

# THE TUPELO COUNTRY NEWS™

## *“The Good News Newspaper”*

>>SPECIAL TUPELO FESTIVAL EDITION-**August 2026-8-17-01**<<

A FREE NEWSPAPER Take One! The Wewa News Newspaper



### **The Senior Center Will Be Publishing a New Cookbook Soon!**

Be looking for a new cookbook that the Wewahitchka Seniors Center will be publishing. Contact the Center for when the books will be available.

It is a fundraiser that will go down in history, and many of their recipes of yesteryear, handed down by their grandmothers and mothers, will be a feast for the eyes and hearts, as well as our bellies.

### **Why I Do “The Wewa News”**

*by Tom Wynn Jr.*

People sometimes ask me why I spend my time writing, researching, and publishing *The Wewa News*. The answer is simple: Because tomorrow’s generation needs to know where they came from. **(Cont. page 2)**

### **Chipper Wade: 50 Years of Service to City of Wewahitchka** *by Tom Wynn Jr.*

Some people work a job. Others dedicate their lives to serving their community. **Chipper Wade** is one of those special people who has given more than 50 years of faithful service to the City of Wewahitchka.

For many decades, the Wade family has been an important part of Wewahitchka. Through hard work, dedication, and a commitment to helping others, they have contributed greatly to the strength of our community.

Chipper Wade’s career with the City of Wewahitchka represents a lifetime of dedication. For more than five decades, he has been a familiar and trusted face around our city. **(Story continues on Page 2)**



### **A Historic Treasure Opens Its Doors Again**

### **First Presbyterian Church of Wewahitchka Celebrates Historic Restoration** *by Tom Wynn Jr.*

For more than a century, the First Presbyterian Church of Wewahitchka has been a part of our community’s history. Built in 1903, this historic church has stood through generations of families, changes in our community, and some mighty difficult times.

Hurricane Michael in 2018 caused major damage to the church and left this historic building in need of extensive work. What followed was a long journey of restoration, requiring faith, patience, hard work, and the support of many people.

On August 16, 2026, the church once again opened its doors for services, and what a wonderful sight it was. The church was filled as members, families, friends, and community supporters gathered to celebrate the completion of this historic restoration. **(Story cont. on page 2)**

**(Chipper Wade Story from page 1)** His knowledge of the city's infrastructure—both above ground and below ground—has been priceless. Over the years, Chipper's experience has saved the city thousands of dollars and countless hours of labor. Much of what he knows cannot be learned from a book. It comes from years of hands-on work, solving problems, and caring about the community he serves.

Chipper has not only been a valuable employee, but he has also been a leader and a friend to many. His willingness to help others and his commitment to doing what is right have earned him the respect of many Wewahitchka residents.

His brother, **Timothy Wade**, also served many years at **Gulf Coast Electric Co-op**, helping provide dependable electric service to families and businesses throughout our area. Together, Chipper and Tim represent the kind of dedication and work ethic that has helped build Wewahitchka.

The Wade family has shown what community service truly means. Their lives reflect kindness, loyalty, and a love for their fellow man in the spirit that God intended.

Fifty years of service is a remarkable accomplishment. It represents thousands of days of showing up, helping neighbors, solving problems, and keeping our city moving forward.

Congratulations, **Chipper Wade**, on this incredible milestone. Thank you for your dedication, your friendship, and your love for Wewahitchka.

Your service has helped make our community stronger and has helped keep Wewahitchka "**The Sweetest Little City in Florida.**" TW

**(Church opens its doors from page 1)** This was more than just another Sunday service. It was a celebration of what can happen when people care about their community and refuse to let an important piece of its history disappear.

**Pastor Carol Wood** and the congregation have put a tremendous amount of work into bringing this old church back to life. The restoration has taken **a lot of love, money, hard work, and "skin"** to complete it.

The Wewahitchka Historical **Society** has also played an important part in recognizing and preserving the history of this building and the stories connected to it. The City of Wewahitchka and others in the community have also shown their support.

Walking into the restored church is a reminder that buildings can be more than wood, walls, windows, and a roof. They can hold memories. They can tell the story of the people who came before us. They can give future generations something they can see and touch. For Wewa, this church is one of those places.

The full house on August 16 was a fitting celebration. It showed that this historic church still has a place in the heart of our community.

The restoration of the First Presbyterian Church is not simply about repairing an old building. It is about preserving a piece of Wewahitchka's history and keeping its doors open for generations to come.

Sometimes, saving history takes more than money. It takes people who care enough to roll up their sleeves and get the job done. Wewahitchka should be proud of what has been accomplished. **A historic treasure has been restored—and its doors are open once again.** TW

**(Cont. from page 1-Why I Do "The Wewa News")**

The questions I ask today are the same questions I asked my father, grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, and aunts: **Who are we? Where did we come from? Why is that building there? Who named this place? What stories do these old roads and places hold?**

I have always been curious. When I was about five years old, I asked my father so many questions that one day he finally said: "Tommy, you ask too many questions." My answer was simple: "Dad, how else



will I learn?" He never said that again. For the rest of his life, he answered my questions. He took me to every museum he could find locally and encouraged me with curiosity.

There was another area where my father never refused to answer my questions — my questions about God and the Bible.

There was no Bible question I could ask that he would not take the time to explain. He shared his understanding, his wisdom, and his faith with me throughout his life.

Even until his passing at 78 years old, before he went to be with the Lord, he remained a teacher, a living father, and an example of patience and love.

He taught me something important: Questions are not a sign of disrespect. Questions are how we learn. And when someone takes the time to answer them with love, they pass on something that can last for generations.

Later, as we traveled during his military service and throughout my own life, I continued learning. We visited places filled with history — including Italy, Mount Vesuvius, Pompeii, castles in Naples, France, 5th Avenue in New York, Miami Beach, and countless museums (including the Smithsonian) and historic locations.

Every place had a story. Every person had a story. Every community had a history worth remembering.

That is why I believe local history matters. Our living history is all around us. Our mayors, past and present. Our City Commissioners. Our County Commissioners. Our city workers, teachers, veterans, farmers, fishermen, business owners, church leaders, and countless citizens who quietly served their community.

One day, these people will no longer be here to tell their stories. That is why they need to be remembered. Because someday my great-great-grandchildren may ask: "Who were these people? What were they like? What did they do to make our community what it is today?" If we do not record their stories, future generations may never know just how great they were, how much they loved their community, and how hard

they worked to create this amazing place we call home. The history of a community is not just found in old buildings or books. It is found in people.

*The Wewa News* exists to help preserve those stories and share them with our neighbors, our children, and future generations. A newspaper should do more than report what happened yesterday. It should help people remember who they are and where they came from. So I ask you:

**Are you doing the same?** Are you asking questions? Are you listening to the stories of your parents, grandparents, and neighbors? Are you recording the memories before they are gone? Come tell our stories.

Tell them while the people who lived them are still here. Tell them before those memories pass quietly into the night. Before we finish, I ask every father, grandfather, mother, and grandmother: **What is your legacy?** What stories are you leaving behind?

Will your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren know who you were? Will they know the sacrifices you made, the lessons you learned, the people you helped, and the love you gave?

Because one day, every one of us will become a memory. The question is: **"How will you remember? Preserve the past. Share the present. Inspire the future."**

---

## Mop Up! Clean Up!

### Major Drug Enforcement in Gulf County (2017–2025) by Tom Wynn Jr.

Sometimes cleaning up a community means more than picking up trash along the roadside. Sometimes it means going after the drugs, dealers, and criminal activity that damage families and neighborhoods.

For years, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office has been working to do just that. Under the leadership of **Sheriff Mike Harrison**, Gulf County deputies and narcotics officers have carried out drug investigations, arrests, and

enforcement operations aimed at removing illegal drugs from our community.

This story is not about dragging people from the past back into the headlines. Some made mistakes, faced the courts, and served their time. That is where those chapters should remain. **This story is about cleanup.**

The Sheriff's Office has continued working to identify drug activity, investigate suspected dealers, make arrests, and work with other law-enforcement agencies when investigations cross county lines. Much of this work happens quietly, following leads, gathering evidence, and building cases that can stand up in court. That takes patience, training, and teamwork.

The goal isn't simply making arrests. It is enforcing the law, protecting the community, and helping keep illegal drugs out of Gulf County.

Gulf County is a small community. People know one another, families know families, and news travels fast. That makes the responsibility of law enforcement even greater.

**Major Drug Enforcement article:** The men and women serving today should not be judged by somebody else's mistakes from years ago. They should be judged by how they perform their duties today. So let's give credit where credit is due: **Mop up the drugs. Clean up the crime. Protect our communities and keep moving forward.** That is what the people of Gulf County should expect from their Sheriff's Office. And that is what **Mop Up! Clean Up!** is all about.

Over the last eight years, **Sheriff Mike Harrison, Chief Deputy Chris Buchanan, and Chief Narcotics Officer Matt Herring** have led Gulf County's law enforcement against narcotics: from traffic-stop busts, multi-county meth trafficking takedowns, to residential distribution cases. Their leadership has made our community cleaner, healthier, and growing faster than ever before.

It takes **all of us** to keep Gulf County healthy, wealthy, and wise. We need safe places for our children and grandchildren to live and prosper. Together, we can ensure our community continues to thrive as a safe, strong, and growing place for families.

Many residents have noticed stronger communication, better coordination, and quicker action on local concerns that matter to families, seniors, and the community. Sources: Gulf Co. Sheriff Press Release Archives; Department of Law Enforcement Annual Crime Reports; DEA. TW

---

## **Gulf County Commission and Wewahitchka City Commission Working Together to Complete the New Pavilion at Buckhorn Cemetery** *by Tom Wynn Jr.*

In response to Wewa's need for a Pavilion at Buckhorn Cemetery, the county and city worked to complete the much-needed project. Over several months of planning, designing, and ordering the materials and parts, everything came together, with input from the local Pastor's Association, which worked with the city to guide the City Commission on what was truly needed.

**Mr. Chipper Wade** and his crew, along with the Gulf County workers, made it happen. "We the People" can see our tax dollars benefit our community firsthand today.

---

## **The Wisdom of Daddy Doc: A Life Well Lived** *by Grandpa Tom*

Many folks around Wewahitchka still remember "Daddy Doc," a local man who lived to be 101 years old. Over the years, I have had the privilege of sitting with him during lunch at Subway or at a local diner. We talked about life, history, and the many stories he carried in his memory. One day, I asked him:

"What is your secret to a long life, good health, and remembering so many wonderful stories?" His answer began with the most important thing in his life. He loved the Lord — and he lived it.

His faith showed in how he treated people, loved his family, and lived each day. Daddy Doc is remembered as a real man, a good father, a devoted Christian, and a teacher by example. He was a fine citizen of our loving community.

He once shared this wisdom with me: **“The closer you get your food from the ground to your mouth, the longer you will live.”** Simple words, but powerful. Fresh foods. Less processed foods. Meals prepared with care. A way of life many of our parents and grandparents understand.

Daddy Doc’s story could almost be the beginning of a good movie. A man devoted to the Lord, surrounded by family, including several sons-in-law who became preachers. Now, that sounds like a story worth telling.

During my years in the U.S. Coast Guard, a Commanding Officer recognized my ability to listen, counsel, and lead. I was directed to become a Drug and Alcohol Counselor. I learned that leadership is not only about giving orders but helping people through difficult times. A guest speaker once shared something that stayed with me: **“It is not just the substance. The deeper issue can be the addictive personality traits and behaviors that make a person vulnerable to alcoholism, drug abuse, or other unhealthy patterns.”** That lesson remained with me. Addiction can take many forms. It may involve alcohol or drugs, but it can also involve behaviors that become difficult to control. The lesson is simple: **Do everything in moderation.** Pay attention to your habits and choices. If you cannot do something in moderation, that may be a warning sign worth recognizing. Daddy Doc left us a simple message:

**Love the Lord. Take care of your body. Eat wisely. Stay active. Treat people right.** Maybe the greatest measure of a person's life is not what they owned or what titles they carried. Maybe it is the memories they leave behind. Daddy Doc left behind a legacy of faith, family, kindness, and wisdom. The question for each of us is simple: How **will we be remembered?** —

**Disclaimer:** This article reflects personal experiences and observations. Addiction is a complex issue involving many factors. Anyone struggling with substance use or harmful behaviors should seek help from qualified professionals. **TW**

---

## Psalm 1: 1-3



## GOD'S MEDICINE CABINET LOOK AROUND YOU, WEWA! by Grandpa Tom

Have you ever stopped to think about how much God has already provided for our good health? Long before pills, injections, and processed foods, people ate what grew from the ground, what came from trees, what walked, swam or flew. Today, modern science keeps reminding us that **what we put into our bodies matters.**

Beans, oats, whole grains, nuts, fruits, vegetables and fish can all be part of a healthy diet. And then there is **honey**. Honey is natural, produced by Nature and by the loving hands of local beekeepers. Here in Wewa, we are blessed to have some of the finest Tupelo honey in the world. Honey is still sugar, so enjoy it in moderation. But maybe there is an even bigger lesson here.

**LOOK AROUND YOU, WEWA!** Fresh water. Salt water. Tupelo honey. Fruit. Vegetables. Cows. Gardens. Farming. Fish. Trees. Good farming soil. And, most importantly, **Godly people.** We have so much right here. We don't have to travel across the world to find God's blessings. Many of them are right outside our doors. The Bible says: **(Genesis 1:29 NKJV — "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed... and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.")** Look around, Wewa. **We live in a special place. We live in Heaven on Earth.** Pay attention!

Enjoy life while you still can. Take a walk. Plant something. Eat something fresh. Go fishing. Sit under a tree. Watch the sunrise or sunset. Thank God for another day. Don't forget something else that is good for the body and mind: **Hang out with your neighbors on the front porch.** Share, discuss, and tell stories. Laugh together. Listen to one another. Sometimes,

simply sitting and talking with good neighbors can do the body and mind good.

We don't need much to enjoy life. A front porch, a good neighbor, a story to tell and someone willing to listen can be a blessing all by itself. **Love one another, as you are able. "Hug someone daily, it's The Wewa Way."**

*This article is for general information and is not a substitute for medical care or prescribed treatment. TW*

---

### **A Front Porch Discussion: City Meetings — Respect, Responsibility, and Working Together...**

by Grandpa Tom

In every community, citizens have the right and responsibility to attend city meetings, ask questions, share concerns, and be part of the conversation. That is one of the great blessings of living in America. Living in a close-knit community like Wewahitchka brings both blessings and responsibilities. Most of us know each other, our families, and our history. We see one another at the grocery store, church, community events, and around town.

Because we live together, how we speak to one another matters. A city meeting is not a place where strangers meet on opposite sides. It is a place where neighbors come together to discuss the future of the community we all call home. Disagreements will happen. Different opinions are part of a healthy community. But how we handle those differences shows the character of our town. Respect, patience, and kindness help keep a close-knit community strong. However, there is also a right way and a wrong way to approach these meetings.

A city council, commission, or local government board is made up of people who were elected by the citizens. When you speak at a public meeting, remember that you are not just talking to one person. You are speaking to your fellow citizens as a whole.

Respect goes a long way. Most elected officials and city employees care deeply about their community. They hear concerns every day through phone calls, emails, conversations with residents, and the work of their employees. Many times, the issue that seems new to one citizen has already been discussed, researched, and reviewed by city leaders for months or even years.

Local government often has information that the public may not know about. There may already be plans, policies, budget discussions, or projects underway that address the very concern being brought forward.

This does not mean citizens should stay silent. Public input is important. Good leaders need to hear from the people they serve. But before speaking, take time to listen and learn. Do your research. Ask questions. Understand the facts.

The best approach is not to walk into a meeting ready for a fight. The best approach is to come with respect, clear concern, and possible ideas that may help solve the problem. Sometimes, you may discover that the solution is already being worked on. Other times, your thoughts may help improve the final outcome.

Either way, respectful communication gets much better results than anger or accusations. Remember, elected officials and citizens are all part of the same community. We all want safe streets, good services, responsible spending, and a better future for our families. Kindness and respect are not signs of weakness. They are signs of maturity. Before you speak, think about what you want to accomplish. Before you criticize, make sure you understand the situation. Before you demand answers, make sure you have taken the time to learn the facts.

A good citizen does not just point out problems. A good citizen helps look for solutions.

A thoughtful approach can prevent misunderstandings, save time, and sometimes reveal that the answer is already being worked on.

Good government works best when citizens and leaders sit down together, listen to each other, and work toward the same goal — making our community a better place for everyone. In a small town like Wewahitchka, we are not just neighbors. We are family, friends, and fellow citizens sharing the same home. TW



**108 HWY 71 WEWAHITCHKA, FLORIDA**  
**“BUON APPETITO!!” (850) 227-5534**

---

### **City Issues or County Issues? Understanding Who Is Responsible by Tom Wynn Jr.**

Living in a small community like Wewahitchka, it is easy to think of everything within our town as belonging to the City of Wewa. We share the same streets, businesses, churches, schools, and community events. However, when it comes to government responsibilities, there is an important difference between the City of Wewahitchka and Gulf County government.

The City of Wewahitchka covers a limited area inside its official city limits. Many residents live outside those boundaries and are considered Gulf County residents, not city residents. This difference becomes important when citizens have concerns or questions. A problem involving city streets, city services, or city property may belong to the City of Wewahitchka. However, if you live outside the city limits, your concern may actually fall under Gulf County.

There is another point many people may not realize: a building or location can appear to be part of the City of Wewa simply because it is located inside town, but that does not always mean it belongs to the city. Some properties and buildings located in Wewahitchka belong to Gulf County and serve citizens from across the entire county. These properties are owned and maintained for the benefit of all Gulf County taxpayers. A good example is the Old Gulf County Courthouse. Located in Wewahitchka, it was built as the county courthouse when Wewahitchka served as the county seat. Today it remains part of Gulf County history and county government services. The same principle applies to county offices located in Wewa. The Clerk of Court

and Tax Collector offices are Gulf County offices that provide services to county residents, including those who live outside the city limits.

Understanding the difference between city government and county government helps citizens know where to take their concerns. It also helps prevent confusion and allows our elected officials and employees to better serve the people. Wewahitchka has always been a close-knit community. We look after one another, but we also need to understand how our local government works. Before asking, “Why isn’t the City fixing this?” it may be worth asking: “Is this actually a City of Wewa responsibility, or is this a Gulf County responsibility?” Knowing the answer helps every citizen have a stronger voice and helps our community continue moving forward together. The Wewa City Council voted years ago to contract with the Gulf County Sheriff’s Office to police the City of Wewahitchka jurisdiction. They found it more economical to do so. The local Sheriff has double jurisdiction in the City of Wewa. TW

**“The Wewa News-Preserving the Voices and History of Our Community.” TW**

---

### **MAYHANN’S USED CARS**

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

**Open 8 to 5 CST**

**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.**

---

### **The Gator Girl: A True Story of a Brave Little Girl by Tom Wynn Jr.**

Some childhood memories fade away with time, but some stories are so unique they deserve to be remembered for generations. Long before modern entertainment, children learned about life by exploring the land around them. This is the true story of a young Gulf County girl who grew up around the woods, water, and wildlife of old Florida. Here is her story, as it was told to me, in her own words... “My father was George Armstrong. My mother was a cook. I’m going to tell

you a little bit about my life story, starting when I was five years old.”

My family lived near Overstreet, where a large sinkhole below our home would fill with water after heavy rains. When I was five years old, after several days of rain, I asked her mother if I could play on the porch. Her mother agreed but gave me one warning. “Yes, but you stay on that porch.”



The young I promised, but with my father working outside, curiosity led me into the yard and toward the ditch where the rainwater had collected. That is where I saw something that would become one of my greatest childhood memories. “I saw a baby gator in there. It was about a foot long, and of course I had to go in and get him.”

Then I found another. I grabbed both baby alligators and ran back toward the house. Her mother was shocked. “That gator’s mama could have got you too.” My father came around to see what was happening. I proudly showed him my new pets. I had already named one Charlie but needed a name for the other. **“Daddy, what can I name him?”**

My father answered, “Well, name him Bart.” Soon Charlie and Bart became my porch pets. “I had my two little old pets, Charlie and Bart. They were my babies.” Not everyone understood my unusual pets.

One day, a visitor came to our house and discovered my alligators on the porch. The man jumped into the porch rocker, trying to get away. “Girl, I can’t come out with these gators here. Those gators!”

I calmly walked over, picked up my pets, and checked on them. “Charlie, Bart, are y’all okay?”

The man could not believe what he was seeing. He had always heard that alligators were dangerous animals to avoid. My father later took the man around back and showed him our gator pond. In those days, life was different. Families living in rural Florida often depended on what the land provided.

Our family caught alligators and kept them in our pond. When meat was needed for the table, we used what we had available.

“We had gator tail.” When I turned nine years old, my father began taking me along on nighttime trips searching for alligators.

My father worked for the Forestry Service and had keys to the gates along the dirt roads. The old truck had no doors, so my father rigged it so I could ride safely and not fall out. At night, we searched for the reflection of alligator eyes. I carried my flashlight, and my father carried his.

When I would spot one, I would alert Dad. He would shine his light on the animal while I kept my light focused so we would not lose sight of it. My father had made a special tool for me to use — a piece of metal attached to a long rope with knots and spikes designed to hold onto the alligator.

I soon learned how to approach carefully, judge the size of the animal, and work together with my father. After we caught the alligator, we would take it back to our pond. There were six children in the family, and providing food was part of everyday life.

For me as a young girl, the woods and waters of Florida were not something to fear. They were part of home, my childhood, and memories with my father.

Today, many people would find it hard to imagine a five-year-old child raising baby alligators or a nine-year-old helping catch them at night. But that was old Florida, back in my day. It was a time when children learned responsibility early, families depended on each other, and people lived close to the land.”

This is the story of a little girl I nicknamed “The Gator Girl” after she told me this story at the Senior Center in

Wewa — a brave little girl whose memories give us a glimpse into a Florida that is quickly becoming part of history. Today, this five-year-old is in her 80s, and her name is Mrs. Glenda Armstrong Duke. **WARNING! Do not handle Gators unless you are a professional and licensed.**

---

## 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!**

---



**COME  
VISIT US AT  
THE WEWA  
LIBRARY**  
Joyelle Linton

In partnership with the Charles Whitehead Public Library, Friends of the Wewahitchka Library, and the Wewahitchka Historical Society. Inside, you will find local historical artifacts and exhibits, a community slideshow, several community quilts, and book displays. Local author and historian Dale Cox will have a presentation at 11:00 a.m. CT about the history of the Chipola River. Children's activities can be found indoors and outdoors. The car, truck, and dune buggy show will be held on the library lawn. Vote for your favorites by 12:00 CT. Trophies are awarded at 12:30 CT. Be sure to check out the food and craft vendors, which will be on site. Starting Friday, October 2, pick up your clues for the community scavenger hunt at the Charles Whitehead Public Library. Use the clues to visit historical sites in Wewahitchka. **In celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday**, a community historical festival along with a car, truck, and dune buggy show will be held at our Public Library, Saturday, Oct. 1 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm C.

Each location will have a hidden treasure with a code. Return completed forms to the library. The first 50 to complete the scavenger hunt will receive an American 250 coin. Limited to one per family. Children's prizes will also be available while supplies last. family. Each participant will be entered into a drawing to win additional

prizes on Saturday during the festival. Must be present to Winners will be announced at 12:00 Noon CT. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Charles Whitehead Public Library at (850) 639-2419. **JL**

### THE FRIENDS OF THE WEWAHITCHKA LIBRARY INVITE EVERYONE

The Friends of the Wewahitchka Library invite you to join their next BINGO Fundraiser on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Wewahitchka Senior Citizen Building. All proceeds support the Charles Whitehead Public Library's 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday. "The Friends of the Wewahitchka Library" will be selling bricks to place around the library's garden area. Bricks will be sold for \$50.00 each. Up to three lines of text are available per brick. Orders will be placed on November 1<sup>st</sup>. and January 1<sup>st</sup>. Stop by the library to place your order. **JL**

---

## NEED A GOOD MOW MAN? CALL WILLIAM & CAROL

**(850)-814-4930**



**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

## 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**

---

**Psalm 119:89**

# **PITTS STOP**

## **BOAT & RV STORAGE**

*"You Gotta'm-We Store'm"*

*On Highway 71 South*

*Wewahitchka, Florida*

*Call 850-819-3313*

# **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

## **ZR LAWN CARE**

Serving Blountstown-Bristol- Altha  
Areas Mulching, Mowing, Trimming

**Contact: Tyler@850-272-5834**

## **BEES & BOTANICALS LLC**

*"From the Heart of the Hive"*

(Beauty Products made with Tupelo Honey)

[www.beesandbotanicals.com](http://www.beesandbotanicals.com)

Call LESLIE CANTU 863-781-1210

**Beekeeper Steven Cantu**

**"THE BEE BARN" Located at:**

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

### **LOOKING FOR A WEWA NEWS EDITION?**

Head over to Wewa's Very Own Subway or go by the  
Library and pick up a copy there, while supplies last.  
OR you can find us online. Google: The Wewa News

## **GASKIN-GRADDY 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**



### **TUPELO HONEY RAW & UNFILTERED**

**Call Smiley Honey, LLC**

**163 Bozeman Circle Wewa Florida 32465**

**Call 850-639-5672**

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

## **Wetappo Creek: A Historical Overview**

by Tom Wynn

Wetappo Creek is in the northern part of what is now Gulf County, Florida, close to the town of Wewahitchka. The area has a rich history tied to the early settlement and economic development of the region, particularly in the lumber and turpentine industries. Here are a few key historical points about Wetappo Creek:

### **1. Native American Presence**

Like much of the region, Wetappo Creek and its surroundings were once home to Native American tribes, such as the Apalachee and Creek people. The creek's proximity to waterways made it an important part of indigenous trade routes and settlement.

### **2. Early Settlers**

Following European colonization, settlers began to arrive in the area during the early 1800s. Wetappo Creek was part of the land that would later become part of Calhoun County and, eventually, Gulf County.

### 3. **Lumber and Turpentine Industries**

Wetappo Creek, like many parts of the Florida Panhandle, became a vital location for the lumber and turpentine industries. Sawmills and turpentine camps were set up along the creek, making the area an important part of the region's economy.

### 4. **Transportation Routes**

Wetappo Creek was a key waterway for transportation in the area. Logs were often floated down the creek to sawmills and other facilities in the region, and the creek likely served as an important route for settlers and goods in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

### 5. **Community Development**

While Wetappo Creek itself may not have been a large settlement, it contributed to the development of nearby towns like Wewahitchka. The area is known for its small, tight-knit communities that emerged during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Today, Wetappo Creek remains an area of historical interest, especially for those exploring the cultural and economic history of the Florida Panhandle, particularly in relation to early industry and settlement patterns. The creek's role in the lumber and turpentine industries and its connection to local communities still carry significance, even as the region has grown and changed over time. **TW**

---

## **Could AI Data Centers Change the Future of Gulf County? The Hidden Costs Behind the Computer Revolution**

by AECS Tom Wynn Jr., USCG (Ret.)

When most people think about the future, they think about new jobs, new businesses, and new opportunities. Across America, one of the fastest-growing industries today is the construction of giant computer facilities called **data centers**. These buildings store information and power the artificial intelligence systems that are changing the world.

Gulf County is now attracting attention from industries looking for land, power, water, and space for future technology centers. Before welcoming these projects, we need to ask important questions. What will they bring to our communities? What will they cost? And how do we protect the peaceful lifestyle that makes Gulf County special? **TW**

Wewahitchka is more than just a place on a map. It is a community with history, natural beauty, tupelo honey, and small-town values. It is also becoming a retirement center where many people choose to spend their later years because of the peace. That quality of life must be considered when looking at future development.

A large data center can bring investment, construction jobs, and new technology. However, these massive facilities are not without challenges. One issue many people do not consider is **noise**. They operate thousands of computers around the clock. Those computers produce tremendous heat and require powerful cooling systems that run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For people living nearby — especially retirees who moved here for a peaceful lifestyle — that constant sound could become a daily concern.

Another issue is land. Large data centers can require hundreds of acres. Once developed, that land changes forever. Rural areas can quickly become industrial sites. Then there is traffic. Construction brings heavy equipment, large trucks, and workers. After completion, employees, maintenance crews, and service vehicles continue to add traffic to local roads. Electricity is another major concern. Data centers use enormous amounts of power. Some communities offer incentives or special agreements to attract these companies. While development may bring investment, residents have a right to ask: Will **local homeowners and small businesses end up paying more to support these large operations?** Growth can also bring higher land prices, increased housing costs, more demand for roads and public services, and greater pressure on emergency services.

Economic development is important. Communities need jobs and opportunities. But growth must be planned carefully. As Gulf County looks toward the future, residents should remember: Be **careful what you wish for**. This may be a time when Gulf County will need **strong-willed Commissioners and Mayors** who are willing to protect the quality of life that makes this area special. The question is not whether progress is good or bad. The question is: “**What kind of progress do we want, and who will pay the price?**” Technology will continue to grow, but growth should improve our communities — not replace the very things that made people want to live here. **Growth is important. But smart growth is even more important.** **TW**

# 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"**

---

## HIGHWAY 22 STORAGE

**P.O. Box 182, Wewahitchka, Florida**

**IN GOD WE TRUST!**

**Call Brenda Little 850-832-1512**

**Cleckley Enterprises, LLC**

**Real Estate**

We humbly ask you to **call our SPONSORS and thank them**—they help to make this free newspaper possible.

**SPONSORS**, *Praise the Lord for you!* You are a true blessing to me, to Wewa, and to our readership across the world. Your support is felt and deeply appreciated.

The newspaper is planned as a seasonal periodical, published approximately four times a year: **Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall**. Due to travel, family time, or health matters, we may occasionally surprise you with a **Special Edition**—just because we can! TW

---

### — Upcoming Events and Other: Mark Your Calendars

**The Local Bee Association** meets 6 pm at Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church, 138 E. Orange Ave. in Wewa, meeting room in the far Eastside of the Church on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 pm.

**The Friends of the Wewa Library** meet at the Wewa Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, at 10:00 AM. Come early and "Meet & Greet" with us in the conference room. **Wewahitchka Historical Society** meets every month on the Third Thursday at 6 pm at the Presbyterian Church in Hwy 71. **City Hall Meetings:** The city meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month, at 6 PM CT, unless posted otherwise. Contact the City Hall for possible changes due to weather or holidays.



## LOCAL BEEKEEPERS & HONEY SUPPLIERS

AWESOME BLOSSOM-Honey-Emily.....(850)-819-3474  
BEE WILD RAW HONEY.....(850)-447-0161  
"THE BEE BARN" Steve and Leslie Cantu.....(863) 781-1210  
BLUE EYED GIRL HONEY-Pam & Gary.....(850)-628-9504  
DEAD LAKES APIARY-Cynde Aaron.....(850)-628-0745  
HURRICANE HONEY-Buddy Nachtsheim.....(850)-814-0754  
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)-639-5672  
SWEET LIPS HONEY-Daphney Glass.....(770)-842-9721  
WEWA BEE & HONEY-Greg Skipper.....(850)-819-4458

---

## 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

---

**Thomas William Wynn Jr.** All rights reserved.

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed without the expressed consent of the above.

---

### 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

GULF CO. ANIMAL CONTROL.....(850) 227-1115

## THE WEWA NEWS

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

---

*Romans 16:25-27*