

THE TUPELO COUNTY NEWS™

THE WEWA NEWS™



“The Good News Newspaper”

SEPTEMBER 2023 >> No. 09-02<< A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!



"Progress on Firehouse Lawsuit"

by Tom Wynn

In a recent development, Mayor Phillip Gaskin has announced that significant progress has been made in the Firehouse Lawsuit, bringing hope for a positive resolution to a long-standing issue. According to Mayor Gaskin, a tentative agreement has been reached between the Bonding Company and Tommy Ham's Construction Company.

This breakthrough comes after Mayor Gaskin, along with legal representatives, engaged in a mediation meeting to address the outstanding matters related to the lawsuit. While the details of the agreement are yet to be disclosed, this news signifies a step in the right direction.

Mayor Gaskin expressed his optimism, stating that more information regarding the case will be forthcoming in the near future. As the legal teams continue to collaborate with the Bankruptcy Judge overseeing Tommy Ham's Construction Company's bankruptcy proceedings, there is renewed hope that the construction of a much-needed new firehouse for the community could start sooner than anticipated, possibly before the end of the year.

The Firehouse Lawsuit has been a matter of concern for both the city officials and residents of Wewahitchka, as it has been a prolonged issue with significant implications for the safety and well-being of the community. The potential resolution of this lawsuit is viewed as a positive development that could pave the way for the construction of a state-of-the-art firehouse, ensuring the continued protection of the city and its residents.

(Story cont. on page 2 Firehouse).

"New County Commissioner Jack Husband Takes the Helm in District 2"

by Tom Wynn

In a recent and much-anticipated development, Wewahitchka welcomed its new County Commissioner for District 2, Mr. Lloyd "Jack" Husband III. His arrival brings renewed hope and a fresh perspective to the local governance scene.

During the August city meeting, Mr. Husband had the opportunity to address the city commission, where he expressed his commitment to serving the community and keeping the city informed about county matters.

This transition was necessitated by the unfortunate passing of Mr. Billy Traylor of Wewahitchka, the elected representative for District 2. His untimely departure left a void that needed to be filled promptly to ensure continued effective representation at the county level. Governor Ron DeSantis, in a news release on July 28th, 2023, announced the appointment of Mr. Lloyd "Jack" Husband III to the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners.

During his address to the city commission, Mr. Husband made it clear that his primary mission is to serve the people of District 2 faithfully. Furthermore, he assured the commission that he would attend the city meetings, ensuring open lines of communication between the county and the city.

‘OCTOBERFEST’

WEWA'S FALL FAMILY REUNION

by Tom Wynn

On Saturday, the 7th of October, the picturesque Lake Alice Park in Wewahitchka, Florida, comes alive with the vibrant colors of fall, echoing laughter, and the irresistible aroma of delicious food.

It's none other than the much-anticipated Oktoberfest, a day of joy and entertainment for the whole family. Organized by the city and various groups like the dedicated members of the Friends of the Library and the Wewahitchka Historical Society, this event promises an unforgettable experience for all attendees. But this year, there's an extra treat in store: a

(Story Cont. on page 2 Oktoberfest)

(Octoberfest Story from page 1) Special Edition of the Wewa News, featuring historical stories written by Tom Wynn, the Editor and Publisher of The Wewa News. These Special Edition newspapers are a treasure trove of Wewahitchka's rich history, penned in the unique style of the monthly edition of THE WEWA NEWS. They will be available for a modest donation of \$5.00 per copy, with all proceeds going towards supporting these vital community organizations.

Be sure to make your way to their booths early, as there will be a limited number of these special newspapers. This is a rare opportunity to delve into the past and discover the stories that have shaped Wewahitchka into the charming town it is today. So, mark your calendar and head down to Lake Alice for a Saturday of festivities and history. Join the Octoberfest celebrations on this special day in Wewa and make memories that will last a lifetime. TW

(Firehouse from page 1) While specific details about the agreement remain undisclosed, it is clear that Mayor Gaskin and his team are diligently working to bring this matter to a favorable conclusion. The residents of Wewahitchka eagerly await further updates on the progress of this crucial initiative. As the situation unfolds, residents and stakeholders are encouraged to stay informed by keeping an eye on local newspapers, including The Wewa News Newspaper, for the latest information and developments regarding the Firehouse Lawsuit. The community's collective hope is that this legal progress will lead to a brighter future and a safer environment for all in Wewahitchka. TW

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THE WEWA LIBRARY

by Joyelle Linton

The Charles Whitehead Public Library has exciting news to share! We are honored to have been chosen for The Pilcrow Foundation's Children's Book Project Grant. With 2:1 matching funds from the Friends of the Wewahitchka Library, we were the recipient of a \$1,200 book grant.

Additional books were donated through The Pilcrow Foundation from individuals in the areas of health, wellness, math and science. With the addition of these books, the Wewahitchka Public Library received a total of \$1,969.78 in children's books. These 117 books will be included in our permanent collection and are available for checkout. Many of these books meet the accelerated reading qualifications. Please ask a librarian for assistance so that your child may take an AR test at school on the books read. All of these wonderful new titles will be displayed in the children's area during the month of September. All families are encouraged to stop by and check out all we have to offer.

The Pilcrow Foundation was founded in 2013 and is located in Cottage Grove, Oregon. Their mission is to provide new, quality, hardcover children's books to rural public libraries across the United States.

Are you looking for something to do without getting out in this awful heat? The Wewahitchka Public Library has several programs coming up for adults during September. To start the month off, the Friends of the Wewahitchka Library will be having their monthly meeting held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. This month's meeting falls on September 14th. Learn how this nonprofit group supports our local library and how you can help. Next up is our Ancestry workshop which will be held on Thursday, September 21st from 9:00-12:00.

Learn tips and get together with others to research your genealogy with the library's free subscription. Prints and copies are Free during this event. Starting on Monday, September 25th, the library will host a monthly Tupelo Needle Works at 10:00 a.m. Bring your current crochet, quilt, knit or craft project to the

library and enjoy this wonderful social time with likeminded people. Last, but not least, a Birding 101 presentation will be held on Monday, September 25th at 3:00 p.m. Learn about various birds and their behaviors. Presented by Caroline Stahala from the Florida Panhandle Audubon Society.

For more information on this nonprofit organization, please visit their website: www.nwrls.com. JL

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THE NEW EMERGENCY RADIO ASSOCIATION GETS A NAME!

by Tom Wynn

The group continues to add new members from up and down Gulf County. In a recent meeting we voted to name ourselves: "Tupelo Radio Group" We have had three or four meetings thus far. Several members came together to install a 30-foot antenna on the outside of *RiseN-Shine farm* barn and drove North and South to see how far they could hear each other on the handheld radios. It was a very hot day, but we all made it work out.

It was a fun day using the radios and talking and enjoying each other's company. The antenna and hardware seem to go up fast, but wiring it was a different story. We have found handheld radios for about 25 bucks, so the cost has come way down.

A logo design was fashioned, and a new name was chosen by the group, antennas are going up at some locations between White City and Wewahitchka and beyond to the

county line as well. The latest news is that the small group is gathering more individuals and families who are working to have comms with one another in case of a loss of communication in the Gulf County area, being that we are rural and can easily lose power and comms with the outside world.

The local HAM Radio Operators have agreed to aid the new group with the project. From the Gulf County Sheriff's office to about 45 miles north of Wewa up Hwy 71 North is their goal of contact. Folks as far as I-10, north of Wewa to White City area are interested in having communication with one another in case a need arises. New members have sprung up in Howard Creek and Overstreet areas as well.

"The Tupelo Radio Group." Is making a GMRS Radio network, where the repeaters are to be located, has yet to be determined. We have started doing regular testing on Sunday afternoons at 4pm to track our progress. We are looking for some Ham Operators in the Wewa area to join us.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact: Mr. Dudley Balmer at: 317-379-1644. (Radioddity email address: www.radioddity.com)

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Colossians 3:17

Ephesians 4:28

Honoring Our Heroes: Essential Benefits for Disabled Veterans

by Tom Wynn

Navigating the Support System for Veterans with Disabilities

As a nation, we owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the brave men and women who have served in our armed forces. For veterans who have been disabled as a result of their service, there are vital benefits and resources available through the U.S.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to help ease their transition to civilian life and ensure they receive the care and support they rightfully deserve. You can contact Mrs. Lynn Lanier at the Gulf County Office if you are in the local area. She is short-staff, but she is the best! (see the ad below this article).

1. Disability Compensation: Disabled veterans can receive monthly financial compensation based on the severity of their service-connected disabilities. The amount is determined by the VA's evaluation of the disability's impact on the veteran's daily life.

2. Health Care: Veterans are eligible for comprehensive health care through the VA, which includes medical treatment, surgeries, mental health services, and prescription medications.

3. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment: Veterans with service-connected disabilities can access employment aid and training to help them enter the workforce or adapt their skills to new career opportunities.

4. Home Loan Guarantees: VA offers special home loan programs that can help disabled veterans secure favorable mortgage terms, make home modifications, or adapt their homes to accommodate their disabilities.

5. Education and Training: Through the Post-9/11 GI Bill and other educational programs, veterans with service-connected disabilities can pursue higher education, technical training, or vocational courses.

6. Dependents' Educational Assistance: Eligible dependents of disabled veterans may receive educational assistance to pursue degree programs, vocational training, and apprenticeships.

7. Adaptive Housing Grants: Disabled veterans can access grants for home modifications to increase accessibility and accommodate disabilities, ensuring a safe and comfortable living environment.

8. Life Insurance: The VA offers a variety of life insurance options to provide financial security for disabled veterans and their families.

9. Burial Benefits: Veterans are entitled to burial in a national cemetery, a headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Spouses and dependent children may also be eligible for certain burial-benefits.

10. Clothing Allowance: Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities that require the use of prosthetic or orthopedic appliances may qualify for an annual-clothing-allowance.

11. Transportation Assistance: The VA provides eligible veterans with travel assistance to receive medical treatment at VA medical centers and facilities.

12. Dental Care: Eligible veterans can access dental care services through the VA, ensuring they receive necessary-oral-health-treatments.

13. Commissary and Exchange Privileges: Disabled veterans with a VA disability rating are granted access to military commissaries, exchanges, and certain Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facilities.

14. Counseling and Support Services: Veterans can access counseling services, support groups, and mental health resources to address the challenges they may face.

15. Presumptive Service Connection: For certain conditions and illnesses, the VA presumes a service connection, simplifying the claims process for veterans with disabilities.

These benefits are designed to provide comprehensive support to disabled veterans, ensuring they receive the care, assistance, and resources they need to lead fulfilling lives after their dedicated service to our country. Disabled veterans are encouraged to connect with their local VA offices to learn more about eligibility criteria and how to access these crucial benefits.

In our collective commitment to honor and respect our veterans, let us continue to work towards creating a society where every disabled veteran receives the assistance and recognition they truly deserve. **TW**

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AMERICAN BOY SCOUTS SEEK TO HAVE A NEW TROOP IN WEWAHITCHKA AREA

by Tom Wynn

Scout Master Tom Reynolds has contacted the Editor of The Wewa News about the idea of starting up a new Boy Scout Troop in the Wewa area. The Boy Scouts have been reading historical articles in The Wewa News from all over the Panhandle. They can explore the forests and lakes of North Gulf County, by boats and by hiking the area, as well as camping in our wilderness. If anyone is interested in helping to develop a new Boy Scout Troop in the north end of Gulf County, please contact Scout Master Tom Reynolds at: 850-774-8335. The new Scout Master will be a local man Mr. Geoffrey Helms who is an Eagle Scout himself. TW

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1 Thessalonians 4:11-12



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HEY DISABLED VETS FILE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TOO!

by Tom Wynn

Social Security pays disability benefits through two programs: the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. SSDI is for workers and certain family members if they worked long enough and recently enough to qualify for benefits. SSI is for people who are 65 or older, as well as people of any age, including children who are blind or have disabilities. To be considered eligible for SSI, you must also have income and resources below specific financial limits.

Before you apply for Social Security disability benefits, please review the [basics](#) to make sure you understand what to expect during the application process. Also, gather the information and documents you'll need to complete an application. Give them a call and ask about you being 100 Percent VA Disability and make an appointment.

[Apply for Disability](#)

SSDI and VA Disability – How Do They Compare?

Social Security and the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\)](#) pay disability benefits to eligible people and their qualified dependents. However, the programs, processes, and criteria for receiving benefits are very different. Each agency must follow its own definition and requirements.

See the [Social Security Disability and Veterans Affairs Disability — How Do They Compare?](#) fact

sheet for a side-by-side comparison of the differences between SSDI and VA compensation.



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Psalm 90:17

FRIENDS OF THE WEWAHITCHKA LIBRARY

by Carol Childress

September is a busy month at our local library:

Budding Bookworms for children five years and younger on Tuesdays at 10:00 am

Homeschool Parents Meet Up on Thursday, September 7th at 11:00 am

Lego Club for ages 4 – 12 on Thursdays at 3:30 pm
S.T.E.A.M for ages 1-6 on Monday, September 11th at 3:30 pm.

Full STEAM Ahead for ages 6 – 12 on Friday, September 29th at 3:30 pm

Nintendo Switch Gaming Group for ages 11 – 16 on Monday, Sept 18th at 3:30 pm

Free Community Fish Fry

Saturday, September 30th is National Day of Service for General Federation of Woman's Clubs.

Join the GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club and the Ministerial Association for a free Community Fish Fry from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Lake Alice Park. Donations for the community food bank are requested. Please bring canned food, sugar, beans, rice, sugar or flour.

Friends of the Wewahitchka Public Library meet on Thursday, September 14th at 9:30 am. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization that assists our local library with purchasing books, subscriptions crafts, supplies and equipment that is not included in their budget. We also provide a weekly janitorial service to help keep your library neat and clean.

Come join us! CC

Grandpa Tom's

20 RULES FOR MEN TO CONSIDER:

1. Always keep your word - if you make a promise, keep it, or don't PROMISE!
2. Respect women - treat them with dignity and respect. Love them and watch them glow!
3. Take care of your appearance - dress appropriately and maintain good hygiene. Women are sensitive to smells.
4. Be honest - don't lie or deceive others. I know, you're shocked to hear this.
5. Show respect for elders - listen to their advice and guidance. They can save a lot of trouble.
6. Be loyal - stand by your friends and family, unconditionally.
7. Be responsible - take ownership of your actions and their consequences, man up!
8. Be self-sufficient - learn to take care of yourself, so you can help others do the same.

9. Learn to forgive - holding grudges only hurts you in the long run, bonehead!

10. Be humble – love others before they love you. Give a helping hand.

11. Be patient - good things come to those who wait. (Sometimes this one is hard for me.)

12. Don't be a bully - treat others with kindness and compassion, bullies end up in jail.

13. Be a good listener - pay attention to what others are saying, (reminder: get hearing aids fixed)

14. Be a good communicator - express yourself clearly and effectively(ask them to repeat it back to you, so you can see if they got the message correctly)

15. Be confident - believe in yourself and your abilities. You are a man, enough said!

16. Act with integrity - do the right thing, even when no one is watching. God is looking! He said, "I am near."

17. Be disciplined - have self-control and focus on your goals. And don't do addictions!

18. Show gratitude - appreciate the people and things in your life. Give your wife flowers once in a while, she will love it!

19. Be open-minded - consider different perspectives and ideas. Ask others for their thoughts.

20. Be a lifelong learner - never stop growing and improving yourself. I ask a lot questions folks!. **TW (B. Scott Bozeman Co-Contributor)**

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A Faster, Smarter Path to Affordable Housing: The Vision of Randy Jones' Incredible Tiny House Villages
by Tom Wynn

In the sun-kissed corners of North Gulf County and the community of Kinard in Calhoun County, a revolutionary idea is sprouting – one that could bring swift relief to the pressing housing woes faced by families and communities in the North end of our beautiful county in the forgotten coast, as well as the truly forgotten north end of our lovely county.

I made a trip up to Mr. Randy Jones', the mastermind behind **Incredible Tiny Homes**, factory and Tiny House villages that he has built in the past 9 years or so. He has a grand vision that extends beyond his factory's walls. The charm of properly built tiny house villages, if realized with care and insight, presents an alternative housing solution that promises not just roofs over heads, but a vibrant path to shared prosperity.

From Craftsmanship to Community: Randy Jones, the craftsman who breathes life into wood and dreams, has already woven his magic within the walls of Incredible Tiny Homes. His skill and passion have crafted dwellings that speak of comfort, functionality, and beauty. But Jones' vision transcends the workshop – it reaches into the heart of Gulf and Calhoun Counties, as we watch his Incredible Tiny House tours and fun YouTubes.

From crafting individual tiny homes, Jones envisions whole communities blossoming under the banner of Tiny House Villages. Just as his skill with timber creates spaces of wonder, his vision constructs havens of unity, where North Gulf County's guardians (Gulf C.I.), young educators, and seasoned couples can find not just homes, but a shared sense of belonging.

The Fix for Our Neighbors: From Kinard to White City, which would include Iola, Dalkeith, Howard Creek, and the heart of our own city of Wewa, beats for the people who call

them home, cries out for a place to live. A well-designed, beautifully crafted tiny house village could be the key to unlocking a world of opportunity. Families and neighbors could find themselves nestled in cozy havens that won't break the bank and having them in our local community would be great to add to its amazing family. Especially the elderly and the single folks, like young schoolteachers or prison guards, with no place to live.

Picture this: a village where the salty sea air mixes with the dreams of those who've long yearned for a place to call their own. First up, we've got the Gulf County C.I. guards – the brave souls protecting our Nation, Tyndall AFB young folks, many of them need a haven to lay their heads after watching' over our land and seas. Then there's the young teachers, fresh out of school, ready to shape young minds but struggling' to find a roof over their heads. And let's not forget the elderly couples, tuckered out from the constant chore of keeping a big old' home and yard in that unrelenting' Florida heat, during the summer months.

Community-Driven Prosperity: Now, let's talk turkey about investors. Picture them strolling into town, drawn by the promise of dreamy crafting abodes for folks seeking a slice of Southern paradise. These investors, with their hearts set on Gulf County's future, could work hand in hand with the community, creating not just homes but vibrant neighborhoods that hum with life, full of colors and beautiful hand-crafted tiny houses and villages, all well thought out! And guess what? Those tax dollars, just like honey from a comb, could sweeten the pot for everyone – from sprouting businesses to bolstering local schools.

I have said repeatedly in various settings, front porches, city meetings and local restaurants with my friends and family, and a local business owner and minister, "Investors coming to town means opportunities, jobs, and growth. It's like planting seeds that'll yield a bountiful harvest for years to come."

Bringing Prosperity Home: As the sun sets over the Gulf, these villages stand as a beacon of hope, offering a solution to those who thought the dream of owning a home was drifting' away like a sandcastle in the tide. So, y'all, gather 'round and imagine a place where dreams come true, where the Gulf breeze carries away your worries, and where you can finally call a little piece of paradise your own.

A Dream Worth Building: In North Gulf County and Kinard's Calhoun County, where the famous Dead lakes whisper secrets and the sunsets paint the sky in gold, a new dream is taking root. Properly built tiny house villages – they're more than structures; they're pathways to a brighter, cozier, and more connected future. Imagine a place where neighbors become friends, where families thrive, and where prosperity blooms. It's not just a dream, y'all; it's a promise worth building from the ground up. County Commissioners

should be a strong advocate for the idea, I say to them: "Tiny house villages aren't just a housing fix; they're a catalyst for a brighter tomorrow, where dreams flourish and our communities thrive, those that are retired, wore out from home maintenance and those that just can no longer afford to stay in our beautiful county, as the rich folks move in driving up the property values so our young and old folks have no place to start to grow or grow old as a reasonable price."

From the southern charm of our older folks to Gulf C.I. guardians, to the young schoolteachers beginning their careers, and the ever-growing weary elderly couples seeking ease in their golden years, properly built tiny house villages offer a multifaceted solution to Gulf County's housing challenges now and, in the future, in my humble opinion. County Gulf needs a place for these people to call home, and not have to leave for more cost-effective living, elsewhere.

What can a Tiny Village Community bring to the table?

These villages embody the spirit of community-driven innovation, promising not just to shelter, but a pathway to prosperity for all. So, let's raise a glass of sweet tea to the visionaries and dreamers, to the investors and neighbors – for they're the architects of a new Southern dream, where Randy Jones' tiny house villages rise and a brighter future takes root. Randy Jones' dream was to build villages where people could afford to live and live in a community like family. Team Chipola has this concept, but having lived together for 40 years as neighbors, we are no longer neighbors but family. We love one another as Christ Jesus wants us to live, as a loving family. Wewahitchka and its surrounding areas have made it possible to live in peace and joy. We enjoy the dream of most people in this world here. But with the prices of housing and the cost of materials, will our children and grandchildren afford to stay? **TW**



Whispers of History: New Eden's Journey to Wewahitchka

by Tom Wynn

In the heart of Florida's lush trees and undergrowth, where the sun dances upon the waters and the breeze carries tales of yesteryears, a village known as "New Eden" once stood as a testament to new beginnings and the spirit of adventure. As we delve into its story, we unveil a chapter of history that evolved into the heart of Wewahitchka, a charming city that grew from the seeds of pioneers and dreams, and fights to be heard today.

A Tale of Transition: From New Eden to Wewahitchka

Amidst the mid-1800s, a settlement called New Eden emerged as a beacon of hope and renewal. It beckoned pioneers seeking refuge from the changing world, offering a chance for fresh starts and the pursuit of dreams. With time, New Eden's vibrant pulse merged with the cadence of

life, and it found itself becoming a cornerstone of a growing community, we call "Wewahitchka."

Now for those that have not laid rest their tired bodies in southern comfort, there, nestled beside the waters of the famous Deadlakes, and the twin lakes of downtown Wewa proper, is the sweetest little city in all of Florida today. But its beginnings started just a little north of downtown, just to the left after you cross the beautiful West Arm Creek Bridge. Looking on both sides, during a slow pace crossing over the bridge, the view will overtake your spirit, and you will feel something amazing: **peace!**

New Eden and Wewahitchka shared more than just proximity. They shared a spirit of unity and resilience, with each brick and board laid becoming a bridge connecting the past to the present. As the village evolved into a city, the legacy of New Eden remained woven into the very fabric of Wewahitchka, the evidence of its existence was hidden behind First Baptist Church across the highway from Subway Restaurant. The old original Church that was built where the late Bo John Lester's house stands today, was later moved up town, and again turned to face Church Street. Soon a new Sanctuary was built, and the old Church became one with the new. Hidden in plain view, until Hurricane Michael had his way with the old structure. Brother Mike and the Church family had to decide, to take it down and build a new structure there or try to keep fixing the old one. They decided to remove the old and use what they could keep in the new construction. And so, it has been a process and hard work for those who are taking on the task.

Life in New Eden: Where Dreams Took Root: Imagine a time when the waters of the West Arm Creek gently cradled the hopes of settlers, where homes and markets sprung up amid the embrace of nature. New Eden was more than just a name; it was a promise of new horizons, where fishermen cast their nets and craftsmen honed their skills to carve out a life of self-reliance. Amid this village stood a Methodist church, a beacon of faith and community that welcomed all who crossed its threshold. The church served as a gathering place, a schoolhouse, and a hall for shared experiences. As the Methodist and Baptist congregations shared its space, the echoes of prayers and laughter reverberated within its walls.

A Bridge to the Past: Whaley's Blue Gator Lodge: As New Eden's days evolved into years, a transformation took place that birthed the legend of the "Blue Gator." What was once New Eden's neighbor across the West Arm Creek became a fish camp known as "Blue Gator Lodge." Operated by Claude Whaley, affectionately known as Uncle Whaley to some, this haven of hospitality offered more than just a place to rest. It was a repository of stories, a respite for travelers, and a canvas for unforgettable memories.

Uncle Whaley, a clever and resourceful businessman, also had a reputation for crafting moonshine, the spirit of hidden adventures. His ingenuity and wit found him navigating the labyrinthine paths of the law, providing a taste of moonshine to those who sought its warmth. A tale within a tale, Uncle Whaley's presence added layers to New Eden's legacy, which during his time, was a part of the city of Wewahitchka.



The Methodist Church, Baptist Congregation, and Jehu Cemetery: *(A typical church of the late 1800's in north Florida)*

Amidst New Eden's rustic charm, the Methodist church stood as a testament to faith and fellowship. It was a unifying force, welcoming believers of different denominations under its roof.

Sharing its space with the Baptist congregation, the church embodied the spirit of unity that characterized the community's true nature, love one another, after all they were in Creek and Seminole country and new settler were coming more and more.

Jehu Cemetery, one of Wewa's oldest resting places for those that await the promised resurrection, is a poignant reminder of New Eden's history. Its gravestones bear the names of those who once breathed life into the village, etching their presence into the fabric of time. The Son's of The Confederate Veterans of The War-Between-The States came to Wewa and placed news gravestones over our fallen Wewahitchkans- New Eden's brave men that served our war-torn country. Their graves having fresh new stones provided by the U.S. government were installed with the aid of our local Wewa Historical Society and family members. They gave great care to our fathers, uncles and grandpas who were placed in the land of the brave and the free. TW

"The Widow's Mite: A Tale of Remarkable Generosity" by Tom Wynn

In the bustling streets of Jerusalem, many years ago, there lived a humble widow. She was not wealthy, nor did she possess grand possessions, but her heart was filled with a kindness that knew no bounds. Her story, the tale of the Widow's Mite, is one that continues to inspire us today. In the book of Mark 12:41-44 in the Bible, there is a passage that tells of her selfless act of giving: "And Jesus sat over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, 'Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their

abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.'" This passage speaks volumes about the widow's extraordinary act of giving. She offered not just a portion of her wealth but her entire livelihood, her "all." To understand the value of her offering in today's money, we must consider inflation rates.

Back in her time, a mite was one of the smallest and least valuable coins, equivalent to approximately 1/64th of a denarius. A denarius was a day's wage for a common laborer. Using this as a reference point, her two mites would have been a very small sum, standing for her utmost sacrifice. Now, let's fast forward to modern times and find out what the value of her mite would be today. In the context of inflation rates, we must consider the changes in the value of money over the centuries. While it's challenging to make precise calculations, we can provide a rough estimate.

If we consider a day's wage for a common laborer in the United States as around \$100, then 1/64th of that would be approximately \$1.56. Therefore, her two mites would be equivalent to around \$3.12 in today's money.

While \$3.12 might not seem like a significant amount, it's essential to remember the true value of her gift. She didn't just give money; she gave everything she had. Her offer was worth far more than its monetary value. It stood for her unwavering faith, her selflessness, and her commitment to helping others, even in the face of her own poverty.

The story of the Widow's Mite teaches us that generosity is not measured by the size of the gift but by the sincerity of the heart. Her act of giving, though small in the eyes of the world, was monumental in the eyes of God. It reminds us that true generosity is about giving from the heart, regardless of our circumstances.

So, the next time you find yourself wondering about the value of your own contributions, remember the widow and her mite. Let her story inspire you to give with a generous heart, to give your "all" in whatever way you can. For in doing so, you are carrying forward a legacy of kindness and selflessness that transcends time and touches the lives of others in ways you may never fully realize. Today, that Widow's mite coin sells a Coins & Bullion Reserve in Panama City for about 20 dollars each, so she put in 40 dollars of Modern money value, her everything went in the offering plate. TW

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Note: Thanks to all that aid in creating The Wewa News©™, from family, friends, David at Ramsey's Printing and my proofreaders, as well as those that sponsor this work. Praise the Lord for you, a true blessing to me and Wewa.

2 Corinthians 4:5-6



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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 the 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 the conference room.

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

City Hall Meetings: The City meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month sharply at 6PM CT, unless posted otherwise.

Octoberfest at Lake Alice Park October 7th 9am to-4pm

Isaiah 43:10