

THE TUPELO COUNTY NEWS™

THE WEWA NEWS™



“The Good News Newspaper”

APRIL 2023-02 >> Vol. 5 No. 04-2 << A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!

THE CITY OF WEWA T.L. JAMES PARK GETS NEW LIGHTS!

by Tom Wynn



In late March, City Commissioner Charles Pettis, working with Gulf Coast Electric and others struck a deal to have new light poles and flood lights installed in the ballpark we lovingly call T.L. James Park.

It is one of Wewa’s prime ball parks and Rodeo events to go to. Mr. David Paul, a city employee, took hold of me to let me know that the park finally got the new lights for this season’s ball games. I was asking for several months how the process was going. Commissioner Pettis was keeping the public and the board updated. Covid 19 made it very hard to get the poles and the price was climbing all the time.

So, the good news is they are up and running thanks to the efforts of many folks who love Wewa and their children. THANK YOU ALL! for your hard work and efforts to make the Ball field a better place to, “PLAY BALL!”. “BATTER UP!”

Wewa is well known for their outstanding ball players throughout the State, including the girl teams. Never underestimate Wewa, folks! The quality of the players in our schools is just amazing. They can play ball so well and they are good people to boot. They have goals and are well-prepared for what life brings! KENNY STRANGE ELECTRIC and MASTECH was on hand to do the work. TW

THE TUPELO HONEY FESTIVAL IS ON!!

by Tom Wynn



The annual “Wewa family reunion” is on! Come join us for this year’s Tupelo Honey season, Saturday, May 20th, 2023. This year should be a good flow. The Tupelo Honey Festival to me has always been a day of “Family Reunion” of sorts, as well as, where you can get the best of the best honey. With everyone hugging and kissing and “glad handing,” it is a full force family reunion. It should be a great day for all Honey Lovers! I just love to see the joy in my friends and family members when we run into each other. I look forward to it each year.

Come enjoy the food, fun and music, join in with us Old Men, who love to “chew the fat” and tell tall tells as we drink our sweet tea and eat whatever we fancy under the Ole’ Oak Trees.

Bring a friend and show them a good ole’ time. All are Welcome! It’s time to stock up on some sweet honey before everyone runs out.

BRITTNEY IS LEAVING US!

by Tom Wynn

Ms. Brittney Proctor is our director, finance and senior payroll accountant. She and her family will be leaving us for a much cooler state. She will be missed for sure. The City of Wewa loves her and her work has been superior as our city accountant and a valuable member of the city workforce with Ms. Rachel Jackson, our City Clerk.

We all wish her the best in her new home state, we hope she will come visit often in the future. The city will continue to use her services to train her replacement over the next several months, via remote computer and phone contact, after her departure, to make sure the city continues to provide good services to the citizens of Wewahitchka.

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CITY LAWYER REPORTS NO NEW NEWS WITH FIREHOUSE LAWSUIT DURING THE MARCH CITY MEETING

by Tom Wynn



The City Attorney, Ms. Michelle Jordan notified the City mayor and City commission that there was nothing to update on the new Wewa Fire Station that sits in limbo on 2nd

street. Mr. Tommy Hamm filed for bankruptcy and Wewa will have to hire a bankruptcy attorney to aid her in the lawsuits with Winterfell Construction Inc. and with the Bonding Company lawsuits. Winterfell Construction Inc. and the owners of said company, Mr. Tommy Hamm and his wife Mrs. Jamie Hamm has filed for chapter 11, according to Attorney Jordan during the February city meeting. During the February meeting, County Admin Officer Mr. Michael Hammond offered the city the county's aid in the matter, including a possible interest free loan from the County to finish the project. Our Fire Department is top-notch! and does all it can do to protect our valuable trucks and equipment which cost the tax-payers thousands of dollars. The issues with the new construction of a Fire Station does not affect the fire departments on call response times.

Ms. Rachel Jackson, the City Clerk, asked the board for their okay to request a 3-year extension for the FEMA Grant on the new Fire Station, due to the lawsuits that are pending. She said that the process takes a long time to do, so now would be a good time for her to request the extension. The board agreed for her to do as she requested for the extension. **TW**

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HIRING INSTIUTION: Gulf C.I.
LOCATION OF EVENT: Gulf C.I. Admin Building

500 Ike Steele Rd. Wewahitchka FL, 32465

TIME AND DATE: Tuesday, April 25th , 2023, 12pm-3pm
 Please contact Sergeant J. Rice with any questions at 850-639-1483

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The Division of Historical Resources Is now accepting Small Matching and Special Category grant applications via our **online system** from **April 1 to June 1 at 5:00 PM (Eastern)**. In order to apply, visit the Department's online grant system at dosgrants.com. Applicants will need a user profile and to be associated with the organization they represent. For help getting started, view the FAQ under "Help" in the grant system.

We will also be conducting "How to Apply" webinars for both Special Category and Small Matching grants on April 5th and 12th. To register, [Events](#) page.

Further information can be accessed on the [Grants](#) page of our website.

The Friends of the Wewahitchka Library is a **501c3** organization founded to assist our local library with volunteers, programs, and funding to purchase needed furniture, crafts, office supplies and books. The Friends renewed the Ancestry.com subscription for the library, so you can research and discover your family tree. We need volunteers to help with the library's Native Garden Landscape. If you have gardening skills, please contact the library. The Friends meet the second Thursday of each month in the library at 9:30 am. We look forward to seeing you on next meeting, March 9th.

Colossians 1:3-6

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message and she will return your call.**

If life is not joyful for you, time to rethink your life plan folks. Be happy, you live in the most beautiful place and can live in peace with your friends, family and neighbors. Be thankful for those things. There will be an end to all this trouble. Have Faith! TW

THE WEWA LIBRARY

by Joyelle Linton



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

The Gulf County Public Libraries announce the retirement of Sharon Rester Gurrera. Miss Sharon, as she was affectionately known, has been a trusted and valued employee at the Charles Whitehead Public Library in Wewahitchka for twenty years.

Sharon was born and raised in Wewahitchka. Following high school, she attended Troy State, completing a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and social science.

After returning to Wewahitchka, she began her library career. Starting at the Wewahitchka Library as a volunteer on-call, she was quickly recognized as an asset and was employed as a library assistant in 2003. She prided herself on supplying exceptional customer service to her community. Anyone entering the library was greeted by name with a warm smile and a hello.

Having lived here most of her life, she knew almost everyone who visited the library and if she didn't already know you, she would before you left. She always enjoyed meeting new arrivals to our community and making them feel welcome! She showed compassion and understanding to everyone she spoke with. Sharon will be missed greatly by both staff and patrons at the Wewahitchka Library.

Since we started our seed library in September of 2021, the library has used an envelope system to store our seeds. From the beginning, it has been our goal to locate a card catalog to use as a more permanent storage. It is with great pleasure



to announce that we have acquired a wooden card catalog from the 1960s to house our newly delivered seed packets. Many people attributed to this process. A combination of funds from the GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's

Club and the Friends of the Wewahitchka Library bought the card catalog. Mr. David Hodsdon very generously donated the materials and his time to build a custom cabinet for the card catalog to set upon. Mr. Tom Wynn graciously purchased the stain and painted the cabinet. Local artist, Debbie Odierna, kindly painted letters and vegetables on each of the drawers. We are so very thankful for each and every one of you and the work you put into creating this wonderful seed library for our local community.

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You are Invited!

By Joellen Campbell

After years of eager anticipation, reconstruction of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' meetinghouse in Mexico Beach is complete! Members of the church are hosting a public open house on April, 15th at 9:00 AM Central time and welcome all visitors to come and learn about their belief in Jesus Christ and His gospel.

The original building, built in 1986, was where Latter-day Saints worshipped and held activities for over 30 years until the building was severely damaged in the devastating storm of Hurricane Michael in 2018.

Through tragic loss of family members, friends, homes, jobs, business, and many other things that would never be the same, this community of faith proved resilient in the aftermath of the storm. Sacrifice strengthened faith as families and friends volunteered in hurricane relief efforts and worked to rebuild their community.

With many other great needs at that time, work on the

church building was postponed. Now 4 years later, Latter-day Saints from the Mexico Beach and the surrounding area gratefully celebrate the completion of the restored building. Saturday April 15th at 9:00 AM central time, community friends and neighbors are invited to a special open house where they can see the building and learn from church members about their belief in Jesus Christ. The meetinghouse address is: 318 Robin Ln, Mexico Beach, Florida. As the Savior Jesus Christ pronounced: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). The Mexico Beach Latter-day Saint congregation would be delighted for you to attend. Our website:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/comeuntochrist>.

We hope to see you there!

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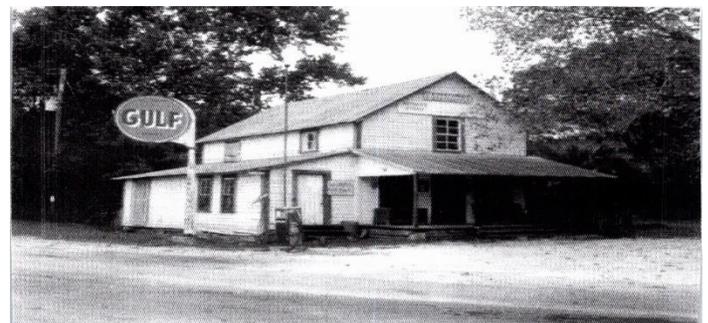
Located On Hwy 22, just 1 mile West of the red light in Wewa, or 1790 Hwy 22 for those using GPS, Call

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ANOTHER OLD POST CARD FROM FLORIDA'S PASS

Courtesy of Ms. Jodi Rustin



THE OLD STORE AT OVERSTREET BRIDGE

by Tom Wynn

This is a photo of the old store that was very near Overstreet bridge. Mr. Gene Hanlon grew up there and gave me a complete tour of the area during the winter months last year. It is long gone today, But the good news is, it was sold and restored including penny candy and chewing gum jar, just as it was in the old days, the last time I saw it. Several local

antique buildings are up at the Nickle's Farm in Havana Florida, along with several other old items and buildings that the Nickles family collected. They passed on but the farm still has the buildings there, what I understand as of late, they remain there. Hope to go up there someday and



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find out! The farm is no longer in the Nickles family.
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NEW EMERGENCY RADIO ASSOCIATION IS GROWING!
by Tom Wynn

A group of worried locals have decided to create a new organization to make sure we have emergency communications in our local area of the Panhandle. From the Gulf County Sheriff's office to about 45 mile north of Wewa up Hwy 71 North.

Since they started the new association, several folks have contacted them in order to join in. From north of Blountstown to Port St. Joe, Overstreet to Buckhorn the locals are wanting to purchase a Radio setup and help out.

A family radio for emergency comms about every 15 miles along Hwy 71, Overstreet and Highway 22 to Old Iola Area would make for good coverage. Blountstown is getting a brand new 20-million-dollar Hospital and Clinics which would fit right in with the group plan for emergency Comms. We can lose power easily during a bad storm or Hurricane, water, gasoline as well as an ability to communicate with the outside world, could be lost. This will assure we can reach each other and seek help, during the aftermath of a bad storm. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact:

Mr. Dudley Balmer at: 317-379-1644.

They will create a 501-3c organization that would be ready for the next major event, having radio communications between each other and be able to relay up and down

highway 71 as far as Blountstown and Highway 275 north and Highway 71 north by volunteers along the route, to get emergency services, passing important information up and down the highway to our neighbors, if power and cell phone services fails. Your cost would be \$160 dollars for the radio and antenna in total. It would be powered by a 12v battery, it could be used in your house or in a car or truck etc. The license from the U.S. Government would cost \$35 dollars for the whole household (including children) and can be bought online at Amazon.com through a company called "GMRS RADIO SERVICE". Model: DB25-G Radioddity from Amazon.com (Radioddity email address: www.radioddity.com) TW



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Romans 1:16-17

THE DEAD LAKES RV PARK AND THE DEAD LAKES PRO TACKLE SHOP HAD A GRAND OPENING! GO CHECK IT OUT!

by Tom Wynn

Located one mile north of Wewahitchka. Just pass the West Arm Creek Bridge on the Right, turn down till it ends into the store. The Park was shut down since Hurricane Michael chewed it up! and spit it out! Leaving a big mess for someone to clean up and restore it. Finally, we have it back again and under new management. Gulf County rented it out to Jason and Lisa Alderman, but leaving the boat ramp and the playgrounds in the hands of the County. So go check it out and enjoy our parks again.

Free Event

Port St. Joe Library
Tuesday
April 11th
Noon - 1 PM

Extension Office in
Wewa
April 14th
Noon - 1PM

*all local times



CITRUS IN THE PANHANDLE



Need advice on replacing freeze damaged trees? Looking for information on growing & caring for cold hardy and container citrus?

Please join us! There will be a 45-minute presentation followed by a 15-minute question and answer session. This event is presented by Gulf County Extension Director, Ray Bcdrey.

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USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map:

<https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>

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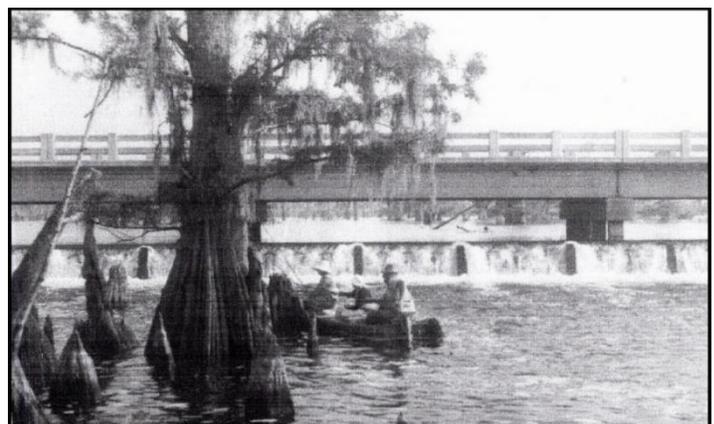
GET YOUR COPY OF TOM WYNN'S LATEST BOOK "THE RESCUE OF A LIFETIME" AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHER LOCAL WRITERS.

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

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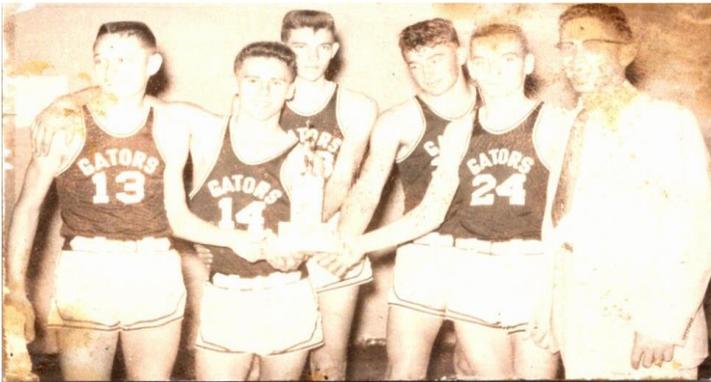
AN OLD PHOTO SHOWING THE OLD DAM STILL IN PLACE
It was installed in 1967 and removed 20 years later.

Romans 1:18-24

HEY WEWA CAN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THESE OLD PICTURES?



Wewahitchka Elementary School



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Romans 4:1-3



SECTION 5102-109 Road Highway 71 Gulf County August 23, 1948-Showing the then new F. Elgin Bayless Bridge at White City Florida. It was the bridge that crossed the Inter-coastal Waterway. It was replaced several years ago with a tall bridge, which gives a beautiful scenic view as you cross over the Bridge onward to Port St. Joesph, coming from Wewahitchka.

IS IT ILLEGAL FOR DRONES TO FLY OVER PRIVATE PROPERTY?

by Tom Wynn

A few months ago, Ms. Jodi Rustin asked me to investigate if it was legal for private or government drones to fly over her backyard and hover. Her daughter was sunbathing in their private back yard when a drone flew over their heads and hovered. She was very upset about this invasion of privacy and wanted to know if it was legal for her to shoot it down? This happened twice. I discovered some important information:

It is legal to fly drones in the state of Florida. It has federal, state, and local laws that govern the flying of drones in the state. However, you need to register your drone if it weighs more than 249 grams and flies above 500 feet over private property as a recreational or commercial flier.

A person, a state agency, or a political subdivision (Gulf County Building Department and or Code Enforcement acting on behave of the City of Wewahitchka or the County itself) as defined may not use a drone equipped with an imaging device to record an image of privately owned real property or of the owner, tenant, occupant, invitee, or licensee of such property with the intent to conduct surveillance on the individual or property captured in the image in violation of such person’s reasonable expectation

of privacy without his or her written consent. Drone-|laws.com/drone-laws-in-Florida/Drone-Laws-in-Florida [Updated:January10,2023]

General Rules for Recreational Flyers

The Exception for Limited Recreational Operations of Unmanned Aircraft (USC 44809) is the law that describes how, when, and where you can fly drones for recreational purposes. Following these rules helps keep people, your drone, and our airspace safe: Fly only for recreational purposes (personal enjoyment). Follow the safety guidelines of an FAA-recognized Community-Based Organization (CBO). For more information on how to become an FAA-recognized CBO, read Advisory Circular 91-57C. Keep your drone within the visual line of sight or use a visual observer who is co-located (physically next to) and in direct communication with you.

The legality of drone surveillance varies by country and state, but if the drone is flying on or directly over your private property and recording you without your consent, call the police. It’s a violation of your privacy, aka invasion of privacy, that includes Gulf County Agencies as well.

Notice: this is not legal advice, but for educational information for you to further look into for our own safety and privacy of the Citizens of the City of Wewahitchka Florida.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: GOVERNMENTAL USE OF DRONES

LET ME BE CLEAR, THE LAW STATES: General Rules for government entities:

“A person, state agency, or political subdivision (county government agency or city agency) **may not use a drone to capture an image of privately owned real property or of the owner, tenant, occupant, or invitee with the intent to conduct surveillance without written consent if a reasonable expectation of privacy exists.**”

Ref: Senate Bill 766 Florida Administrative Code 51-4.003

Title 18, U.S.C., Section 242 - Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law This statute makes it a crime for any person acting **under color of law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom to willfully deprive or cause to be deprived from any person those rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution and laws of the U.S. SEE:**

www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/federal-civil-rights-statutes CS/CS/SB 92: Searches and Seizures

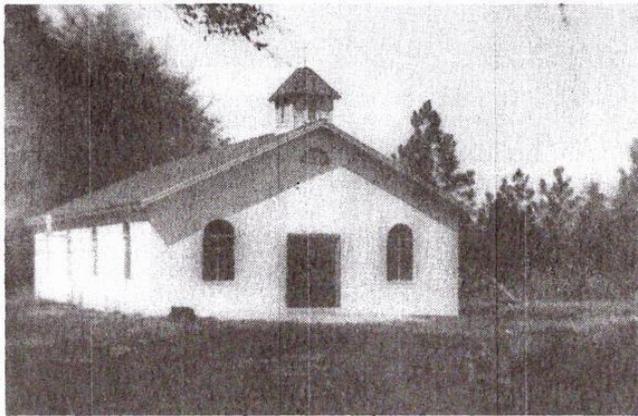
GENERAL BILL by Judiciary ; Criminal Justice ; Negron ; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Brandes ; Evers ; Bradley ; Benacquisto ; Bean

Searches and Seizures; Citing this act as the "Freedom from Unwarranted Surveillance Act"; prohibiting a law enforcement agency from using a drone to gather evidence or other information; authorizing an aggrieved party to initiate a civil action in order to prevent or remedy a violation of the act; prohibiting a law enforcement agency from using in any court of law in this state evidence obtained or collected in violation of the act, etc.

Effective Date: 7/1/2013

Last Action: 4/26/2013 - Chapter No. 2013-33

HONEYVILLE METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY



THE FIRST CHURCH IN HONEYVILLE

The first account of any church in Honeyville by old-timers has the location well off the road behind where Oscar Redd lived. This was around the turn of the century, before the road to St. Joe was paved.

When plans for paving were announced, Church leaders decided to move the building nearer the road. Before this idea was carried out, plans for a school for Honeyville began to develop. Jeremiah Roberts gave an acre of land upon which a community school was built. The school soon became the center of most community activity, including worship services.

THE SCHOOL-CHURCH

The Honeyville School-Church was located where Mrs. Stella Tillman lived. The first preacher anyone can remember was Preacher Levitte, an old man who walked from Wewa every Sunday' to preach. There were very few cars back then and the road, prior to pavement, was more or less a wagon road built on the old railroad bed.

Hardly anyone had transportation but almost everyone went to Church. Any preacher was welcomed to preach since denominations were not very important in those days. Hardly any of those who preached were very well educated, but this did not seem to hinder them from preaching hell-fire and brimstone sermons with the best of educated preachers.

OLD TIME RELIGION

No one doubted the Bible back then. The old-timey preachers were respected and their simple messages received and believed. Occasionally someone would borrow a hat and pass it around. Usually there was not much collection, because the people, had very little to give. Besides, the preachers did not preach for a salary. They had other means of making a living.

Some of the preachers who preached in the old schoolhouse during the 1920's were: Mr. Claude Rish, Uncle Walter Pins, Mr. Cecil Glass, Mr. Rufus Pitts, Mr. Adams, Mr. John Tipton, among others. Particularly active in the Church was a farmer named McDonald, after he moved into the community. He was instrumental in starting a Wednesday evening prayer meeting. There was always a good crowd, sometimes as many as fifty. There was lots of singing and everyone had a good time because it was just an "at home" kind of place.

EARLY CHURCH ATTENDERS

Some of the people who attended Church in the old school building were: Martha, Donie, Roxie, Bell, Veto, Stella, Pearl, and Ruby Nickols; Thelma, Leola, Louise, and Myrtle Vanhorn; Dave, Charlie, Rudy, Bell, and George Gaskin; Jerry and Earl Robert's; Claude, Otis, and Ethel Smith; Melton, Mitchel, Mable, and Mamie Smith; Lela, Lizzie, Jimadd, and Ronnie Roberts; Verna, Odelle, and Shirley Lester; Bell, Gladys, and Idas Glass; the Graves family, the Minchews, Rogers and McLemore families, Marvin Pitts, Crosie Knowles, Claude Hill, Luke Taunton, Ethel Collins, Lillie Mae Rhames, and others. Many of these also went to the Honeyville school.

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PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

Romans 4:7-8

OCHEESEE CREAMERY AND DAIRY FARM

by Tom Wynn



This past month I took a tour of The Ocheesee Dairy Farm which is owned by my friend “Bear” Wesselhoeft and his family. He uses Jersey Cows which will produce large quantities of milk daily. Mr. Chuck Johnson, my friend and neighbor, and I made the 45-minute trip up Highway 69 North to our delight a beautiful dairy farm came into view.

The cows were beautifully colored brown and appeared to be very healthy and were “pettable!”. My friend Bear gave us a grand tour of the processing plant and then a tour of where he milks the cows.

He showed us how he can milk 20 cows in 10 minutes flat! What an amazing system he has working nearly 200 dairy cows daily. He showed us how they run the farm and



process the milk, butter, ice cream and other products using machines and human labor. His cows are well cared for and are beautiful creatures. He explained his system for keeping the cows clean and safe; how they are divided up based on condition and stages of producing calves so the milk can continue to flow.

We spent about an hour with him asking questions and trying to see just how a dairy farm is operated. He must

get up about 4 am every morning to begin his daily chores taking care of the cows and milking them twice a day. Other family members each do their part to keep things running and on time.



that his farm will have about 150 calves a year, and about 10 will not survive the birthing process. He will even help them deliver when he can get to them in time. It was a sad moment for us.

We both bought some of his ice cream and other products to taste test them. BOY! was that some good ice cream. I picked up two containers and ate them within a week. Time for some more!



**The Wesselhoeft Family Store
front of The Ocheesee Creamery**

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

Notice: The Wewa News operates in the Private, freedom of speech and of the Press are fundamental to our effort of expression, as well as God given rights as men and women on the land called Florida. The publishing day is the 7th of the month, unless notified otherwise.

Up Coming Events and Other: Mark Your Calendars

The Local Bee Association meets at 6pm in the Gulf County Extension Agents meeting room on every first Tuesday of each month at 6pm.

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

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

Contact us: thewewanews2021@gmail.com

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