

THE WEWA NEWS™

“The Good News Newspaper”

>>SPECIAL EDITION-July 2026-7-04-01 <<

A FREE NEWSPAPER Take One! The Wewa News Newspaper



Mayor Gaskin Says "No!" to Tax Increase

by Tom Wynn Jr.

During the June meeting of the Wewahitchka City Commission, officials discussed the impact of a reduction in property tax revenue from homestead properties. City officials estimated the change could create a budget shortfall of about \$170,000.

During the discussion, the possibility of making up the difference by increasing utility taxes or raising the city's ad valorem (property) tax rate was mentioned.

Mayor Phillip Gaskin made his position clear. He said he would not support increasing taxes on the citizens of Wewahitchka. Instead, he said the city would tighten its belt and reduce spending where necessary rather than place a heavier financial burden on local taxpayers.

"We can't do that to the taxpayers," the mayor said, making it clear he believes the city should live within its means instead of asking residents to pay more.

With many families already dealing with the rising costs of groceries, insurance, fuel, and everyday living expenses, the mayor's comments were well-received by those attending the meeting.

As the city continues working through its budget for the coming year, residents can expect further discussions about where spending can be reduced while maintaining essential city services.

The budget process will continue over the coming months before the final budget is adopted in the future. His message was clear: no tax increase! TW

Gulf County Commission and Wewahitchka City Commission Working Together

by Tom Wynn Jr.

In response to Wewa's needs, both the **Gulf County Commission** and the **Wewahitchka City Commission** have been listening and responding in a positive way to "We The People."

Over the past year, cooperation between county leadership and city leadership has improved greatly. Many residents have noticed stronger communication, better coordination, and quicker action on local concerns that matter to families, seniors, and the community.

Recent teamwork on projects such as **T.L. James Park** and the **Senior Center** has helped raise public morale. These efforts show both commissions working in harmony, focusing on community needs instead of working in separate directions. (Story Cont. on Page 2)

HAPPY 250th BIRTHDAY AMERICA!



(Gulf County-City from Page 1) When the Gulf County Commission and the Wewahitchka City Commission coordinate their efforts, progress becomes more visible across the community. Decisions are being made with better communication, and responses to local needs are happening in a more timely and effective manner.

This improved cooperation has been noticed and appreciated by many residents who have long hoped to see stronger unity between county and city leadership.

In the end, when both commissions focus on shared goals, Wewa benefits. The progress seen over the past year is a reminder that cooperation builds trust, and trust strengthens the community. TW

(Front Page- My Great-Granddaughter Ms. Olivia Enjoyed the Fireworks!)

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**Take Care of America's Veterans Act: What
Veterans Need to Know**

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

Congress is considering a major piece of legislation called the Take Care of America's Veterans Act. The bill combines more than 60 veteran-related measures into one package. Supporters say it would improve health care, benefits, and services for veterans, military families, caregivers, and survivors. ([Veterans Affairs Senate](#))

One of the most important parts of the bill is the **Major Richard Star Act**. This provision would allow many

combat-disabled veterans who were medically retired before reaching 20 years of service to receive both their military retirement pay and VA disability compensation. For years, many veterans and veterans' organizations have argued that these veterans earned both benefits and should not have to give up one to receive the other. ([Veterans Affairs Senate](#))

The legislation also includes the Veterans' ACCESS Act, which would expand opportunities for veterans to receive care from community medical providers when VA facilities are too far away or wait times are too long. Other provisions would strengthen mental health programs, improve suicide prevention efforts, assist caregivers, support surviving spouses, and modernize VA claims processing. ([Congressman Chuck Edwards](#))

Supporters, including many veterans' groups, believe this package represents the best opportunity in years to pass several important veteran priorities that have been delayed in Congress. The legislation has received support from organizations that believe it could improve services and benefits for millions of veterans and their families. ([The American Legion](#))

However, the bill has also generated debate. Some lawmakers and veterans' advocates are concerned about proposed funding provisions that could affect future disability compensation ratings for conditions such as sleep apnea and tinnitus. Critics argue that one group of veterans should not have to lose benefits to help fund benefits for another group. Supporters respond that the overall package would still provide significant improvements for veterans nationwide. ([Stars and Stripes](#)) As this article is written, Congress continues to debate the legislation. As veterans, family members, and citizens, we should remain informed and involved in the process. The decisions made in Washington today may affect veteran benefits and services for many years to come.

Disclaimer: This article is provided for general information only and is not legal, financial, or benefits advice. Veterans should consult the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, accredited Veterans Service Officers, or qualified professionals regarding their individual circumstances. TW

Born in 1976? Here's What Was Happening That Year by *Grandpa Tom*

If you were born in 1976, you came into the world during America's Bicentennial year, when the nation celebrated 200 years of independence with pride, parades, and fireworks across the country.

The President of the United States was Gerald R. Ford. The country was still settling after the Vietnam era, and families were focused on work, home life, and rebuilding steady ground.

Nationally, television reflected a mix of changing culture and traditional values. Shows like *Happy Days*, *The Waltons*, and *All in the Family* were common in living rooms across America. Music was shifting too, blending rock, country, and early disco sounds.

In cities and government offices, computers were beginning to take hold. They were large, expensive machines at the time, but they marked the start of a new digital age that would eventually change everyday life.

A new home cost about \$44,000. A new automobile averaged around \$5,400. Gasoline was about 59 cents per gallon, and a first-class postage stamp was 13 cents.

Fashion in 1976 was changing fast. Across America, bell-bottom jeans, wide collars, and bold patterns were common. But in small towns like Wewahitchka, things were more practical. Blue jeans and T-shirts were still the everyday standard. Work boots, caps, and simple clothing were what most people wore for work, school, and fishing.

While the nation leaned into trends, Gulf County held onto its working roots, for the most part. **TW**

Young Paul Revere's Midnight Ride

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

The moon was bright, the stars were clear.
A young man rode with little fear.
His horse ran fast through the dark of night,
To help his neighbors do what was right.

He rode past homes and open fields.
He knew that freedom never yields.
"Wake up! Wake up!" was his cry.
"The British troops are marching by!"

He did not ride for fame or gold.
He rode because he loved the old
Dream of freedom, strong and true,
For me, for him, and yes, for you.

He never knew that years would tell
The story we remember well.
One faithful ride, one faithful man,
Helped change the course of this great land.

Tonight our flag still waves with pride,
Because of those who chose that ride.
From Boston town to Wewahitchka, too,
The love of freedom still shines through.

When fireworks bloom above Lake Alice,
And children smile with joy and gladness,
Take a moment, bow your head,
And thank the ones who fought and bled.

Now gently laid where heroes rest,
They gave our country all their best.
The torch they carried now is ours.
May God give us the strength and power

To keep our country safe and free,
For every child and family.
Sleep well, Wewa. Sleep well tonight.
And thank God for freedom's light. Last but not least,
my oldest son Chris was born on 7-7-76.

The logo for Wewa Building Sales is enclosed in a rounded rectangular border. At the top, a stylized house roofline is shown in black. Below the roofline, the word "Wewa" is written in a large, elegant, red cursive font. Underneath "Wewa", the word "BUILDING" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of "BUILDING", the word "Sales" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. Below this text, the phone number "850-481-0855" is displayed in a large, bold, black font. At the bottom, the email address "wewaportablebuildings@gmail.com" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

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Proverbs 18:24

The Meaning of Wewahitchka: Two Ways of Understanding the Same Word-The Meaning of Wewahitchka: by Grandpa Tom

The name Wewahitchka carries more meaning than most people realize. It sits at the meeting point of written history and spoken tradition.

In many books and maps, scholars translate Wewahitchka from the Muscogee (Creek) language as “water eyes.” This explanation is often tied to Lake Alice and Lake Julia, which appear like two bodies of water in the landscape. This is the written interpretation found in historical and geographic records. But there is also the living voice of the language.

About 25 years ago, I spoke with Muscogee Creek Chief Alonso Wood and a Creek language teacher who worked weekly with students and adults. These were not academic voices on paper. They were people who lived the language and passed it on by speaking it every day.

In that living tradition, Wewahitchka was explained in a more direct way: “water is here.” Both views describe the same place, but from different directions. Written scholarship focuses on translation and structure. Spoken tradition focuses on meaning, relationship, and connection to the land.

The twin lakes, wetlands, and waterways of Gulf County all help explain why the name matters. Whether called “water eyes” in written records or “water is here” in spoken tradition, the meaning always returns to water and place.

What we learn from both is simple. A name is not only something on a map. It is how people saw the land and lived with it.

Sometimes history is written on paper. Sometimes it is carried in voices—on a front porch near the Chipola River bridge, or in stories told while fishing with Grandpa or Dad.

I never got to fish with either one, but I did get to hear the stories. And sometimes, those stories are what stay with us the longest. In Wewahitchka, both still speak.
TW



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A Family That Stays Together: The Value of Shared Life and Godly Teaching by Grandpa Tom

A household made up of independent individuals often becomes a fractured family. When each person lives only for themselves under the same roof, they begin to feel more like roommates than a true family. Over time, bonds weaken, and shared purpose fades.

Families that stay connected through shared activities tend to remain strong for life. Museums, church services, dinners, family reunions, and community events all help build unity. These moments create memories that hold people together long after the moment has passed.

God did not design the family to function in isolation. The family is meant to be a place of learning, correction, support, and love. When families stay engaged with one another, they grow stronger across generations. When they drift apart, even while living together, something important is lost.

As a man, I find myself relying on the wise teachings of my father, stored in my memory like a steady guide through life. His example of doing things together as a family left a lasting impression on me as I grew up.

As I became a man of God, I began to see the value of those lessons. What he taught me about life and the Bible has become more valuable than all the gold in the world. Wisdom, not wealth, carries a man through life.
TW

I pray I will never forget his ways. He was a true man of God in how he lived. Even in an imperfect household, he chose what was right for the family. He stood firm even when others disagreed.

Most importantly, he obeyed the will of the Heavenly Father above all else. That example shaped me deeply. It showed me that real strength is found in faith, humility, and obedience.

Looking back, I see how those lessons continue to guide me today. A strong family is built not on independence, but on shared life, shared faith, and shared love. **TW**

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The Ninth Amendment: The Forgotten Guardian of Your Rights

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

Most Americans can name a few rights found in the Bill of Rights. We know about freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to keep and bear arms. But there is one amendment that many people have never studied. It may be one of the most important of them all.

The Ninth Amendment to the United States Constitution says: **"The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."** That is a mouthful, but its meaning is simple. When our Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution, they knew they could never list every right that belongs to the people. They feared that if only a few rights were written down, future governments might claim those were the only rights Americans had. So they added the Ninth Amendment.

It tells us that the rights listed in the Constitution are not the only rights we possess. The people have many other rights that are simply not listed.

Think of it this way. Imagine your grandfather leaves you a large farm. In his will he lists the farmhouse, the barn, and the pond. Does that mean you do not own the pasture, the fence, or the woods? Of course not. The list highlights some important things, but it does not limit everything you inherited.

The Constitution works much the same way. The Bill of Rights names several important freedoms, but it does not mean those are the only freedoms Americans have.

This amendment reminds us of an important principle. Our rights do not come from government. They come from our Creator and belong to the people. Government exists to protect those rights, not to hand them out one at a time.

The Ninth Amendment has often been called the forgotten amendment because it is rarely discussed in schools or in everyday conversation. Yet it stands as a reminder that liberty is greater than any list written on paper.

Whether you agree with every court decision or not, the principle remains the same: the Constitution recognizes that the people retain rights beyond those specifically written down.

The next time someone says, "If it isn't in the Constitution, you don't have that right," remember the Ninth Amendment. It was written to say exactly the opposite. Sometimes the shortest amendments carry the biggest message. **TW**

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Wewahitchka Commission Unanimously Approves First Reading of Residency Restrictions by Tom Wynn Jr.

During the Wewahitchka City Commission meeting in late June, the City Commission voted unanimously, 5-0, to approve the first reading of a proposed Sex Offender Residency Restrictions ordinance. Declared by the City Attorney and the Sheriff as the strongest policy in the entire State of Florida, including the State of Florida policy as well.

Before the vote, the Commission received input from the Gulf County Sheriff's Office and the City Attorney, who drafted the proposed ordinance. The discussion focused on protecting children and families while ensuring the ordinance complies with Florida law and County law. All agreed it was the strongest-worded policy in the State.

Following the discussion, Mayor Gaskin read the proposed ordinance into the official record before the Commission voted to approve its first reading.

The proposed ordinance would establish residency restrictions for registered sex offenders within the City of Wewahitchka. Before it can become law, the ordinance must return to the Commission for a second reading and a final vote at a future public meeting.

Residents who wish to learn more about the proposed ordinance are encouraged to attend the upcoming City Commission meeting or review the meeting agenda and public records as they become available. TW



COME VISIT US AT THE WEWA LIBRARY
Joyelle Linton

Encouraging our community's children to read is a top priority for staff at the Wewahitchka Public Library. At the beginning of March, a new reading initiative called "500 Books Before Middle School" was created. This is geared for children in Kindergarten through Fifth

grade. For every 50 books a child reads, the child will receive a series of small incentive prizes, such as stickers, coloring sheets, temporary tattoos, etc. For every 100 books a child reads, the child will receive the small incentive prizes plus a free book of their choice. So far, twenty-four children have signed up to participate.

Key Benefits of Reading:

- **Brain Development & Cognition:** Reading improves brain connectivity, focus, and critical thinking skills by prompting children to predict, infer, and visualize. Reading early in life is linked to better cognitive health, academic performance, and stronger language processing skills.
- **Vocabulary Expansion:** Children who are read to regularly encounter far more words, helping them build a rich vocabulary before they even start school.
- **Social and Emotional Growth:** Reading helps children understand their own emotions and develop empathy by putting themselves in characters' shoes.
- **Improved Focus and Imagination:** Listening to stories improves attention spans and encourages children to use their imagination to create mental images.
- **Academic Readiness:** Reading develops crucial pre-literacy skills, such as understanding narrative, story structure, and comprehension. Students who read regularly have better comprehension, writing skills, and knowledge retention across subjects like science and social studies
- **Bonding and Routine:** Reading with parents builds strong emotional bonds and provides a calm, productive routine.

Please call the library at (850) 639-2419 for additional information. JL



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Gulf County and the Spirit of Florida's Founding *by Tom Wynn Jr.*

When people think about the Founding Fathers of America, they often picture Philadelphia, Boston, or Washington D.C. But here in Gulf County, Florida, we have our own quiet but powerful connection to the early spirit of American government—and to the men who helped shape not only the United States, but the early foundations of the great State of Florida.

While we do not have rows of marble statues of Washington, Jefferson, or Franklin standing on every corner, we do have something just as meaningful: the very ground where Florida began to define itself, a state! **St. Joseph – Where Florida's First Constitution Was Born**

Just a few blocks south of today's coastal community of Port St. Joe lies the historic site of **St. Joseph**, an early settlement that played a major role in Florida's constitutional beginnings.

In 1838, delegates gathered there for the Florida Constitutional Convention. These men worked to draft Florida's first state constitution, laying the groundwork for statehood, which would come in 1845. Today, that history is preserved at the Constitution Convention Museum State Park. Standing there, visitors are reminded that long before highways, bridges, and modern towns, leaders met right here on this coast to debate laws, rights, and the future of a new state.

In many ways, these delegates became Florida's own "founding fathers," carrying forward the same spirit of self-government that shaped the nation.

Port St. Joe – A Living Coastal Community

Just north of that historic ground sits the modern city of Port St. Joe is a welcoming Gulf Coast town known today for tourism, seafood restaurants, antique shops,

and community events that bring visitors from across the region. What many visitors may not realize is that this lively coastal town sits only steps away from one of the most important early political sites in Florida's history. Here, past and present live side by side—where constitutional ideas were once formed just south of today's busy streets.

A Broader Conversation About History and Monuments

In recent public discussions and long-form media interviews, Governor Ron DeSantis has often emphasized Florida's strong connection to American heritage and historical identity.

While conversations across the state sometimes include ideas about expanding historical monuments or honoring America's founding era, there is no official statewide program placing Founding Fathers statues in every Florida county. But in Gulf County, the story is already being told in a different way.

Gulf County's Real Monument – The Land Itself

We may not have rows of statues, but we have something more permanent than bronze or stone. At the Constitution Convention Museum State Park, the memory of Florida's early leaders is preserved in the very place where they gathered to shape the state's first constitution. That alone places Gulf County in a rare position. We are not just reading about history—we are standing on it.

The Spirit That Still Lives Here

Even without large monument projects or widespread statue installations, Gulf County still carries a powerful legacy:

- The birthplace of Florida's early constitutional government
- A meeting ground for territorial leaders shaping state law
- A preserved historic site still open to the public today

This is where Florida began to speak for itself—not in a distant capital, but right here along our Gulf Coast. Gulf

County may be small, but its role in Florida's story is large.

From the quiet historic ground of St. Joseph to the living coastal community of Port St. Joe, we are surrounded by reminders that history is not only found in textbooks or big cities—it is found in the places where people once gathered to build something new. And sometimes, the greatest monuments are not statues at all, but the land that still remembers what was built upon it. **TW**

George Washington's First General Order by AECS Tom Wynn Jr., USCG (Ret.)

When George Washington took command of the Continental Army on July 3, 1775, many people expected his first order to be about fighting the enemy. Instead, it was about something even more important—the character of the men who would serve.

Washington told his officers and soldiers to be disciplined, honest, and respectful. He ordered them not to steal from the people they were protecting and to avoid drunkenness, profanity, and other bad behavior.

He also believed the Army should seek God's help. Washington instructed his troops to attend divine services and ask for "the blessings of Heaven" as they defended their country. One of his most remembered statements says: **"The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor so live and act as becomes a Christian Soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country."**

Our nation's first Commander in Chief knew that freedom would require more than muskets and courage. It would also require faith, honor, self-control, and good character. Those timeless values are just as important today as they were more than 250 years ago. **TW**

WHEN TWO WORLDS LOOK THROUGH DIFFERENT WINDOWS by *Brother Tom Wynn Jr.*

In every generation, people try to understand where we come from, how the world works, and what truth really is. Some study science in universities. Others study Scripture. Many try to do both.

But sometimes, the same evidence is viewed very differently depending on where a person is standing.

One person may look through a microscope and see cells, DNA, and patterns of design in living systems. Another may look through a geological timeline and see layers of rock interpreted as millions of years of Earth's history. Both are observing real things, but their conclusions may differ based on how they interpret what they see. This is where much of the modern debate lives.

A PhD represents deep study in one field of knowledge. That person may have great expertise in that area, but still limited understanding in others. This is not a flaw—it is simply the nature of specialized learning.

It is like two people standing in the same house, each looking out a different window. One sees the front yard. The other sees the back yard. Both are telling the truth about what they see, but neither is seeing the whole property at once.

In this way, the biblical text is viewed by some as a kind of "treasure map" of knowledge—an account from Great Grandpa describing how the "house" was built, and how everything inside was designed to function together.

From this perspective, both science and Scripture are attempts to understand the same reality, but from different vantage points. Neither side can see everything alone.

That is why disagreements often come not from a lack of intelligence, but from different starting points, assumptions, and fields of view.

And if there is a Designer behind it all, then stepping back far enough to see the full structure may matter more than what can be seen from any single point inside it.

"Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established." (Proverbs 24:3 NKJV)

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Whitfield Family Celebrates Family Heritage *by Tom Wynn Jr.*

WEWAHITCHKA — The Whitfield Family Reunion once again brought generations of relatives together on June 13 at the Wewahitchka Community Building. Family members gathered for a day of fellowship, laughter, good food, and the sharing of memories, continuing a tradition that has strengthened family ties for many years.

They traveled across Florida and other states to reconnect with cousins, renew old friendships, and welcome younger family members into the rich history of the Whitfield family. Throughout the day, stories were shared about parents, grandparents, and earlier generations whose hard work, faith, and love helped shape both the family and the Wewahitchka community.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the continued sharing of the **Whitfield Family Tree and History**, originally compiled by John Milton Whitfield Sr. on June 8, 1969. Family history has become a treasured record, preserving names, photographs, dates, and stories that might otherwise be lost with time. It serves as a reminder that every generation has a responsibility to preserve its history for those who follow.

Family reunions are about much more than getting together for a meal. They help younger generations discover where they came from, build lasting relationships with relatives, and appreciate the sacrifices made by those who came before them.

The Whitfield family has deep roots in Gulf County and the surrounding area. Like many other families, they helped build the community through hard work, faith, and a commitment to helping their neighbors. Their legacy continues today through their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

As another successful reunion came to a close, family members said their goodbyes with promises to gather again next year. Until then, they will carry with them the memories made, the stories shared, and the joy of spending time with family.

The Wewa News congratulates the Whitfield family for continuing this wonderful tradition. By preserving their family history and passing it on to future generations, they are also helping preserve an important part of the history of Wewahitchka.TW

"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. Every Sunday at 4 PM, we have a radio check to make sure our radios are working and charged up in case of need. We are looking

for some ham operators in the Wewa area to join us. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact **Mr. Dudley Balmer** at **317-379-1644**. (Radioddity email address: www.radioddity.com)

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Governor Appoints Matt Terry as Gulf County Clerk of Court *by Tom Wynn Jr.*

Governor Ron DeSantis has appointed James 'Matt' Terry as the new Gulf County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller. The appointment was announced on February 13, 2026, and Terry was officially sworn into office on February 18, 2026. ([Florida Governor's Office](#))

Terry is well known throughout Gulf County. He is the owner of Appraisal Group of North Florida and has served as a member of the Gulf County School Board. He has also been active in professional and community organizations across the region. The appointment came after the retirement of longtime Clerk Rebecca "Becky" Norris, who served Gulf County for many years. Following her retirement, Tonya Knox served as interim clerk until Terry's appointment by the Governor.

The Clerk of Court is one of the most important constitutional offices in county government. The office maintains court records, records deeds and mortgages, issues marriage licenses and passports, serves as clerk to the County Commission, and acts as county comptroller, helping oversee county finances and expenditures. As Clerk, Terry now serves as the official record keeper for Gulf County and is responsible for maintaining transparency and accountability in local government.

The office also provides many public services used daily by Gulf County residents. Terry holds a bachelor's degree in business from Flagler College and has stated that he looks forward to serving the citizens of Gulf County in his new role. Residents may visit the Gulf County Clerk's Office at the Gulf County Courthouse in Port St. Joe or the Wewahitchka Annex Office for many court, recording, and public record services. TW

Gray Family Reunion Celebrates-Family Heritage *by Tom Wynn Jr.*

WEWAHITCHKA — The Gray Family Reunion brought generations of relatives together in late June at the Wewahitchka Community Center in downtown Wewahitchka. Family members gathered for a day of fellowship, shared meals, laughter, and the telling of family stories that continue to strengthen ties across the years.

The reunion was held at the Wewahitchka Senior Center, a familiar gathering place in the heart of the community. The building was filled with the sound of conversation as cousins reconnected, old friendships were renewed, and younger generations were welcomed into the growing Gray family heritage.

Family members traveled from across Gulf County and other parts of Florida to attend. Many spoke about the importance of staying connected, especially as families grow and spread out over time. The day gave everyone a chance to slow down, share a meal, and remember where they came from.

A special part of the gathering was the sharing of family photos, handwritten records, and stories passed down from earlier generations. Elders in the family spoke about parents and grandparents who worked hard, raised children in difficult times, and helped build the foundation of both the family and the Wewahitchka community.

These stories reminded everyone that family reunions are more than just social events. They are a way to preserve history, pass down values, and help younger family members understand their roots. Many of the younger children listened closely as older relatives described life in earlier days in Gulf County.

The Gray family has deep ties to the land, the churches, and the small-town traditions that shaped Wewahitchka. Their legacy continues through children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who are now making their own contributions to the family.

As the reunion came to a close, families exchanged hugs, phone numbers, and promised to stay in closer contact. Plans were already being discussed for the next gathering, with hopes of an even larger turnout.

The Wewa News commends the Gray family for continuing this important tradition. By keeping family history alive and bringing generations together, they are preserving a valuable part of Gulf County's living heritage. **TW**



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****Five VA Forms Every Veteran Should Know About**** *by AECS Tom Wynn Jr., USCG (Ret.)

Many veterans never ask for help. They live with pain, accept less than they deserve, and assume the VA is already paying them everything they have earned. Sadly, that is not always true.

One veteran in a recent educational presentation discovered he had been underpaid by about \$400 every month for nine years. That added up to more than \$43,000. His story reminds us of one important fact:

The VA pays veterans for the benefits they claim and can prove—not simply for benefits they may qualify to receive.

That is why every veteran should carefully read every VA decision letter they receive. Those letters explain what the VA approved, denied, and why. They also point to benefits you may have missed. Here are five important VA forms every veteran should know about. ****VA Form 21-0966 – Intent to File**** This may be the most valuable one-page form in the VA system. **TW**

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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.



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THE WEWA NEWS

Contact us: thewewanews2021@gmail.com

**HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY
CHRISTOPHER WYNN**