productive citizen of Gulf County Florida. The Wewa News salutes Rod Cabezas for his service to our country and to our community.

Thank You Rod!

**Psalm 127:3-5**

## WE NEED YOUR HELP....

The Citizens of Gulf County Recovery Team (CGCRT) has partnered with Square Foot Ministries and Americas Home Place to build a three bedroom/two bath 1,130 square foot home – IN ONE WEEK!

This effort is for a family of six (three of whom are school age). Their home was badly damaged by Hurricane Michael in 2018 and without the needed funds for repair, the structure continued to deteriorate.

With great thanks to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America-Disaster Services Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA, the CGCRT received a grant for building materials. And with partnerships with Square Foot Ministries and America’s Home Place, we can build this family a new home.

**Citizens of Gulf County Recovery Team (CGCRT)**  
**(850) 270-8911 CGCRecoveryTeam@gmail.com**  
**www.RebuildGulf.com**

**How Can You Help?**

**WE NEED LOCAL VOLUNTEERS....**

- Monday, September 26 through Friday, Sept. 30
- 7:30 am EST – 5:00 pm EST
- All skill sets are welcomed
- Volunteer for the whole week, a day or half day (18 and older)
- Project is in Wewahitchka
- Water, snacks, and lunch will be provided at the job site in Wewahitchka and dinner in Port St Joe for all volunteers.

## THE TURNER FAMILY STORY

Ms. Turner is a 48-year-old single mother of five children ages 8, 13,15, 23 and 29. Their family income is below poverty. The client moved to Wewahitchka in 2008 to care for her mother who was wheelchair bound with multiple health issues. The client’s mother passed away in the home and Ms. Turner and her family remained living in the home. The property was owned by her deceased mother who built the house 100 years ago. The property had never gone through probate but with the assistance of Charles Costin, the property is now in Ms. Turner’s name.

During Hurricane Michael, the family sheltered in place. The winds from Michael tore off a good part of the shingles, destroyed the back porch, damaged the front porch and blew out windows. As a result of multiple points of water intrusion, the home is now beyond repair and all the client’s appliances, household goods and clothing have been lost. It was uninhabitable, unsafe and not secure. There are plastic garbage bags covering the blown-out windows, holes in the floor covered by loose pieces of plywood, holes in the

walls, all the ceilings have collapsed, the kitchen is caving in, the house is full of mold and there is exposed wiring. Having nowhere else to go, the family lived in the home until 8/2/2022, when they moved into temporary housing.

Ms. Turner was referred to **The Citizens of Gulf County** because the sewer connection hasn't worked since the Hurricane Michael and raw sewage was flowing under the house. DCF had been called twice due to the living conditions, but the client had no resources for recovery. All hurricane recovery programs have closed their application processes, so CGCRT is very excited for the opportunity to partner with Square Foot Ministries to help this family recover and have safe and secure housing. The CGCRT are responsible

for the building materials, site prep and housing and feeding of the volunteers from Square Foot Ministries. We are building a three bed/two bath, 1,130 square foot home on the lot that Ms. Turner's family gave her. We are very appreciative of all donations, volunteers and help from our local churches, businesses and families.

**Please consider donating your time.**

**To sign up, visit our website: [www.recovergulf.org](http://www.recovergulf.org)**

**Or call the CGCRT 850-270-8911**

**Or email [cgcrcrecoverteam@gmail.com](mailto:cgcrcrecoverteam@gmail.com)**

**This is a wonderful opportunity to give back to your community by helping a family recover.**

## IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

The rights and privileges of a citizen of the United States were defined by Congress in the [Civil Rights Act of 1866](#):

"All persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall have the same right in every State and Territory to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, give evidence, and to the full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of persons and property as is enjoyed by white citizens, and shall be subject to like punishment, pains, penalties, taxes, licenses, and exactions of every kind, and to no other."

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**2022 Season**

Day	Date	Location	Opponent	Departures	Times	Teams
Tuesday	8/16/2022	Home	Altha		5	V
Thursday	8/18/2022	Away	Godby - trimatch	2:10	4, 5	V
Tuesday	8/23/3033	Away	Franklin County	2:25	4, 5, 6	M, JV, V
Thursday	8/25/2022	Home	Bozeman		5, 6	JVV
Monday	8/29/2022	Away	Liberty	2:30	4, 5	JVV
Tuesday	8/30/2022	Home	Port St Joe		3,4,5	M, JV, V
Thursday	9/1/2022	Away	N. FL. Christian	2:20	4, 5	JVV
Tuesday	9/6/2022	Home	Cottondale		5, 6	JVV
Thursday	9/8/2022	Away	Bozeman	3:00	5, 6	JVV
Tuesday	9/13/2022	Home	Franklin County		4, 5, 6	M, JV, V
Monday	9/19/2022	Home	Rutherford		5, 6	JVV
Tuesday	9/20/2022	Away	Port St Joe	2:10	3,4,5	M, JV, V
Thursday	9/22/2022	Away	Cottondale	3:30	5, 6	JVV
Tuesday	9/27/2022	Home	Liberty		4, 5	JVV
Monday	10/3/2022	Away	Wakulla Christian	3:15	5	V
Thursday	10/6/2022	Home	Godby		4, 5	JVV
Monday	10/10/2022	Home	Wakulla Christian		5	V
Tuesday	10/11/2022	Away	Altha	4:45	6	V
Thursday	10/13/2022	Away	St. John Paul	4:00	6	V

## "The Watchman"

"But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand"

Ezekiel 33:6

\* Either you are part of the problem, or you are part of the solution.  
\* You are now the Watchmen!

1 PETER 3:15-16

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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

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### 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 September 1, 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: (850) 639-2419.

### Up Coming Events: Mark Your Calendars

**September 8, 2022**, Wewa Women’s Club: Bunco Tea Party at the Sr. Citizens Center 6pm -9pm. \$20 per person. Lots of food, fun and gifts.

**September 9, 2022**, Wewa Library-9am to 1pm CST Ancestry Workshop, reserve your spot, limited space. (Details pg. 9)

**September 9, 2022**, Senior Citizen Center: Fundraiser-Hosting movie day (details pg. 10)

**September 24, 2022**, Senior Citizen Center- Yard Sale 7am to 1pm CST (details pg. 10)

**September 29, 2022**, Wewa Library: 5:30pm to 8pm CST 4-week course, how to use Family Search website. Registration required. (Details pg. 9)

**Oct 1, 2022**, City of Wewahitchka: October Fest at 9am to 4pm

**Oct 6, 2022**, Retirement celebration for Joe Paul at Lake Alice ( details pg. 2)

### “FREE”

4 Adorable Kittens Litter box trained. Born May 25, 2022 They are in need of a loving home. If interested in giving a kitten a loving family, please call (850) 827-2776

### No Subject

In the August issue the quote “Give me liberty or give me death” was incorrectly attributed to Thomas Paine but should have been attributed to Patrick Henry. **TW**