

# TUPELO COUNTRY NEWS™



## THE WEWA NEWS™



*“The Good News Newspaper”*

TUPELO HONEY FESTIVAL EDITION 2024 >> No. 05-01<< A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!

### **CITY OF WEWA FINALLY GETS 2 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE BP OIL SPILL**

*by Tom Wynn*

During the April city meeting the Gulf County Administrator Mr. Michael Hammon told the city Commission that Wewa has about 2 million dollars to use for Wewa’s environment upgrades, or if requested, upgrade city water systems, i.e. drinking water systems, or water treatment improvements as set forth by the guidelines of the BP Oil Spill money.

Mayor Phillip Gaskin enquired of Hammon what the city could use the money for in greater detail. The board was happy to hear the news, as well as the public who came to the city meeting.

### **HIGHWAY 71 FROM THE NORTH END THROUGH WEWA GETS NEW PAVEMENT**

*by Tom Wynn*

Over the past month or so down through the North end of the Gulf County, many trucks and men have placed fresh asphalt and fresh lines helping the area look good just in time for the Tupelo Honey Festival for our incoming guests to drive on. They even found some money and time to pave the street next to the Senior Citizen Center, which was full of potholes for several years.

### **TUPELO HONEY FESTIVAL SHOULD HAVE PLENTY OF TUPELO HONEY THIS YEAR.**

*by Tom Wynn*

According to the local Beekeepers the Tupelo Honey supply this year has been good, so there should be plenty of honey for purchase for those who come to the festival, as well as other honeys.

### **CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024!**

### **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY AND THE WEWAHITCHKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY GIVE A REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH**

*by Tom Wynn*

The Friends of the Library and The Wewahitchka Historical Society gave a glowing report to the city commission during the public time to speak. The Friends of The Library reported numbers of folks utilizing the library which have continued to increase. The public is using the library increasingly. The Librarians are doing a fine job for the children and adults alike in providing programs and lots of events and books for the public of the north end of Gulf County and the City of Wewa. Mrs. Ann Johnson reported that the Wewahitchka Historical Society is working toward the restoration of the old county courthouse and their efforts to Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gulf County coming in June of 2025.

### **UPDATE ON THE WEWA NEWS**

*by Tom Wynn*

My family and I have decided we will make it a periodical Good News Newspaper and continue to do our best to give you Wewa events and happenings. Traveling and health issues have made it very hard for a monthly newspaper at this time, so I decided to do The Wewa News periodically until further notice.

Thank you all for your support, especially our Sponsors who help cover the costs of producing the paper. We have made it our mission to help get the community to come together in all sorts of ways and bring Gulf County to mind, when folks are thinking of retirement, water fun or just enjoying nature, like it was back in the ole’ days, as it used to be. We love helping one another to make it a better place to live and enjoy life, for all of us. Our part of Florida is known as, “God’s Country” a place of enjoyment and peace. Wewa is the best place to call home, and our location is perfect for retirement and the enjoyment of nature.

**GULF COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN  
CELEBRATION OF IT'S 50 YEARS OF  
SERVICE-PHOTOGRAPH 1975**



**GULF COUNTY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
IN 2025-ALL EFFORTS ARE COMING  
TOGETHER!**

*by Tom Wynn*

In 2025, Gulf County and the Old Court House in Wewa will be one hundred years old. It is time for Gulf County Florida to celebrate these events next year in June. The Friends of the Library and The Wewahitchka Historical Society are gathering historical photographs, high school yearbooks, and artifacts, as part of the 2025 Gulf County Centennial Celebration. If you have any old photos and information, please contact their members, and let us include what you have to offer to add to the joy and fun of celebration of our heritage.

Wewahitchka Historical Society is working hard to preserve our local and Florida history before progress causes it to disappear. Our Friends of the Library have worked so hard to make the Public Library a place to enjoy history, books, and programs.

The Wewa News will remain online for those that want to read or re-read back issues. Also, I will be writing a second edition of a Historical Periodical for the Wewa Historical Society to sell at the Tupelo Honey Festival. So, look for them and pick up a copy for a donation of \$5.00 each. Please contact the library to share historical information for the centennial or The Wewahitchka Historical Society. **TW**



**IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...**you are reading a free local newspaper, which exercises any and all rights given by The Most High and supported by the community we call, these United States of America, The United States Inc., The U.S. Constitution and the three bodies of government in their various institutions as protectors of our rights and privileges of "We The People". We all stand in unity to protect one another from domestic and foreign governments and individuals that may infringe upon our eternal rights as children of the Most High, as contractually given by the author of, "The Holy Bible."—**The Editor**

**RAMSEY'S PRINTING & OFFICE PRODUCTS**

**"We Serve the Entire County! Come down and see our in-house products & services."**

**We Can Do- LOGO CREATION-PRINTING-COPYING & MUCH MORE. Give us a call at our Office 850-227-7468**

**We are located @ 209 Reid Ave. in Port St. Joe  
KEEP YOUR MONEY LOCAL! WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!**

**MAYHANN'S USED CARS**

**Open 8 to 5 CST**

**Call (850) 639-5810/(850) 819-1136.**

**We have trucks and cars just waiting for you to come see. Let's make a deal today! Located right next door to Dixie Dandy on the lake on Highway 22, just before the light. "Come check out our lot, plum full of nice rides."**

***DOMINO'S***

**Paint & Body**

**HOURS OF OPERATION  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

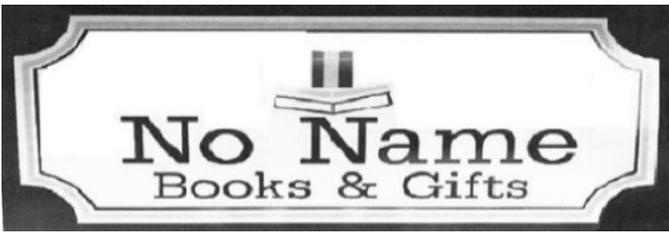
**8 AM to 4 PM**

**(850) 340-0953**

**MV-95178 Email us at:  
dominod26@gmail.com**

## COMFORTER FUNERAL HOME

JARED "TATER" WHITEHEAD OWNER/LFD  
601 Long Ave. Port St. Joe, Florida 32456  
"If you need us, call us, we are here to help!"  
Call 850-227-1818  
[ComforterFH@gmail.com](mailto:ComforterFH@gmail.com)  
[www.ComforterFuneralHome.com](http://www.ComforterFuneralHome.com)



**850-229-9277**

LOCATED AT 325 REID AVENUE  
PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456

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



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

**come fellowship with us!**

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

Please pray for Wewa and Gulf County, love and pray for those that are our leaders in government and pray for those in need or in local hospitals in our area. Love U Wewa!

## HIGHWAY 22 STORAGE

P.O. Box 182, Wewahitchka, Florida  
**IN GOD WE TRUST!**  
Betty Cleckley 850-227-8384  
Cleckley Enterprises, LLC  
Real Estate

### RUMOR CONTROL!

There is a local rumor that our Burger King is closing its doors. So here is the facts: According to the present Assistant Manager, Mrs. Kay Wiley, that is not the case. Her Quote:  
**"Wewa Burger King is NOT Closing"**

## THE WEWA LIBRARY



**The History of Our Modern Local Library**  
by Joyelle Linton

Celebrate summer at the Wewahitchka Public Library! A variety of activities and events will be taking place during the months of June and July for children, families, and adults. Our summer reading program will kick off on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. with a visit from Redemptive Love. Everyone of all ages is invited to join us! Bring a blanket and enjoy outdoor Storytime followed by a hands-on learning experience with a variety of animals. Activities include milking a cow, collecting chicken eggs, learning to spin llama and goat yarn, and enjoying a petting zoo. This program will last for six consecutive weeks. Please view our online current event calendar at <https://www.nwrsl.com/events/category/locations/charles-whitehead-public-library/>.

Gulf County will soon be celebrating 100 years! The Wewahitchka Library has begun planning centennial festivities. In preparation we are looking for any photographs of historic families, businesses, town events, or locations. Please contact the library to schedule an appointment to have your photographs scanned and returned to you at that time.

The Friends of the Wewahitchka Library has entered a partnership with a local photographer, Matthew Tanner, to sale matted black/white and color photographs of beautiful Wewahitchka. Several are on display at the Wewahitchka Library. A white matted 8x10 photograph will be on sale for \$30.00. A portion of these proceeds will support the Wewahitchka Public Library. Your local support is appreciated!

Contact the Library for the new hours of operation, we will be open on Saturdays. Please listen out for an upcoming change of hours. For any questions, please contact us at (850) 639-2419.

**IF you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to find you guilty?**

**BIBLE STUDY TOOLS**

**If you are interested in using Bible study tools online for free, check this website out: [www.esb.bible](http://www.esb.bible)**

**Proverbs 18:24**

## THE WEWAHITCHKA WOMAN'S CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT

The **GFWC** (Wewahitchka Woman's Club) will be selling Strawberry parfaits at the Tupelo Festival this year. Stop by our Booth and learn all about the activities the club does to support the Wewa Community. Also, please be our guest at our meeting on Tuesday, August 13 at 5:30 pm. We will be providing a meal and are excited to start a new year of community service. Join us at the Senior Community Center located at 314 N 3rd St. Our motto is " Living the Volunteer Spirit". More information can be found by following our FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064755754235&mibextid=ZbWKwL> and [gfwcwewahitchkawomensclub.com](http://gfwcwewahitchkawomensclub.com).

Please contact us at [gfwcwewawomansclub@gmail.com](mailto:gfwcwewawomansclub@gmail.com)

850-674-2777

**Panhandle Pioneer Settlement**

PioneerSettlement@PanhandlePioneer.us

**North Gulf  
APIARIES**  
home of  
**BLUE-EYED GIRL  
TUPELO HONEY**  
(850)-628-9504  
Blue-eyedgirlhoney.com  
northgulfapiaries@gmail.com  
150 Harrison Drive, Wewa Fl. 32465



**Wewa  
BUILDING**  
Sales  
850-481-0855  
wewaportablebuildings@gmail.com

## “Tupelo Radio Group” COME JOIN US!



In case you didn't know: “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](http://www.radioddity.com))

## MILLER'S

**HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING**  
“Your Local AC Company”  
**(850) 639-3319 812 Hwy 22**  
**WEWA Florida**

**“For all your Air Conditioning needs!”**  
**“WE DO OUR BEST TO KEEP YOU COOL”**

**HEY VETS, NEED HELP WITH YOUR VA CLAIMS? CONTACT: Ms. Lynn Lanier, Gulf Co. Veterans Reps, at 850-229-6125. Leave a message and she will return your call. VETERANS DISCOUNTS:**

<https://parade.com/951071/jessicasager/military-discounts>



## Gathering in Unity: Team Chipola's Heartfelt Picnic Revival!

*by Tom Wynn*

In the rhythm of the seasons and the beat of our street's happenings, Team Chipola reconvenes once more for a cherished tradition: our periodic picnic day! Following the heartfelt passing of Mrs. Betty Hanlon and the arrival of new neighbors onto our beloved street, we felt the call to come together, bound by our

shared affection for one another and the sweet essence of our tight-knit community.

Amidst the gentle sway of the trees and the warmth of the sun, we partook in a medley of games, but more importantly, we reveled in the joy of laughter and the richness of storytelling that filled the afternoon air. And with just a little rain for a short time, we played a few games of Corn Hole and told stories while indulging in all kinds of delicious foods, which included one of my favorites, Deviled Eggs. It was a testament to the enduring spirit of love and family that defines our little corner of the world, where every gathering is a celebration of togetherness and the bonds that unite us. Music was provided by **Mr. C.P. Uitts**.

# SUBWAY

**COME DINE WITH US!**

**We are located at 507 South Hwy 71  
in Wewa Open: 7:30am to 9:00pm daily Call  
(850) 639-4100**

**Dine in or pick up at our Drive-up Window  
Bring your Family!**

## **JUST A NOTE FROM GRANDPA TOM**

*“Love where you live, I dare you, and see what happens!”*



Get yours while they last! Contact the Wewahitchka Historical Society to buy your new Afghan with rare photos of Old Wewa. Contract Ann Johnson THE WEWA HISTORICAL Society--(850) 867-5970

**JOSHUA 1:9**

## **Savor the Sweetness: The Tupelo Honey Festival 2024**

*By Tom Wynn*

Mark your calendars for a day of sweetness and celebration at the annual Tupelo Honey Festival, taking place on Saturday, May 18th, 2024, at the picturesque Lake Alice in downtown Wewahitchka, Florida. Renowned as the sweetest little city in Florida, Wewahitchka welcomes thousands of honey enthusiasts from near and far to indulge in the finest honey flavors offered locally, as well as others from around the Globe by Smiley’s Aperies. We have honey producers, Like the Cantu, Rish and the Lanier families that have been in the honey business for many years, and several generations, in some cases. One of the highlights of this year's festival is the eagerly anticipated "Black Jar Honey Judging Contest." Calling all beekeepers and honey aficionados! Showcase your best honey creations by entering this prestigious contest.

Registration is free, with submissions accepted at the Beekeepers booth from 8 am to 10 am CST. The judging will commence at 2 pm CST, with contestants vying for the coveted title. Each participant is encouraged to bring 8 ounces of their finest honey; rest assured, Black Jars will be provided for all contest entries. This exciting event is proudly sponsored by **The Gulf County Beekeepers Association**, a testament to our commitment to promoting beekeeping excellence and honey culture.

In addition to the contest, attendees can delight in a myriad of honey-related activities, including honey tastings and sales. Immerse yourself in the world of honey as you sample exquisite varieties and discover unique flavor profiles. Whether you're a honey connoisseur or a curious newcomer, there's something for everyone to enjoy at the Tupelo Honey Festival.

As the festivities wind down, take the opportunity to explore the charming streets of Wewahitchka and soak in the local hospitality. And before you bid farewell, be sure to venture down to the iconic Dam Road Bridge, where you can marvel at the scenic beauty of North Gulf County. Don't miss out on this unforgettable experience! Join us at the Tupelo Honey Festival 2024 and indulge in the essence of nature's golden nectar.**TW**

# HIGHLAND FINANCE

MICAH HENDERSON

INSURANCE & RETIREMENT PLANNING

LIFE HEALTH HOMEOWNERS  
MEDICARE LONG TERM CARE ANNUITIES

CELL 8503595989 8503784480 FAX

MICAH@HIGHLANDFINANCEFL.COM

WWW.HIGHLAND.FINANCE



**LETTER TO THE US VETERANS; GULF COUNTY LAW OFFICERS; OFFICE WORKERS; FIRE AND MEDICAL STAFF OF GULF COUNTY.** Thank you!! for your service to our county and We the People. Thank you for your efforts to make America a safe place to live and to enjoy the freedoms that we have today. Without your efforts and sufferings on the job and elsewhere, we could not stand so tall, knowing that life in other countries is not so free and loving. I know, I have seen Marshall Law upfront and personal in other countries during my career in the USCG. Please know that we indeed worry over you and pray for you. May God continue to bless you and love you firsthand. With All Sincerity, Senior Chief Tom Wynn USCG (Ret.)



## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HONEY

by Robin Jackson

I did not know this. I have local honey in my tea. Always using a metal spoon. Did you know that one of the world's first coins had a bee symbol? Did you know that honey contains live enzymes? Did you know that in contact with a metal spoon, these enzymes die? The

best way to eat honey is with a wooden spoon; if you can't find one, use a plastic spoon.

Did you know that honey contains a substance that helps the brain work better? Did you know that honey is one of the few foods on earth that alone can sustain human life? Did you know that bees saved people from starvation in Africa?

That a spoonful of honey is enough to keep a man alive for 24 hours? Did you know that propolis produced by bees is one of the most powerful natural antibiotics?

Did you know that honey has no expiry date?

Did you know that the bodies of the world's greatest emperors were buried in gold coffins, then covered in honey to prevent putrefaction? Did you know that the term "Honeymoon" (honeymoon) comes from the fact that the bride and groom consumed honey for fertility after their marriage?

Did you know that a bee lives less than 40 days, visits at least 1000 flowers and produces less than a teaspoon of honey, but for her it is the work of a lifetime.

Thank you precious bees!  
(Submitted by Ms. Lyn Wynn)

## GASKIN-GRADY INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

An Independent Agent – 156 N. Second Street  
Wewahitchka Fl. 32465 Call or come in 850-639-5077 Serving the Panhandle Since 1931

Charlie Pettis  
Pest Services  
"The Bug Man"  
(Certified Pest Control Operator)  
(850) 381-2942  
P.O. Box 1205 Wewahitchka, FL 32465  
charlie@mybugman.us

**NEED A GOOD MOW MAN? CALL  
WILLIAM & CAROL LINDSEY @  
(850) 814-4930**

# HEAVEN SENT

A 501C3 NONPROFIT "A Thrift Store Full of Love"  
Help Us Help Others – Janet Wood  
Located at 515 Hwy 71 North in Wewa  
Come check us out! (Isaiah 61:11)  
We are, 'Gracefully Amazing' · (850) 294-7839

## FOR THE LOVE OF TUPELO HONEY!

by Mrs. Leslie Cantu

Local Beekeeper for over 50 years!



It is Tupelo Honey time, the often difficult to produce premier honey of the United States and the world, produced along the Apalachicola Chipola River system, about 100 miles long, is in bloom now and hopefully the weather and other factors will cooperate to bring about the liquid gold honey for our beloved Tupelo Honey Festival come the 18<sup>th</sup> of May.

We use Tupelo Honey in our skin and health care line because it has many amazing qualities, including the ORAC value, which measures the ability of a product to gather up and get rid of free radicals.

This skin conditioning and repair ability gives us a product that is extremely beneficial to the skin, the body's largest organ and one that takes the abuse from outside influence such as wind, cold, sun.



**Honey can be used as an anti-microbial agent;** this is mostly due to low concentrations of hydrogen peroxide produced naturally from sugar compounds. Honey contains large amounts of sugar, approximately 97%, most of the sugar content is glucose and fructose. Honey also contains smaller amounts of vitamins and minerals.



Steve Cantu on his Bee Barge in the Chipola River

Tupelo Honey is one of the rarest strains of honey and has amazing health benefits both when consumed, as

well as when used topically. Studies have shown that Tupelo Honey has many compounds that help the skin, one of the greatest benefits being a high ORAC (Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity) value.

This means that it has the wonderful ability of protecting the skin against free radical damage from the sun and other environmental contaminants. The Ogeechee Tupelo (White Tupelo) comes from a region of northwest Florida along both sides of the Apalachicola, Chipola, and the old Ochlocknee Rivers stretching over 5 counties, Calhoun, Gulf, Franklin, Liberty and Wakulla.

This area is 15 to 20 miles wide, 100 miles long and forms the lower reaches of the Chattahoochee River system, adjoining the Gulf of Mexico on the South. It is here that the world's chief supply of Tupelo Honey is made. Our bees are put on barges pushed upriver and floated down to reach the White Gum trees.

We hope to see you at the yearly Tupelo Honey Festival on Lake Alice, and if you produce honey, don't forget to enter the Black Jar contest. It is a special day for the people and the Beekeepers who work very hard to produce this special kind of honey. Enjoy the Day! (Photos by Tom Wynn on the Chipola River with Steve Cantu). LC

## Unraveling the Fourth Amendment: Safeguarding Our Privacy Through Time

by Tom Wynn

Hey there, eager learners! Let's embark on a journey through history to explore the fascinating story behind the Fourth Amendment. This vital part of our U.S. Constitution plays a crucial role in protecting our privacy and freedom. Are you ready to dive in and learn more?

Let's go!

Back in the days of old, people in England fought hard for their rights. One significant battle took place in 1029, known as **Entick v. Carrington**. This case taught us that people have a right to feel secure in their homes and keep their belongings private. Fast forward to 1689, when England's Bill of Rights was crafted. It stated that the government can't just barge in and take your things without a good reason. This idea eventually made its way into the U.S. Constitution, via our founding fathers.

When America was born, our Founding Fathers remembered these lessons. They understood how vital it was to protect our rights, so they penned the Fourth

Amendment. It acts like a shield, preventing the government from prying into our lives without a good reason.

The Fourth Amendment declares that we have the right to feel safe in our homes and keep our belongings private. It says that the government can't just search for our things or take our stuff without a good reason and permission from a judge. Pretty neat, huh?

Throughout history, the Fourth Amendment has been our defender against bad stuff. It stops the government from being too nosy and taking away our freedoms. From way back then until now, it has been like our own personal hero, always watching out for us.

But sometimes, people try to twist the Fourth Amendment for their own gain. They might bend its meaning or ignore it altogether. In today's world, with fancy technology everywhere, it's even harder to keep our privacy safe. Cameras and computers make it easier for the government to spy on us without us even knowing (not to mention Drones!)

This has sparked big debates about how much power the government should have. Some folks say we need strong security measures to keep us safe from bad guys. Others worry that giving the government too much power might take away our freedoms. It's a tough balance to strike!

In recent years, the Supreme Court has had to make some tough decisions about the Fourth Amendment. They've had to think about things like tracking our phones or using cameras to watch us. These decisions help ensure that the Fourth Amendment stays strong and continues to protect us.

So, what's the bottom line? The Fourth Amendment is super important! It's like our guardian angel, making sure the government doesn't overstep its bounds and invade our privacy. From the past to the present, it's been there for us, standing up for our rights.

As we navigate through the complexities of the 21st century, the Fourth Amendment remains a cornerstone of our Republic (we are not a democracy, only in congress, when they vote, the majority wins, but we are a representative style government), ensuring that our privacy rights are protected in an ever-changing world. But even as it stands as a beacon of liberty, there are challenges and debates surrounding its interpretation and application in our modern society.

In today's digital age, where technology permeates every aspect of our lives, the Fourth Amendment faces new threats and challenges. Surveillance cameras, GPS tracking devices, and digital data collection have made it easier than ever for the government, and others, to monitor our activities without our knowledge or consent. This has led to

concerns about the erosion of privacy rights and the potential for abuse by those in positions of authority.

Moreover, the rise of social media and online communication platforms has blurred the lines between public and private spaces, raising questions about the scope of Fourth Amendment protections in the digital realm. Can the government access our emails or social media accounts without a warrant? Should our online activities be subject to the same privacy protections as our offline lives? These are just some of the questions that courts and lawmakers grapple with in the digital age.

In recent years, the Supreme Court has issued several landmark decisions addressing these issues and reaffirming the importance of Fourth Amendment protections in the digital age. In **Carpenter v. United States (2018)**, the Court ruled that the government's collection of historical cell phone location records constituted a search under the Fourth Amendment, requiring a warrant. Similarly, in **Riley v. California (2014)**, the Court held that the police generally must obtain a warrant before searching the digital contents of a cell phone seized from an individual who has been arrested.

These decisions underscore the vital role that the Fourth Amendment plays in safeguarding our privacy rights and protecting us against government overreach. They remind us that, even in an age of rapid technological advancement, the principles enshrined in the Fourth Amendment remain as relevant and essential as ever.

But the fight to preserve our privacy rights is far from over. As technology continues to evolve and new threats emerge, we must remain vigilant in defending our Fourth Amendment rights and ensuring that our government (and that includes our local police departments and agencies with, who respect the boundaries of individual privacy. Whether it's through legislative action, judicial oversight, or public advocacy, we all have a role to play in upholding the principles of liberty and justice upon which our nation was founded.

In conclusion, the Fourth Amendment stands as a testament to the enduring values of liberty, justice, and human dignity. From its origins in English legal tradition to its central place in modern American jurisprudence, it remains a cornerstone of our Republic, protecting our privacy and freedoms in an ever-changing world. **TW**

#### References:

- Carpenter v. United States, 585 U.S. (2018); Riley v. California, 573 U.S. (2014); Entick v. Carrington, 19 Howell's State Trials 1029, 95 Eng. 807 (1705)

# **Your Vote Matters: A Call for Responsibility and Hope.**

*By Tom Wynn*

As we approach the upcoming election, it is essential to understand the power each of us holds in shaping our future. Your vote is not just a mark on a ballot; it's a voice, a voice that can influence the direction of our society for the next four years.

We all desire a government that listens to its citizens, one that works tirelessly to address our concerns and improve our lives. This election is our chance to make that desire a reality. By casting our votes thoughtfully and for the right reasons, we pave the way for positive change and a fresh start on many important issues.

Let's remember that the decisions we make at the ballot box today will shape the world our children inherit tomorrow. We owe it to ourselves, our families, and our communities to vote with care and consideration.

If our elected officials honor their oath of office and prioritize the needs of "We The People," then they deserve our continued support. However, if they fail to listen to us and act in their own interests, it's our duty to hold them accountable by voting them out of office.

We must recognize the power we possess to enact change or maintain the status quo. Whether it's addressing social justice issues, healthcare concerns, or economic challenges, our votes have the potential to make a difference.

So, I urge each and every one of you to exercise your right to vote. It's not just a privilege; it's a responsibility. And remember, if you choose not to vote, you forfeit your right to complain about the direction of our country for the next four years.

## **WHO IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE TO MAKE GULF COUNTY BETTER?**

"Candidates Finalized for Gulf County Elections  
In anticipation of the upcoming elections in Gulf County, the list of candidates has been finalized following the completion of the DS-DE9 filing and the opening of campaign accounts. The candidates, listed in alphabetical order by last name, represent various positions crucial to the county's governance and education system. **Clerk of Court and**

## **Comptroller:**

Rebecca Norris (R) (INC) (Pre-qualified)

## **Property Appraiser:**

Mitch Burke (R) (INC) (Pre-qualified)

## **Sheriff:**

Vince Everett (R) (Pre-qualified)

Mike Harrison (R) (INC) (Pre-qualified)

## **Tax Collector:**

Gail Alsobrook (R) (Pre-qualified)

Ashley Forehand (R) (Pre-qualified)

Candy Lewis (D) (Pre-qualified)

## **Supervisor of Elections:**

John M. Hanlon (R) (INC) (Pre-qualified)

## **County Commission - District 1:**

Christopher "Spike" McLemore (R) (Pre-qualified)

David Rich (R) (INC) (Pre-qualified)

## **County Commission - District 2:**

George "Buddy" Cooper (R) (Pre-qualified)

Jack Husband (R) (INC) (Pre-qualified)

John Murnan (R) (Pre-qualified)

## **County Commission - District 3:**

Patrick Farrell (R) (INC) (Pre-qualified)

Randy Pridgeon (R) (Pre-qualified)

## **County Commission - District 5:**

Phil McCroan (R) (INC) (Pre-qualified)

## **County Judge:**

Tim McFarland (NON) (INC) (Qualified)

## **Gulf County Schools**

### **Superintendent of Schools:**

Jim Norton (R) (INC) (Pre-qualified)

### **School Board - District 3:**

Matt Terry (NON) (Pre-qualified)

### **School Board - District 4:**

Marvin Davis (NON) (INC) (Pre-qualified)

Equilar Gainer (NON) (Pre-qualified)

Charles Gathers (NON) (Pre-qualified)

Heather Jones (NON) (Pre-qualified)

As Gulf County gears up for the elections, these candidates will be vying for the trust and support of the community to lead them in various capacities, shaping the county's future in governance and education. Stay tuned for further updates and coverage as the election season unfolds."



## LOOK WHO IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE

by Tom Wynn

**Wewahitchka's very own George "Buddy" Cooper** has stepped forward to vie for the district 2 commissioner seat in Gulf County. With a deep-rooted love for his community, Cooper, aged 55 and residing at 274 Homewood Circle (a District 2 Candidate), has officially declared his candidacy as a Republican.

In what promises to be a competitive race, Cooper joins fellow Republican contenders **Jack Husband and John Murnan**. Husband, the incumbent, took office in July 2023, following Governor DeSantis' appointment, filling the void left by the late County Commissioner Billy Traylor.

While District 2 sees three Republican candidates in the running, District 1 also heats up with **contenders Spike McLamore and David Rich**.

As the electoral landscape unfolds, the absence of Democratic or independent challengers sets the stage for an intriguing showdown at the Aug. 20 primary. District 2 constituents, irrespective of party lines, will play a pivotal role in determining the county's next commissioner. Stay tuned to THE WEWA NEWS for updates on this developing story. **TW**



**THE RISH HONEY HOUSE IS OVER 122 YEARS OLD TODAY.**

Presently it can be seen in Blountstown Florida at the **Panhandle Pioneer Settlement**. James Earnest Rish donated it so it could be protected and meticulously kept for future generations.

Our rich history of Tupelo Honey and the amazing world of beekeeping remains today. Rish's Grandfather built the house in 1902 to extract honey from the honey cone. The Rish Family for four generations (at least since 1882 I found documented) used the honey house to take honey to sell to the public and to factories that use honey for their products. The Honey house was still being used when we filmed the documentary, **"Tupelo Honey and the Wonderful World of Beekeeping"** in 2002 which I put on YouTube for all to see free. Jim's grandfather, James F. Rish built the honey house and was originally built in Old Iola (a ghost town today) near Wewahitchka, Florida. Hope to see you at the Tupelo Honey Festival on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. Jim and Nathan will be there selling their Sweet Tupelo Honey, southern style. **TW**

---

**"VOTE FOR ME!! I am running for Nothing!"**

by Tom Wynn

Thank you for asking folks, but I am not running for any elected office. I served my country for over 20 years saving life and property, so it is time for others to do their duty for the cause of Freedom and the Joy of living here in these United States of America, home of the brave and the free!

Today I serve you with a local newspaper, that is designed to entertain you and inform you as well.

It is a ministry of my family and those that support our efforts. Please see The Wewa News as a Good News Newspaper, for that was its original design back in 1995 when I started it. It is extremely hard work and takes a lot of work and energy to put out a special kind of newspaper as The Wewa News has come.

Thank you for taking the time to read it and enjoy our labors. Please vote good folks into office, because we all will have to live with what they do while in their "officer of a Higher Calling," within our community and our State. Love them and pray for them all, they serve us and give much of themselves and their family to do so, as does our military and police forces today. Through the eyes of myself and a few others, we want to thank those that do run for office to do so, faithfully and with great respect for the office you will serve and We The People, that are casting our vote your way. Be of good cheer and thank to Lord for abilities to serve your fellow man and citizens, of Gulf County Florida. **TW**

---

**Romans 10:17**

# NOTICE!

The Tupelo Festival Will Go As Planned  
“Rain or Shine” per The City Tupelo  
Honey Festival Coordinator  
Ms. Sharon Thibodaux Barrier.



## SMILEY HONEY Co.

163 Bozeman Circle  
Wewahitchka, Florida 32465

Give us a Call! We have Tupelo Honey and many  
other varieties of Honey.

Check us out online:

Website: [www.smileyhoney.com](http://www.smileyhoney.com)

Email: [infor@smileyhoney.com](mailto:infor@smileyhoney.com)



Located at the corner of Chipola Ave. and 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Street, Wewa, Florida Monday thru Friday 6am-  
2pm Saturday 8am-1pm. We are here to serve you  
the best meal replacement shakes and energy teas.

We also have Iced Coffee, come see! Find us on  
Facebook and Instagram.

### Based on the time spent in the Ark. As recorded in Genesis Chapters 6-9

The rain fell for forty days	40
The waters of the Flood kept rising for an additional days	110
The waters receded over the next 74 days (assuming 30 days a month)	74
After another forty days, Noah sent a raven out of the Ark	40
After another seven days, Noah sent out a dove	7
After another seven days, the dove was sent out for the second time	7
The third sending of the dove was after another seven days	7
Another 20 days elapse	29
Fifty-seven days elapsed from when the covering of the Ark was removed to the final day	<u>57</u>
Total days in the Ark	371

## LEARN THE 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE

### Be Pro-Active

Take the initiative and the responsibility to make things happen.

### Begin With an End in Mind

Start with a clear destination to understand where you are now,  
where you're going and what you value most.

### Put First Things First

Manage Yourself. Organize and execute around priorities.

### Think Win/Win

See life as a cooperative, not a comprehensive arena where success  
is not achieved at the expense or exclusion of the success of others.

### Seek First to Understand

Understand, then be understood to build the skills of empathetic  
listening that inspires openness and trust.

### Synergize

Apply the principles of cooperative creativity and value differences.

### Renewal

Preserving and enhancing your greatest asset, yourself, by renewing the  
physical, spiritual, mental and social/emotional dimensions of your nature.

Source: From the Book of the same name.



# BEES & BOTANICALS LLC

“From the Heart of the Hive”

(Beauty Products made with Tupelo Honey)

www.beesandbotanicals.com

Call LESLIE CANTU 863-781-1210

**Beekeeper Steven Cantu**

**“Tupelo Honey & Other Various honeys”**

**County Road 386 N. Wewa, Florida 32465**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE, HERE IS A GREAT YOUTUBE YOU WILL ENJOY: MESSIAH:2030**

**I highly recommend it to watch and share. It was well done and is based on a book written in 2002. Check it out!**

### CALL 911 in Case of All Emergencies

- GULF CO. SHERIFF’S PSJ OFFICE.....(850) 227-1115
- GULF CO. SHERIFF’S WEWA OFFICE.....(850) 639-5717
- GULF CO. VA REP Lynn.....(850) 229-6125
- AUTO DETAILING–Dakota Ake.....(727) 916-1423
- BACKSTREET MOTORS.....(850-568-1174
- BAYSIDE FLORIST.....(850) 229-1111
- BEE’S & BOTANICAL–Leslie.....(863) 781-1210
- BLUE-EYED GIRL HONEY SALES-Pam.....(850).628-9504
- CHARLIE PETTIS PEST CONTROL.....(850)381-2942
- COMFORTER FUNERAL HOME.....(850).227-1818
- DOMINO’S PAINT & BODY.....(850) 340-0953
- GASKIN-GRADY INSURANCE .....(850).639-5077
- GRI BAY PROPERTIES-Kathe Jones.....(850) 247-9131
- HARVELL’S RAGIN CAJUN.....(850) 247-0575
- HEAVEN SENT WEWA INC Janet .....(850) 294-7839
- HIGHLAND FINANCE INS & RET-Micah.....(850)-359-5989
- HIGHWAY 22 STORAGE–Betty.....(850) 227-8384
- LARRY’S SHEDS-Jodie.....(850) 522-9936
- MAYHANN’S USED CARS–Charles.....(850) 819-1136
- MILLER’S HEATING & AIR–Jason.....(850) 639-3319
- NO NAME BOOK STORE.....(850) 229-9277
- RAMSEY’S OFFICE SUPPLY–David.....(850) 227-7468
- TUPELO RADIO GROUP-Dudley Balmer .... (317)-379-1644**
- RISE-N-SHINE FARM-Sarah.....(850-730-8689
- SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER.....(850)639-9910
- SMILEY’S HONEY-Caroline.....(850)-730-3404
- SOUTHERN STYLES HAIR CARE.....(850) 381-6454
- SUBWAY–Mike.....(850) 639-4100
- THE WEWA HISTORICAL Society–Ann.....(850) 867-5970
- THE WEWA NEWS-Tom.....thewewanews2021@gmail.com**
- WEWA BUILDING SALES–Jodi Rustin.....(850) 481-0855
- WEWA CITY HALL.....(850) 639-2605
- WEWA LIBRARY–Joyelle.....(850) 639-2419
- WEWA RV PARK–Bob.....(850) 639-5721

**Contact us: [thewewanews2021@gmail.com](mailto:thewewanews2021@gmail.com)**

**Our website to see past issues and the latest as well:**

**Google: [the.wewa.news](http://the.wewa.news)**



## Kathe Jones



**Broker/Owner  
GRI Bay Properties Real Estate  
Group, LLC**

**CALL (850) 247-9131 · [pkrd@fairpoint.net](mailto:pkrd@fairpoint.net)**

**BUY OR SALE REAL ESTATE**

**COME JOIN US – BUSINESSES OR  
INDIVIDUALS**



## LOCAL BEEKEEPERS & HONEY SUPPLIERS

- AWESOME BLOSSOM-Emily.....(850)-819-3474
- BEE WILD RAW HONEY.....(850)-447-0161
- BIG RIVER HONEY–Leslie Cantu.....(850)-247-7176
- BLUE EYED GIRL HONEY–Pam & Gary.....(850)-628-9504
- DEAD LAKES APIARY–Cynde Aaron.....(850)-628-0745
- HURRICANE HONEY–Buddy Nachtsheim.....(850)-814-0754
- L.L. LANIER HONEY–Ben & Glynnis Lanier....(850)-639-2371
- RISH TUPELO HONEY–James & Nathan.....(850)-639-3645
- RISE-N-SHINE FARM-Sarah.....(850-730-8689
- SMILEY’S HONEY-Willie.....(850)-730-3404
- SWEET LIPS HONEY-Daphney Glass.....(770)-842-9721
- WEWA BEE & HONEY–Greg Skipper.....(850)-819-4458

### LEGAL NOTICES

Copyright 2022 **The Wewa News/Thomas William Wynn Junior** All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed without the expressed consent of the above.

### INFORMATIONAL NOTICES

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 of The Wewa News will be a periodical as of 1 January 2024 until further notice. We will notify the public via word of mouth and via Facebook pages.

**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, but is subject to change, we are growing fast.

**The Friends of the Wewa Library’s** meet at the Wewa Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 10:00 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 Presbyterian Church in Hwy 71.

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

Please call our Sponsors and thank them for this FREE newspaper, they help make possible.



**SPONSORS,** Praise the Lord for you, a true blessing to me, Wewa, and to our readership across the world.

**Check out our new website: [myWEWA.org](http://myWEWA.org)**

Created for you by my son Aaron Wynn