

# THE TUPELO COUNTY NEWS™

## THE WEWA NEWS™



*“The Good News Newspaper”*

NOVEMBER 2023 >> No. 11-03<<

A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!



### FALL FESTIVAL AT LAKE ALICE PARK A MAJOR SUCCESS!

Lake Alice Park in downtown Wewahitchka was filled with people from everywhere. Kids and vendor booths were all busy selling things and having fun! The weather was perfect, and what a time was had by all.

North Florida is just perfect this time of year, and so the festival reflected that. "The Wewa Historical Society" and "The Friends of the Library" were on hand to share their wares and had more fun than is legal in these parts of the USA.

The laughter could be heard over the Southern-style music. Many folks came to our booths and signed our petitions to have the Old Gulf County Courthouse restored to its former glory. It was an amazing day!

It was nearly as busy as the Tupelo Honey Festival, which comes in the springtime when the Tupelo Trees bloom. It was just an amazing day. This festival is one whopper of a festival each year; we can expect even more people next fall, as the word gets out. Wewa does it right! Thanks to the planners and the vendors who worked so hard to make it happen. Thank you!

We all made new friends and hugged old ones too. Just a big family reunion was had by all. The fun started at 9 am and lasted until 4 pm. Lake Alice Park was so beautiful; it took your breath away as you admired it.



### WEWAHITCHKA FIREHOUSE - MAYOR GASKIN TELLS THE PUBLIC!

*by Tom Wynn*

Our longtime Mayor, Phillip Gaskin, in the October



City Meeting, explained in more detail how the new firehouse will be completed. It will indeed be finished, but first, it requires significant repairs and

corrections on its current condition, especially the floor and internal structures. The mayor assured that the firehouse will be fixed and completed in the near future, right at its current location. Ms. Jordan, the City Attorney, has nearly finalized all the paperwork necessary for the city to move forward. According to Mayor Gaskin, an agreement has been reached between the parties involved in the lawsuits. We can now anticipate progress towards completion. We simply cannot afford any more Hurricane Michael-like events, which could lead to additional challenges in restoring our quaint city. As the city of Wewa continues to grow, having a new firehouse becomes even more imperative.

## WEWA AREA GETS NEW DUMP STATION

Go check it out folks! Open from 7am to 3pm Wednesday and Saturday starting the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. The minimum price to dump will be \$10 dollars, no cash, Credit cards, checks and Debit cards will be excepted. **TW**

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

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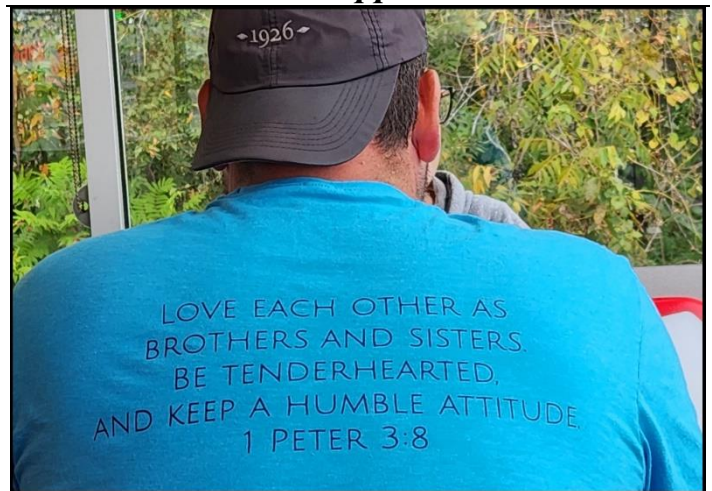
## "Exciting News for Wewahitchka: A New Car Wash on the Horizon!"

*By Tom Wynn*

Wewahitchka is on the brink of welcoming a state-of-the-art car wash, akin to the renowned one near the Port St. Joe bridge on Route 98. The new establishment will grace the corner of Britt Avenue and Highway 71, promising convenience for all. Owners Mr. David McGlen and Max Wolitte are set to bring this project to life, with Mr. Marlen Taylor poised to oversee operations. Keep your eyes peeled for its grand opening!

## JUST A NOTE FROM GRANDPA TOM

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



This Fellow sat down behind my wife in a Waffle House in Lebanon, Tennessee. I was so touched by his Tee Shirt I figured I would share it with you all! I later told his wife; I was proud of him for wearing that Tee Shirt. He made my day. We smiled and she told me that she would let him know. Now if only we all could honor that verse. Hmmm....

**Are you a veteran? Do you know a vet in need?**

**Come join us at Birdie's Brew for Coffee with a Vet!**

**916 FL-71 Wewa, FL 32465, 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
They are held the 2nd Thursday of each month.**

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**1 Peter 2:9-10**





## **Wendy Weitzel, Esteemed Editor of The Star Newspaper, Takes on a New Venture**

By Tom Wynn

In a bittersweet turn of events, Ms. Wendy Weitzel, the dedicated Editor of The Star Newspaper in Port St. Joe, has accepted a new position in the state of Maryland, just a stone's throw away from Washington, D.C. She will now helm the editorial department of a weekly newspaper spanning three counties. This marks an exciting chapter in her career, although her departure leaves a palpable void here in Gulf County, Florida. Owned by NEVESMEDIA Publishing Group, Inc., The Star has thrived under Wendy's expert guidance. Her insight, dedication, and tireless efforts have made a profound impact on the community and the paper itself. Her journalistic prowess and commitment to quality reporting will surely be cherished in her new role.

As we bid farewell to Ms. Weitzel, we want to extend our heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved opportunity. Wendy, your legacy in Gulf County will not fade; your influence and contributions will be remembered and appreciated by all whose lives you touched.

To our esteemed Editor, please remember your devoted fans here in Gulf County, Florida. We already miss you and wish you every success in your new position. Congratulations once again, Wendy! **TW**

## **Navigating History: Unveiling the Tale of Burgess Creek, Wewahitchka's Hidden Gem**

By Tom Wynn

Just south of the charming towns of Wewahitchka and Honeyville in the heart of Florida's Panhandle, lies a slice of history often overshadowed by the bustling modern world. Welcome to Burgess Creek, a name that might be unfamiliar to many but holds a treasure trove of local lore and memories that still resonate in the southern air for those old enough to remember the place.

**A Quiet Gem on the Creek**

Burgess Creek, named after the man whose last name graced its waters, Sam Burgess, who raised his family near the swamp he owned. It was more than just a spot on the map. It was a place where generations of locals launched their fishing boats into the creek's gentle currents, a quiet gateway to the serene waters of the rivers and lakes of the Famous Deadlakes. Beyond being a simple launching point, Burgess Creek was a portal to a world of adventure, camaraderie, and the timeless art of fishing.

When I went canoeing with my friend who owns the property, I noticed the trees shaded the water, and the animals were visible to the naked eye, including snakes. This place was his joy! He loves fishing and canoeing in his own world. The next day, my body told me, "That is the last time you are going canoeing Mister!"

## **Fishing Tales and Community Bonding**

For the residents of Wewahitchka and Honeyville, Burgess Creek was more than just a place; it was a hub of activity, where early morning fishermen would gather to prepare for a day on the water. Back in the day, you would go down or up to Burgess Creek, and a box would be by the water's edge, with a cost of 2 dollars for using this private boat ramp. Everyone in those days was honorable. Cash money in the box, and off you and your fishing partner could go and have a day of it.

The creek's calm waters offered a tranquil beginning to fishing adventures, while its serene surroundings supplied the perfect backdrop for tales spun by seasoned anglers. Friendships were forged and bonds were strengthened as locals shared stories of the one that got away, the biggest catch of the season, and the legendary fish that had become local legends. Burgess Creek wasn't just a place to launch a boat; it was a canvas for shared memories, laughter, and the camaraderie that forms the heart of any close-knit community.

## **A Journey Through Time**

As we trace the history of Burgess Creek, we're reminded that the creek's significance reaches far beyond its quiet banks. The tales of boat launches, fishing expeditions, and cherished moments evoke a sense of nostalgia for a simpler time, a time when life moved at a slower pace and the rhythms of nature guided the course of the day.

This once-bustling spot along the creek, where the clink of fishing gear met the gentle lap of water, holds a glimpse into the past—a past that built the foundation for the vibrant communities that stand there today. As generations come and go, Burgess Creek stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of connection to both the land and each other.

### **Preserving the Legacy**

While time has brought about changes to the landscape and way of life, the spirit of Burgess Creek lives on in the hearts of those who remember its tales. It's a spirit that echoes in the laughter of families, the cast of a fishing line, and the spark of adventure in a child's eyes. Though modernity may have shifted the way we experience the world around us, the essence of Burgess Creek remains untouched.

Today, the boat ramp that once welcomed fishing vessels into Burgess Creek is no more, and the property has changed hands to another family. But while the physical landscape has evolved, the memories and stories that Burgess Creek carries within its waters persist, painting a vivid picture of a simpler time when life revolved around the gentle ebb and flow of the creek's currents.

### **Community Spirit Endures**

As Burgess Creek's history unfolds, it serves as a reminder of the deep-rooted sense of community that has always defined Wewahitchka and Honeyville. Despite the changes that time has brought, the Southern spirit of bonding over fishing tales and shared experiences continues to flourish.

As the creek's waters reflect the sunsets of generations past, they also mirror the promise of a future where the stories of Burgess Creek live on. The memories of boat launches, friendships forged, and the laughter of children echo through the ages, reminding us that while landscapes change, the heart of a community stays steadfast.

### **Conclusion**

Amid the tranquil landscapes of Wewahitchka and Honeyville, Burgess Creek rests as a silent sentinel to a time when the creek's waters stirred with the promise of adventure and camaraderie. Named after a man who left his mark on the land and the hearts of the community, Burgess Creek encapsulates the spirit of a bygone era—a time when fishing boats were launched,

stories were shared, and friendships were forged along its gentle currents. A private location today, for the owners to relax and enjoy nature's finest pleasures, for those that enjoy seeing it, boating around it, and tasting its fish. Like our Heavenly Father watching over the earth, the owner and his son care for the Creek like Adam did in the Garden before sin knocked on the door. Peace is a blessing too, and many seek it in their life, sooner or later. For me the sooner was better.

This part of Florida, as many have discovered, is still filled with places like Burgess Creek, a place where a man and his son or sons, can go, and enjoy nature firsthand, and stop and listen and see what comes around.

As we embrace the modern world, let us not forget the stories that lie beneath the surface, waiting to be uncovered and cherished. Burgess Creek, a hidden gem in the heart of Florida's Panhandle, is a testament to the resilience of tradition and the enduring power of community bonds. As the gentle waters of Burgess Creek continue to flow, they carry with them the echoes of a simpler time, whispering the tales of those who once stood on its shores, casting their lines into history. **TW**

### **Poem about Burgess Creek**

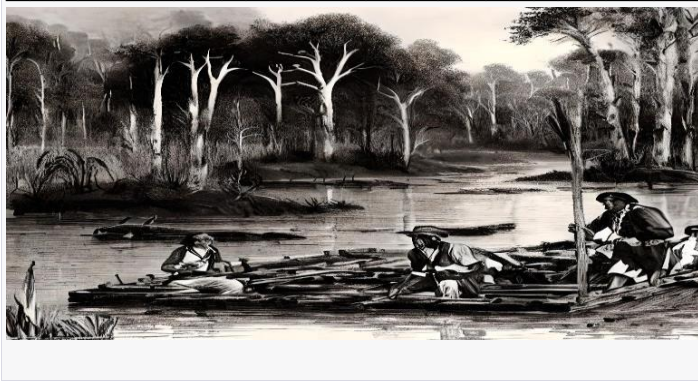
By B. Scott Bozeman

In Burgess Creek's gentle flow,  
Nature's secrets freely show.  
With whispered winds and babbling brooks,  
A haven for creatures in cozy nooks.  
The creek's charm within a small space,  
A hidden gem, a tranquil embrace.

In the heart of Florida, where magic resides,  
There lies Burgess Creek, a haven for life.  
Animals roam freely, their spirits untamed,  
A symphony of nature, forever unchained.

Reptiles slither gracefully, with scales so bright,  
Basking in the sun's warm and golden light.  
From snakes to turtles, they find solace here,  
In the serenity of the creek, forever near.

The scenery is awe-inspiring, a sight to behold,  
With lush greenery and colors untold.  
Tall cypress trees stand proudly along the shore,  
Their roots reaching deep, forevermore.  
A testament to nature's beauty and flair.  
So let us cherish this precious land,  
Protect it with love, hand in hand.  
For Burgess Creek holds wonders untold,  
A sanctuary of life, for young and old.



## **The Apalachicola Band of Creek Indians**

**Submitted by Tom Godwin before he  
Passed Away**

The Apalachicola Band of Creek Indians became a political entity in a Special Article of the 1823 Treaty with the Florida Indians. This treaty is best known as the Treaty of Moultrie Creek Treaty. provisions required all Florida Indians to move to an undesirable reservation in South Florida. However, seven influential chiefs including Neamathala, Econchatti Micco, Mulatto King, Emathlochee, William John Blount, and Cochrane refused to sign the treaties. Commissioners, Governor William P. DuVal, Colonel James Gadsden and Bernard Segui feared these leaders would disrupt the negotiations and crafted the Additional Article that allowed the seven chiefs and their membership to remain on a twenty square mile reservation along the Apalachicola River. The tribal name, Apalachicola Band, resulted from the reservation's location along the Apalachicola River East.

Apalachicola chief was allocated a separate reservation consisting of about three sections of land. Names of these reservations, or Indian Towns, in order of the above leadership, were Rocky Comfort Creek, Red Ground Town, Chonicla, Attapulugus, Iola or Blountstown, and Spanewadka.

The Chiefs chose Neamathala, a Miccosukee, to be the first Principal Chief of the Apalachicolas. However, Neamathala was not friendly with Florida Governor William DuVal and refused to follow DuVal's orders. DuVal removed Neamathala as Principal Chief in 1825 and appointed Sub-Chief John Hicks as replacement. Hicks proved to be no more willing to cooperate with DuVal than Neamathala had been. Sometime in 1837, Hicks took his following and joined the Seminole Nation. Colonel Matthew Arbuckle then appointed Chief John Blount as Principal Chief of the Apalachicola Band. Blount had always been friendly toward the Americans and continued to be so until his death in 1834. Upon Blount's death, young Chief John Yellow Hair, or Nocose Yohole, Chief Blount's brother-in-law, was appointed Principal Chief of the Apalachicolas in Texas. Yellow Hair returned to Florida serving jointly with his cousin, John Walker, Mulatto King's Son, until the last of the Apalachicolas were removed to the Indian Territory in October 1838.

During Chief Blount's tenure, the Apalachicola Band became known as the Friendly Apalachicolas. First as Muscogee Creeks, then later as Apalachicola Creeks. The male members of the tribe had served as warriors, guides, and scouts in the American Armed Forces from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War. Some of the most fearless of the Buffalo Soldiers are descendants of the Apalachicola. Two of these are Adam Payne and Pompe Factor, both of whom were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for extreme bravery during the Battle of Staked Plains in Texas in the 1880's.

Today, the Apalachicola Band of Creek Indians no longer have a reservation in Florida, although the Florida membership still call the Apalachicola River area home. Bristol, Florida, is the seat of tribal government and there is a satellite office in Blountstown, Florida. Today's combined membership in Florida and Texas is less than 500 men, women and children. The Apalachicola Band are Treaty Indians.

Not all researchers agree on the history and tribal grounds of early Native Americans in Florida so read information on this issue from several sources to gain a deeper understanding of the issues. Tribal groups particular to our local area include Euchee, Chickasaw, Muskogee Creek, probably Choctaw, and the Alabama, Coosada (Koasati), Chatas and Sawoki. When tracing Indian ancestors in Okaloosa County, search the counties between Mobile, AL. and the



Apalachicola River, FL. During the later part of the 19th century Creeks from south Alabama and South Georgia migrated into West Florida, adding to the small Indian population already present here. Some of those who were removed, upon returning to their home area tried to stay as close as possible to their ancestral tribal grounds. Florida Indians tended to live together in small family groups, usually in remote areas to avoid undue attention or trouble. This way they could also move quickly to another area if necessary. Creek country was from Pensacola, FL to the Apalachicola River; Seminoles were generally from Apalachicola to the East and South, the Uchees favored Uchee Valley and down to Ft. Walton Beach, FL. The Creek/Seminole people, more connected to the Georgia Creeks, centered near Perry, FL. They were not particularly close to the other tribal groups in the Panhandle. Walton County was a center of gravity in the Creek wars of 1836-37. Understanding what happened in the Florida panhandle in those years is most significant. TG

**WEWA HOMECOMING PARADE**  
**Photos by Ms. Lyn Wynn and Mr. Billy Childress-ENJOY!**



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**THE WEWA LIBRARY**

**by Joyelle Linton**

The Charles Whitehead Public Library offers a wide variety of programs for children, teens and adults. Many of our programs are reoccurring such as our weekly Budding Bookworms Storytime on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. or our adult monthly book club. Sometimes we are able to offer special adult presentations. During the month of November, we have two special guests for our Wewahitchka community.

Are you Interested in learning more about Tupelo Honey? We are honored to have a local resident, Pam Palmer, owner of Blue-Eyed Girl Honey, to visit the library. Her presentation will be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> and at 3:00 p.m. She will be discussing beekeeping techniques, unique flavor attributes, followed by a question-and-answer session. We would love to have you join us to learn about this process.

Our library is very excited to announce a visit from Southern author and historian, Dale Cox. He has written many books educating others on local history, such as the battle of Marianna and the deaths at the Dozier school. Mr. Cox will be discussing the Battle of Negro Fort, also called the battle of Prospect Bluff. This educational event will be on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Many of his books are available at our library and other branches in our library system.



The Wewahitchka Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9:00 – 5:00 CT. For more information, please call us at (850) 639-2419. Visit the library to pick up a quarterly current event guide or visit our website to find out about all of our current events at [www.nwrls.com/events/.JL](http://www.nwrls.com/events/.JL)

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### "Tupelo Radio Group"

by Tom Wynn

The group continues to add new members and is in the process of installing an antenna on the *Rise N Shine Ranch*, barn is now complete. The base is now designed to be hinged up or down at will. In case of a bad storm, it can easily be put down by two people. The 30-foot antenna on the outside of *Rise N Shine Ranch* barn will be a benefit to the small group when the time comes in the future of any other major storms that come our way.

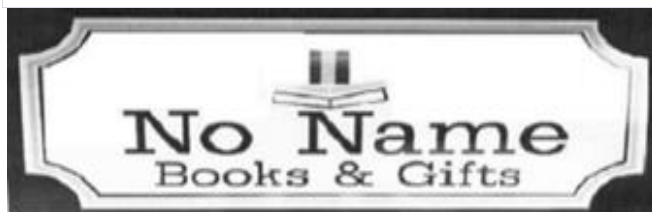
A logo design was fashioned, and a new name was chosen by the group, antennas are going up at some locations between White City and Wewahitchka and beyond to the county line as well.



**In case you didn't know: "The Tupelo Radio Group"** is making a GMRS Radio network, where the repeaters are to be located has yet to be determined. We have started doing regular testing on Sunday afternoons at 4pm to track our progress. We are looking for some Ham Operators in the Wewa area to join us. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact: **Mr. Dudley Balmer** at: 317-379-1644. (Radioddity email address: [www.radioddity.com](http://www.radioddity.com))

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### VETERAN OF THE MONTH

**NELLIE ANN BEATTY  
WADE**

By Lyn Wynn

Nellie Ann Beatty Wade, the  
oldest practicing nurse in  
Florida, before she passed  
away. This past September

she would have been 100 years old. She was born on  
September 21, 1923, in Washington, Pennsylvania, to John  
Edward and Nellie Agnes Beatty. Coming from a large  
family of seven brothers and three sisters, Wade holds a  
special place in the healthcare community.

After graduating from Washington High School, she  
pursued nursing school in Wheeling, West Virginia.  
Following her nursing education, Wade enlisted in the U.S.  
Army in January of 1945. Serving as a First Lieutenant and  
Army nurse in Kyoto, Japan, she was a valuable member of  
the 364th unit at General Station Hospital. During WWII,  
she also contributed her nursing skills on the USS Marigold  
Hospital Ship. Her service continued until her honorable  
discharge in April of 1946.

Upon a family vacation in Wewahitchka, Florida, Nellie  
was drawn to the area and decided to make it her home. In  
1948, she embarked on her local nursing career, initially  
working alongside Dr. Anderson. Over the years, she  
collaborated with esteemed physicians like Dr. Harold B.  
Canning, Dr. Orr, Dr. Muina, and Dr. Blanton. For the past  
two decades, she has been dedicated to Dr. Michael Barnes.

Nellie's impact extends beyond the medical field. As the  
founding figure of the Saddling Seminoles, she played a  
crucial role in shaping the lives of numerous youth through  
equestrian events. This program, open to children regardless  
of age, gender, race, or economic status, provided a valuable  
sporting opportunity for the community.

Known affectionately as "Miss Nellie," her dedication knew  
no bounds. She was available day and night as a midwife,  
also worked at the St. Joe Papermill as a Nurse, even  
providing veterinary services when needed. Her legacy as a  
devoted nurse and skilled shot administrator will be forever  
remembered and cherished by the community.

Nellie Wade was preceded in death by her parents, John  
Edward Beatty and Nellie Agnes McGuffie Beatty, her  
husband Lindsay Wade, 10 siblings, niece Katie Stripling,  
nephew Jimmy Beatty, Linda Ann (Tunnie) Miller and son-in-  
law Daniel Miller, and several other family members.

She is survived by her children: Richard Lindsay (Algy)  
Wade (Stephanie), Wenman Harold (Chipper) Wade  
(Vickie), and Timothy McGuffie (Timmy) Wade (Jane), as  
well as Dr. Michael Barnes. Nellie leaves behind seven  
grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren, along with  
nieces and nephews.

During an interview with Meredith TerHaar, a reporter for  
Florida NBC News affiliate WJHG, Nellie expressed her  
dedication to nursing. She emphasized that for her, it's not  
just a job, but a lifelong passion. Having served in a  
Cadet Nurse Corps unit during WWII and receiving training at  
Wheeling Hospital in West Virginia, Nellie Wade's



remarkable journey continues to inspire those around her. She was an integral part of the family practice of Dr. Michael Barnes in Wewahitchka, Florida. When asked about retirement plans, Nellie responded, "What would I do? Sit and watch the TV all the time? Really and truly, it's not a job, it's not a chore. I've always worked and I love it." A wonderful woman was she! Ms. Nellie passed away in December 2015. **LW**



**WEWAHITCHKA HISTORIAL SOCIETY WORKS TO  
RECORD OUR HISTORY AND PROTECT OUR  
INHERITANCE. FALL FESTIVAL 2023**

### **Corn Griffin: A Champion's Legacy in Wewahitchka, Florida by Tom Wynn**

John Charles "Corn" Griffin (July 24, 1911 – January 9, 1973) was an American heavyweight boxer whose career lasted from 1930 to 1936 and included the memorable June 14, 1934 TKO loss to James J. Braddock, recreated for the 2005 film *Cinderella Man*.

A native of Florida, Griffin was born in Blountstown, a small community which is the county seat of Calhoun County. After winning his first fight, a 1930 bout with Charles "Ranger" Pond, he turned professional in 1931 with much promise, but was KO'd by Bob Godwin in 1933. The only in retrospect heavily publicized fight with Braddock in Madison Square Garden the following year was the highlight of his career and, as dramatized in *Cinderella Man*, had Russell Crowe (as Braddock) punching it out with Polish boxer Art Binkowski, portraying Griffin.

During his professional career, he also served as a sparring partner for former world heavyweight boxing champion Primo Carnera and, following his final bout, a 1936 Fourth of July loss to Barney Brock, left the ring, working in a number of jobs and serving in the army during World War II.

After the war, Griffin became a police officer in Columbus, Georgia. According to the August 25, 1950 issue of the

Panama City News-Herald, he didn't carry the traditional policeman's club "since his old one-two sledgehammer-like fists are as good as ever, but may be not as fast".

Corn Griffin's remarkable journey from the streets of Brooklyn to the heights of boxing glory is a testament to the power of determination and the potential for greatness within us all. After retiring from the ring, Griffin found a new home and a fresh chapter in the serene town of Wewahitchka, Florida.

In the picturesque setting of Wewahitchka, Griffin discovered a tranquil haven far removed from the urban hustle and bustle. It was here that he met and fell in love with a local woman named Dorothy, who would become his steadfast companion and pillar of support in the years that followed.

Dorothy, a beloved figure in the tight-knit community, quickly became an integral part of Griffin's life. Their union was marked by a deep mutual respect and shared values that formed the foundation of a loving partnership. Together, they forged a life rooted in family, community, and a shared commitment to making a positive impact on the world around them.

In the idyllic surroundings of Wewahitchka, Griffin and Dorothy welcomed their greatest joy, a daughter named Robin. As she grew, Robin witnessed firsthand the values of resilience, determination, and compassion that defined her father's character. The Griffin household became a nurturing environment, where the bonds of family were cherished above all else.

Griffin's retirement from boxing did not signal a retreat from the world of sports. Instead, he channeled his passion and expertise into coaching and mentoring aspiring young athletes in the Wewahitchka community. His gym became a sanctuary for dreams, where he imparted not only boxing skills but also life lessons of discipline, perseverance, and the belief in one's own potential.

Beyond the gym, Griffin and Dorothy became active members of the Wewahitchka community, contributing to local initiatives and lending their support to causes close to their hearts. The couple's generosity and commitment to service endeared them to their neighbors, leaving an indelible mark on the town they had come to call home.

As the years passed, the Griffins' love story continued to flourish, serving as an example of enduring partnership and shared purpose. Their legacy was one of unity, resilience, and the belief in the transformative power of community.



James F. Rish, a close friend of Corn Griffin, along with James Earnest, his son, decided to pay homage to their beloved friend by naming a street after him in their subdivision in Wewahitchka. This act of honor stands as a testimony to the man many people loved.

Tragically, in the distant future, Corn Griffin passed away, leaving behind a legacy that extended far beyond the boxing ring. His impact on Wewahitchka and its residents was profound, and his memory lives on in the hearts of those whose lives he touched.

Dorothy, alongside their daughter Robin, carried forward Griffin's spirit of generosity and service, ensuring that his legacy continued to thrive in the town he had come to love. The Griffin Foundation, established in his honor, continued its mission of providing opportunities and support to young individuals, a testament to Griffin's enduring commitment to making a difference.

Corn Griffin's story remains an inspiration to all who hear it, a reminder that greatness can emerge from even the most challenging circumstances. His journey from Brooklyn to Wewahitchka is a testament to the transformative power of love, community, and the unwavering belief in one's own potential. In the hearts of those who knew him, Corn Griffin's legacy continues to shine as a beacon of hope and a reminder that with determination and a steadfast belief in oneself, anything is possible.

## NOTES of FAITH

by Pastor Dudley Balmer

Though most of our ministry continues to be with folks nationally we still get a lot of calls from our local community. I think any of our local pastors would agree, that when we get a possible end of life call or a death call, that demands our immediate response. Often these calls don't come at the most opportune time, yet that doesn't lessen the requirement for forgoing personal activities to give priority to the family's needs. Recently I received such a late evening call. Within minutes I was on my way to Panama City for what I expected to be an end of life visit with a special individual. Fortunately, the person was awake and quite able to carry on a conversation. We discussed life and previous life choices. We talked about falling short of what God wants us to be and about grace and forgiveness. This person had lived a full life and had cultivated a rich relationship with the Father in later life. The main regret of this long time believer was that they had not witnessed to others of their relationship with God. This person was visibly shaken and troubled that they had not shared their relationship with Christ with family and folks in their life.

Over the next days and weeks I have spent a lot of time thinking of that visit. Of a lifetime that covered many years, the one troubling regret of that life was that they had failed to witness to their family and community. Talk about sermon material. Jesus told us to spread the word to all the world. This good person, prayer and follower of Christ, felt that they would be held to account for their failure to follow Jesus' command. Hmm. What about me? How about you? We believers minister. We are available to help our brothers and sisters as they need. Many of us support a church and help our favorite charity. We try to live by example and to show others that we are a Christian by the way we live our lives. These are all good and godly things that we should do. But do we verbally witness to others about our relationship with Christ? Do we tell others of how God interacts in? our daily life, or how the Holy Spirit sometimes saves us from ourselves. This is not a suggestion from an old, retired pastor but a command from Jesus himself.

One day each of us will reach that end-of-life moment. Perhaps we will be in a situation to reflect on our lives, perhaps not. If the situation allows, could we say that we have shared how God walked through our lives with us. Have we shared that journey with everyone we could? Did we tell someone who was struggling how we were forgiven? As we minister to someone in need did, we tell them that all good things come from God? Did we tell them, that it is having a relationship with Jesus that we enter the gates of heaven?

In our world today, in our country that was founded on principles of Godly faith, it takes courage to witness in a lost society. Even so, our responsibility to verbally witness remains. It was no less challenging in Jesus' time. Our strength should come from Christ which is within us. Let us not come to the end of our time with the concerns of my friend. Until next time, when I again share my personal musings of faith, remember that if you go with God, God will certainly go with you.



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The Wewa News is a locally owned and operated local newspaper, created solely for the enjoyment of the people who live in the Wewa area. Our purpose is to bring "Good News" and "Whatever" to our locals' attention. I hope to bring back some joy and fun into our lives again and bring us closer than ever before. Thank you to those that support our efforts.

**Notice:** The Wewa News operates in the Private. Freedom of speech and of the Press are fundamental to our effort of expression, as well as God given rights as men and women on the land called Florida. The publishing day is the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month, unless notified otherwise.

### Up Coming Events and Other: Mark Your Calendars

**The Local Bee Association** meets at 6pm in the Gulf County Extension Agents meeting room on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm, but is subject to change, we are growing fast.

**The Friends of the Wewa Library's** meet at the Wewa Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 9:30 AM. Come early and meet and greet with us in the conference room.

**Wewahitchka Historical Society** meets every month on the Third Thursday at 6pm at the Presbyterian Church in Hwy 71.

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

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Created for you by Aaron Wynn