

THE TUPELO COUNTRY NEWS™

“The Good News Newspaper”

>>FALL EDITION-October 2026-10-06-001<<

A FREE NEWSPAPER Take One! **The Wewa News Newspaper**



WEWA'S UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE: WHERE ARE WE NOW? by Tom Wynn Jr.

A lot is happening beneath Wewahitchka that most of us never see. For years, our city has needed major repairs to its stormwater drainage, wastewater sewer system and water lines. Three major efforts account for **\$14,884,085 in identified grant funding**.

The **\$5.5 million citywide stormwater work** is intended to repair Wewa's aging drainage system. City records say much of it is 50 to 70 years old and in serious need of repair or replacement. Plans include stormwater pipes, drainage inlets and structures, ditching and related road improvements.

The **\$8.5 million wastewater effort** covers citywide repairs and reconstruction, including lift stations, manholes and approximately **1,670 feet of old terracotta sewer pipe**. Work has progressed from planning into **implementation**. (Story cont. page 2)

EIGHT YEARS AFTER MICHAEL: LOOK AT WEWA TODAY by Tom Wynn Jr.

October 10, 2018, changed Wewahitchka forever. Hurricane Michael came through our community and left us looking like a completely different town. Trees were down everywhere. Homes and businesses were damaged. Power was out. For a while, it was hard to imagine what Wewa would look like again.

But look at Wewa today. Eight years later, we have rebuilt, repaired, replaced, and improved many parts of our community. We have new buildings, improved city facilities, better parks, and continued work on our roads

and drainage. Lake Alice is one example. Our little lake and park area has continued to improve and remains one of the prettiest places in our Sweetest Little City.

Our city workers, Commissioners, businesses, churches, and citizens have all had a part in getting Wewa back on its feet. Some improvements came through recovery money. Others came from people simply seeing something that needed to be done and going to work. (Story cont. page 2)

ANNUAL MAYOR RAY DICKENS COOKOUT BRINGS WEWA TOGETHER by Tom Wynn Jr.

There are some things in Wewahitchka that are bigger than a meal. The Annual Mayor Ray Dickens Cookout at Lake Alice Park was one of them.

A record number of Wewahitchka seniors came out for good food, fellowship, and the simple pleasure of being together. Despite the on-and-off light rain, everyone had a wonderful time. City office staff also came out for a free fish dinner. Before long, Lake Alice Park felt less like a city event and more like a large family reunion.

This annual event carries the name of the late Mayor Ray Dickens, who served Wewahitchka for more than two decades. He understood the value of bringing people together, especially our senior citizens. The cookout continues that spirit today.

Mayor Philip Gaskin was right in the middle of it all. He was the head cook, to the very last piece of fish served. Commissioner Johnny Paul was also on hand, along with Gulf County Commissioner Spike McLamore and his father, former Commissioner Carman McLamore.

(Story cont. on Page 2)

(Ray Dickson Cookout story cont. from page 1)

Former County Commissioner Ward McDaniels and his brother also pitched in and helped serve. Our city workers and Commissioners pulled off a great day for Wewa. Neighbors, elected officials, city workers, office workers, and volunteers all helped make it happen.

The Wewahitchka Senior Center also received more than **\$550.00** in donations, along with proceeds from several Senior Center Cookbooks. That support will help the Senior Center continue serving local seniors.

Looking around Lake Alice Park, it was easy to see why this tradition has lasted. Our seniors came to eat, talk, laugh, and visit with old friends. Some have known each other most of their lives. Others simply share the bond of calling Wewahitchka home.

Mayor Ray Dickens understood that people matter. This cookout, named in his honor, continues that spirit by bringing our seniors and community together.

Thank you, Mayor Gaskin, our Commissioners, City workers, and everyone who helped make this a great day for Wewa!! TW

(Wewa's Underground Story from Page 1)

The \$884,085 water-line work covers Jehu Road, River Road, 2nd Street, and Lake Alice Drive. City records show it has been **awarded and is moving through construction**. It is important to distinguish **grant amounts from construction contracts**. The \$8.5 million wastewater grant, for example, is not the same as the contractor's bid. So, where do things stand? **Stormwater — bidding and construction-award process. Wastewater — implementation underway. Water lines — contract awarded; construction underway.** These are public projects using public money, and the community deserves to know where the work stands and how the funds are being used.

Sources: City of Wewahitchka public records; Florida CDBG-DR records; City financial reports and project notices.

(Hurricane Michael Story from Page 1) That is what I remember most about the years after Michael. People helped people. Neighbors helped neighbors. Volunteers showed up. City workers kept working. Businesses

opened their doors when they could. Churches and organizations helped families who needed a hand.

Michael took a lot from Wewa, but he did not take our spirit. In fact, I believe it showed us something about who we really are. Today, when I drive through Wewahitchka, I see a town that is cleaner, newer, and in many places prettier than it was before Hurricane Michael. We did not just rebuild Wewa. We improved Wewa. That is something every citizen who helped along the way can be proud of. **The Wewa News:** "Come tell our stories before they pass in the night."

TW 11:52 AM



*Call 850-227-6168-For an Appointment-
Located @ 112N SR-71 Wewa, Florida*

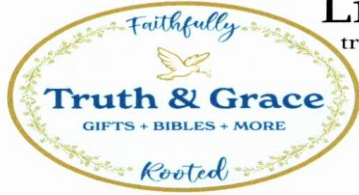
WEWA NEW CAR WASH-WHAT'S UP?

by Tom Wynn

Everyone has been asking me what the latest news is on Wewa's New Car Wash business. So I contacted the owner of the property this week and had a very interesting talk with him. He stated the reason he has not started construction on the New Wewa Car Wash Center is that the Bank interest rates, at this time, is much too high to start the project. BUT! He assured me that Wewa would get their new Car Wash Facility as soon as the Banking Interest rates come down to their liking. It will be the top-of-the-line system going in. He has not forgotten about Wewa's need for a Super Car Wash, and he will start on the project just as soon as possible. For now, he has to hold off Construction at this time. TW

NEW BIBLE BOOK STORE IN GULF COUNTY

Ms. Lilli Williams' new Bible Book Store and Gift Shop is now in Downtown Port St. Joe, Florida. We Support Such Stores in our area. Praise God for such Businesses and those that do the work to bring us such stores. TW



Lilli Williams

truthandgracepsj@gmail.com

850-556-7008

@truthandgrace.psj

@truthandgrace.psj

@truthandgrace.psj

301 Williams Ave. • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

AMERICA: WAS IT BOTH-THE GOVERNMENT BY OR FOR THE PEOPLE? by Tom Wynn Jr., USCG (Ret.)

After looking at American history for more than 180 years, I keep coming back to a simple question:

Since about 1840, when we look across the world, what nation has combined individual liberty, economic success, religious opportunity, and prosperity on such a remarkable scale as the United States of America?

History does not give us a perfect nation. America has serious failures in its record. Slavery continued until 1865. Women did not gain the constitutional right to vote until 1920. Racial discrimination continued long after that. But history also shows something remarkable.

America established a system in which the people, rather than the state, were the foundation of political power. Free speech, religious liberty, private property, representative government, and peaceful elections gave ordinary people room to build something of their own. And they did.

Farmers settled new land. Immigrants arrived with little more than what they could carry and built farms, businesses and communities. Inventors such as Thomas Edison and the Wright brothers changed the world. Entrepreneurs built factories, railroads, and companies. Churches, schools and voluntary organizations grew from coast to coast.

When America confronted slavery, millions became part of the struggle to end it. The Civil War and the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments changed both the Constitution and the nation.

Later, Americans organized against segregation and discrimination. They marched, prayed, preached, organized, voted, sacrificed, and sometimes died for what they believed was right. After studying that record, I think another question deserves our attention: **Could America's success have come from both the system AND the people themselves?**

I believe the historical record gives us good reason to consider it. A Constitution cannot love its neighbor.

It cannot feed a hungry family, rescue a drowning man or child, volunteer at a fire department, help a veteran or comfort a struggling neighbor. **Those things require a human hand and a willing heart.**

Look around any American community. Small-town volunteer fire departments. Churches running food pantries. Neighbors helping after hurricanes. Veterans' organizations caring for their members. Ordinary people give their time and money without being ordered to do so. The system created room for those choices.

The people made them. That may be one of the most important lessons in the American story. Liberty without responsibility can become selfishness. Good intentions without liberty can be crushed by power.

America's history is not perfect, and a historian should never pretend that it is. But neither should we overlook what the record shows. Perhaps America's strength was never simply the system. Perhaps it was never simply the people. **Perhaps it was both.**

A healthy republic requires institutions that respect the rights of its citizens—and citizens willing to use those rights responsibly. History suggests that neither can stand alone. **“Come tell our stories before they pass in the night.” TW**

THE WEWA NEWS :

See past issues- Google: “The Wewa News”

Email: www.thewewanews2021@gmail.com

APALACHICOLA RIVER TO TEXAS — A TROUBLED TRAVEL! By Tom Wynn Jr.

Some stories are found in old books. Others are carried forward by the people who lived here and remembered them. The story of **Chief John Blount** is both.

John Blount, also recorded as John Blunt in some early documents, was a Creek leader of the Apalachicola people. During the Seminole Wars, he served as a guide for Andrew Jackson. After Jackson became President, Blount was honored with a silver breastplate recognizing him as Jackson's "faithful guide." ([Texas Historical Commission Atlas](#))

Blount's people lived along the Apalachicola River, including the area that became part of present-day Calhoun County. In **1823**, a reservation was established for Blount and his people along the river. ([Calhoun County Public Library](#))

I learned another part of this local history from **Sgt. Tom Godwin, U.S. Army Retired**, a local historian who taught me about our area's past before his passing. Sgt. Godwin taught me that Chief Blount's people had settled and owned the area we called "**Iola**." That local history is worth preserving while we continue searching for the original records behind it.

When the time came for removal, Blount received special permission to take his people to **Texas**, then Mexican territory, where his uncle, Chief Red Shoes, was already settled along the Trinity River. Sam Houston, an old friend of Blount, encouraged him to bring his people to Texas. ([Texas Historical Commission Atlas](#))

In **1834**, about **256 people** began the journey. Families loaded their belongings into canoes and paddled down the Apalachicola River to a bay near **Oak Point**. From there they were placed aboard a vessel bound for New Orleans. ([Texas Historical Commission Atlas](#))

New Orleans became a major trouble spot. Blount and Davy Elliott were to receive their treaty money there. Historical research says federal Indian Agent Wiley Thompson authorized the payment and then departed, leaving the two chiefs to arrange their supplies with limited English. They were arrested by the New Orleans

sheriff on **April 7, 1834**. ([Texas Department of Transportation FTP](#))

Blount eventually obtained his freedom, but the journey had been badly disrupted. He and Davy were left with little money and few supplies. They gathered the remaining people and continued **on foot through Louisiana and into Texas**. ([Calhoun County Public Library](#))

By the time they reached the Trinity River country, their numbers had been greatly reduced. Sources give different numbers at different stages, including approximately **40** in one account and **152** at the eventual Texas settlement. ([Texas Department of Transportation FTP](#))

Chief Blount died during or shortly after the journey to Texas. He was buried at the Coushatta settlement of his uncle, Chief Red Shoes. ([Texas Historical Commission Atlas](#))

What began with a canoe journey down the **Apalachicola River** ended hundreds of miles away in Texas. Between those two places were delays, loss, arrest, hardship and a determined people trying to stay together. This is the history of a Creek chief and his people—and it is also part of our Apalachicola River and Gulf Coast history. **TW**

Alice and Julia Keyes — The Girls Behind Lake Alice and Lake Julia by Tom Wynn

Their father, Dr. John Washington Keyes, was born **November 25, 1825**, in Athens, Alabama. He later came to Florida and eventually settled in the Wewahitchka area. He died **November 27, 1892**, near Wewahitchka.

In **1872**, Dr. Keyes moved into the Wewa area. Historical accounts say he planted **pecan, pear, and orange trees** there. Most importantly for our Lake Alice story, the historical account says he referred to the area's two lakes as "**Alice**" and "**Julia**," after his **two daughters**. **Alice and Julia were twins- a** historical account of the Keyes family identifies:

- **Alice Keyes**, who married Warren Scott
- **Julia Keyes**, who married Frank Branch

They were daughters of John Washington Keyes and Julia Louisa Hentz Keyes. Another historical source describes Wewahitchka's two lakes as the **“twin” or “spectacle” lakes called Alice and Julia, after the twin daughters of Dr. J. W. Keyes.** ([Genealogy Trails](#)) That is powerful because it connects **two sets of twins** in the early story:

Twin daughters — Alice and Julia

Twin/spectacle lakes — Alice and Julia

The early town developing around those lakes

The 1887 letter — THIS IS MAJOR! The University of Alabama's Keyes Family Papers contain an actual piece of family correspondence: **“Letter to Alice and Julia Keyes, Wewahitchka, Florida,” dated July 16, 1887.** It was written by **William B. Keyes**, their brother, while aboard the **S.S. Alliance**. This shows that in July 1887, Alice and Julia Keyes were actually being addressed at Wewahitchka, Florida. That is only about 15 years after Dr. Keyes came to the area.

Alice's later life—The Keyes Family Papers identify **Alice Keyes Scott as 1859–1944.** The collection contains numerous letters to Alice over the years, including correspondence from family members in Florida and elsewhere.

The collection is especially valuable because it contains **family correspondence and other historical material**, meaning we may be able to reconstruct much more of Alice's life. (I have a picture of Ms. Alice.)

The University of Alabama Keyes Family collection includes a photograph of **Alice Keyes**, dating to approximately **1890**, along with other photographs, scrapbooks, and family materials. That means there is a possibility of eventually putting an actual face to the woman whose name became part of Wewahitchka's landscape. **An even older source:** An especially important historical source dates to **1930**.

Historian **Peter A. Brannon**, writing in the *Alabama Historical Quarterly*, recorded the Wewahitchka history and stated that when Dr. Keyes came to the area in **1872**, he referred to the two lakes as **Alice and Julia after his daughters.** ([scvpalmbeach](#))

That is significant because it gives us a source published **roughly 40 years before** the 1970s centennial-era histories and decades before the modern Wewa histories. And there is an earlier published history worth investigating. I found an historical work on **Calhoun County, Florida**, that describes Wewahitchka as being settled in **1875** and says it was located immediately on the **twin or spectacle lakes called Alice and Julia, after the twin daughters of Dr. J. W. Keyes.** ([Genealogy Trails](#)). That gives us another independent historical trail.

What I think we have proved so far: We can now safely say: Alice and Julia Keyes were real sisters and twins. Their father, Dr. John W. Keyes, came to the Wewa area around 1872. Historical accounts say he referred to the two lakes as Alice and Julia after his daughters. Alice and Julia were connected directly to Wewahitchka by at least July 1887, when a family letter was addressed to them there. **TW**



850-481-0855

wewaportablebuildings@gmail.com

LUKE 22, LLC

God, Guns, Ammo, and suppressors



Joseph Cole
(205)910-1250
Cheri Cole
(256)926-8173

Luke2236LLC@gmail.com

John 3:16

KEEP YOUR MIND AND BODY MOVING

by Grandpa Tom

The Wewahitchka Senior Center is more than a building. It is a place where our seniors can come together, visit, laugh, play games, work puzzles, share stories and just enjoy being around other people.

The Center is open five days a week for seniors 60 and older. Some come for the activities. Some come to visit with friends. Others come because they enjoy having a place where they can feel useful and connected.

Our veterans also spend time at the Center. They talk about their military service, help one another with VA benefits, and sometimes just sit and remember the days when they were younger. TW

"Wewa" The Sweetest Little City in Florida."



WEWA'S OLD NEWSPAPER HISTORY: A TREASURE CHEST OF OUR PAST

by Tom Wynn Jr.

For more than **50 years**, I have studied, photographed, walked the roads, listened to stories, and documented the people and places of Gulf County. I have learned that our story is not found only in courthouses, official records, or history books. Much of it is preserved in the fragile pages of old newspapers—in names, businesses, family notices, and everyday events. That is why I believe old newspapers are among the most valuable records we have.

Recently, I have been digging deeper into newspapers that covered Wewahitchka and the surrounding communities. Following those pages from the days when Wewa was part of Calhoun County into the creation of Gulf County in **1925** reveals a remarkable record of the people and events that shaped this place.

The Calhoun News was being published in Wewahitchka as far back as the 1890s. An **April 13, 1893**, issue reported County Surveyor Martin being in town. Other reports mention **Maj. J. C. Bryan, George P. Keyes, R. J. Higgins and J. K. Isbell**.

To a casual reader, these may seem like small notices. To a historian, they can be invaluable. They tell us who lived here, who traveled through town, what businesses were operating, and who was involved in public affairs.

Then came **1925**, one of the most important changes in our local story. On **June 6, 1925, Gulf County was created from a portion of Calhoun County**, encompassing **369,920 acres**. **Wewahitchka was selected as the first county seat**. Among those involved were **Theo D. Levins**, representing Calhoun County in the Florida House, and **W. Riley McDaniel**, serving in the Senate.

The newspapers followed that transformation. In **1925, The Gulf County Breeze** began publishing in Wewahitchka, with **C. F. Hanlon** among its early publishers and editors. Its pages recorded roads, homes, businesses, government, and families as the new county took shape.

Those pages bring Wewahitchka residents back into view: **Sam Bryant**, whose garage was doing a big business; **Sheriff Oscar McDaniel** traveling to Tallahassee; **C. L. Land** planning a new home; and **Bryan Mack**, described as one of Wewa's promising writers. Family names appear throughout the record, including the **Bryants, Dickens, Britt, Glenn, Griffin, McDaniel, Levins, and Connell** families.

For me, reading these newspapers is like following a trail through time. One name leads to another. A business notice can connect to a family. A political report can explain a decision that shaped the county. A simple community item can put a forgotten person back into our story.

These newspapers are primary records of the **north end of Gulf County and the southern end of old Calhoun County**. They preserve our roads, schools, churches, businesses, families, elected officials, fires, storms, celebrations, and everyday lives.

After more than five decades of studying this county, I have learned one thing for certain: **If we don't preserve our stories, somebody else will eventually have to guess at them.** I believe we owe the people who came before us something better than guesses.

These old newspapers are pieces of Wewahitchka's memory. Our responsibility is to find them, preserve them, and make sure future generations know the people and stories that built this community.

Sources: Florida Digital Newspaper Library, University of Florida; **The Gulf County Breeze**; **The Calhoun News**; Genealogy Trails, Gulf County; Port St. Joe Star historical records. TW



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

Matthew Godwin: Sharing the Dead Lakes With the World. by Tom Wynn Jr.

Sometimes we live beside something so special that we forget how special it really is. That thought came to me when Matthew Godwin spoke at our latest Wewahitchka Historical Society meeting about his work on the Dead Lakes.

Matt grew up around these waters, learning the Dead Lakes from his father. Today, he shares that knowledge with visitors through his local business,
"Off The Map Expeditions."

Matt offers guided kayak and canoe trips and pontoon ecotours through the Dead Lakes and surrounding waters. He knows the channels, cypress and tupelo trees, wildlife, and changing water conditions.

The Dead Lakes are not easy waters for someone who does not know them. Matt's years of experience help visitors safely see places they might otherwise never discover. What impressed me is that Matt is not simply taking people for a boat ride. He wants to share the history, natural beauty, and stories of a place he calls home.

The Dead Lakes have been part of Wewa's story for generations. Matt is helping introduce that story to people from outside our community. If you would like to learn more about his tours, contact Matt Godwin at **Off The Map Expeditions, 850-819-3053**. Matt was our source for this story, speaking directly to us at the Historical Society meeting. Sometimes the best history is the history we hear from the people who live it. TW

56 MEN WHO SIGNED THEIR NAMES, WHICH CHANGED THE HISTORY OF MANKIND FOREVER!

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

There are moments in history when ordinary men are called upon to make an extraordinary choice — **stand up or sit down, speak or remain silent, risk everything or walk away.** In 1776, **56 men ultimately signed the Declaration of Independence**, representing the thirteen American colonies.

These men were not signing their names to a speech or a political advertisement. They were challenging **King George III** and placing their lives, fortunes, homes, families, and futures at risk. **They signed anyway.**

I have spent many years studying history, and one lesson has stayed with me: **Behind every name is a person, and behind every person is a story.**

These men were farmers, merchants, lawyers, doctors, ministers, plantation owners, and public servants. The youngest was **Edward Rutledge**, age 26. The oldest was **Benjamin Franklin**, age 70. And their sacrifices were real.

Thomas Nelson Jr. spent his own money raising and supplying Virginia troops. His home was damaged during the fighting around Yorktown, and he died financially ruined.

Francis Lewis lost property on Long Island. **Richard Stockton** was captured and imprisoned by the British. **John Hart** was forced from his home while British troops searched for him. Others suffered property losses, financial hardship or served in the military.

Ten of the signers fought in the Revolutionary War, and four were captured. As historians, we must also separate facts from legend. None of the 56 signers was killed by the British, despite stories sometimes repeated today. Many lived long enough to see the nation they helped establish grow. **John Adams and Thomas Jefferson** both became presidents and died on **July 4, 1826**, exactly 50 years after the Declaration was adopted. **Charles Carroll of Carrollton** lived until **1832**, making him the last surviving signer.

The Continental Congress **adopted the Declaration on July 4, 1776**. Most delegates signed the engrossed parchment on **August 2**, with additional signatures added later. Now, in **2026**, America celebrates **250 years** since that historic act of independence. Those 56 men could not see the America we know today. They could only decide what they were willing to risk for the cause they believed was right. **From their courage came a new nation — and that nation changed the history of mankind forevermore!**

Sources: National Archives; U.S. Department of State; Library of Congress. **TW**

WETAPPO CREEK: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW by Tom Wynn

Wetappo Creek is located 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**

Ms. Cathy Christo, the owner of a local business, has joined The Wewa News Family. Her business specializes in **Shades, Draperies, Blinds and Interior shutters for homes and businesses** in the local Panhandle area. She has 28 years of experience in the Bay and Gulf County area. To contact her, locate her business ad in this and the last issue of the Wewa News. She would be delighted to assist you. **TW**



**DANIEL EUGENE
"GENE" HANLON:
A LIFE OF SERVICE,
FAITH &
FRIENDSHIP**
by Tom Wynn Jr.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of one of my dearest friends and neighbor, Daniel Eugene "Gene" Hanlon, a respected civic leader of Gulf County and the City of Wewahitchka. Gene seemed to know everybody, and everybody seemed to know Gene. He was a good neighbor, a good friend, and a man who cared deeply about his community and family.

Gene served as a Wewahitchka City Commissioner and Mayor and served on various boards and civic groups. He cared about his hometown and the people who called it home. Gene served his country during the Vietnam War era as a U.S. Navy Seaman and gunner aboard a Naval ship. After his military service, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Postal Service, and retired from the Port St. Joe Post Office. He also worked with Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative. He served our community as an EMT and as a mentor to many children in our area.

Gene grew up around Overstreet and Wewahitchka. His grandfather, C.H. Hanlon, was publisher and editor of The Gulf County Breeze. As a young boy, Gene lived with his family in the original Gulf County Breeze building when it caught fire (he was about 6 years old). Living on the second floor, Gene remembered his mother, Mary Frances Hanlon, gathering the children and getting them safely outside. The building stood behind what is now the Wewahitchka Firehouse.

Years later, Gene shared that firsthand memory with The Wewa News, helping preserve an important part of our community's history. That was Gene. He remembered. He served. He cared. Gene loved the Lord, his family, and his friends. He was a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who leaves behind many memories.

Gene, my friend and neighbor, thank you for the years, the stories, the conversations, and the friendship. May God bless Gene Hanlon and comfort his family and all who loved him. Rest in peace, my dear brother. **TW**

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

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.

NEED A GOOD MOW MAN?

CALL WILLIAM & CAROL

(850)-814-4930



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 250th Birthday**, a community historical festival along with a

car, truck, and dune buggy show will be held at our Public Library, Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

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

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

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

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 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

TINNITUS: WHEN THE RINGING DOESN'T STOP IN YOUR EARS

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

Many veterans know tinnitus as the ringing, buzzing or hissing sound that will not go away. For some, it can affect sleep, concentration, work, and everyday life. Here is something every veteran with service-connected tinnitus should understand.

Tinnitus itself is generally rated at 10 percent under VA Diagnostic Code 6260. VA does not assign separate 10-percent ratings for each ear. So the question may not be, "How do I get more than 10 percent for tinnitus?" The question may be, "Has my service-connected tinnitus caused or made another condition worse?" That is called a secondary service-connected claim.

VA explains that a secondary claim involves a new physical or mental condition that was caused or worsened by an already service-connected disability. The evidence must support that connection. Medical records or a medical opinion can be important, although VA may also consider appropriate lay evidence. Sleep problems, headaches, and mental-health symptoms can sometimes occur along with bothersome tinnitus. But tinnitus does not automatically make another condition service-connected.

The evidence must establish the required connection. Keep a simple record. Write down when the ringing is bad, whether it interferes with sleep, when headaches occur, and how your symptoms affect your daily life. Take that information to your doctor. Your own description of tinnitus can also be important evidence. In *Charles v. Principi*, the Court recognized that tinnitus is a condition capable of lay observation. If your tinnitus began with military noise exposure, tell your doctor and your VA representative the truth about when it started and how it affects you. Do not exaggerate. Do not guess. Just tell the truth and keep good records.

A good five-step plan is simple: 1. Get your VA records together. 2. Write down your symptoms. 3. Talk with your doctor. 4. Ask whether another diagnosed condition may be the cause or worsened by your tinnitus. 5. Before filing, talk with a VA-

accredited representative or Veterans Service Officer.

GULF COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE:

Gulf County Veterans' Service Officer Lynn Lanier can help Gulf County veterans with VA benefits and claims. Lynn Lanier: [\(850\) 229-6125](tel:8502296125). VA Benefits: [1-800-827-1000](tel:18008271000). MyVA411: [1-800-698-2411](tel:18006982411).

Vet Benefits are our form of Workmen's Comp. You earned them through your service. Learn what you may have earned, keep your records, and ask for qualified help when you need it.

This is general education about VA benefits and secondary claims. It is not legal advice. Every veteran's claim depends on the facts and evidence in that veteran's case.

Sources: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; 38 CFR §4.87, Diagnostic Code 6260; 38 CFR §3.310; *Charles v. Principi*, 16 Vet. App. 370 (2002); Gulf County Veterans' Service Office.

Wewa News: thewewanews2021@email.com

GULF COUNTY RODEO
TL JAMES PARK
521 CATALPA ST WEAHITCHER FL

OCTOBER 10TH

MUTTON BUSTIN
ENTER @ GATES @ 630PM

**BULLS
BRONCS
BARRELS**

FRIDAY NIGHT RODEO DANCE
TBD

SATURDAY RODEO PERFORMANCE
GATES OPEN @ 5:30PM CST
RODEO STARTS @ 7PM CST

KIDS 5¢ UNDER FREE

QR CODE

\$15 ADULTS
\$10 KIDS

\$4500 ADDED
BUCKLES TO WINNERS
3D BARREL RACE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
MIRANDA ROLLINS &
BURNER ASSOCIATES
**GULF COUNTY TOURIST
DEVELOPMENT COUNSEL**

MCU

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL HURRICANE MICHAEL TRIBUTE DURING OUR OPENING CEREMONIES HONORING THE
STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE OF THOSE AFFECTED

Logos: A-C, EVANGELINE, DUREN'S, Roberts and Roberts, Inc., JEFF HAVELY, Gulf County, DESERT RANCHES, GULF COUNTY CATTLEMAN

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 2nd 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

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



**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