



THE WEWA NEWS™



“The Good News Newspaper!”

NOVEMBER 2022 >> Vol. 4 No. 11 << A FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER Take One!

CITY COUNCIL TELLS OVER 20 WEWA FAMILIES THE CITY CAN NOT AFFORD TO PAVE THEIR DIRT ROAD

by Tom Wynn

During the October city meeting several Wewa residents who live on Corn Griffin Street discussed their issues with the dirt road named after the famous Army and civilian Boxer who retired in Wewa many years ago. Telling the council how troubling it was to drive on the dirt road on rainy days and after with washboard ripples that would shake a mouth full of your teeth while traveling back and forth to town and work.

Mr. Jackie Husband, the City Engineer, was asked by Mayor Phillip Gaskin what the cost would be to pave that dirt road. Husband said a rough estimate would be about \$250,000 for 3/4 of a mile of dirt road that has never been paved before.

The mayor said that it had never been prepared or paved before, it would be very costly to pave in today's prices thus the city could not afford to pave it. The community representatives, Mr. Royce Watkins, a retired Navy veteran, came before the board as did others who live on Corn Griffin Street, requesting the city to pave the road as soon as possible. At least 22 families live down that road and they all are paying taxes to the city and to the county.

Mayor Gaskin said that the city could not afford to have their road paved at that estimate.

MR. DAVID PAUL CONTINUES WORK ON THE SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

by Tom Wynn

Mr. David Paul is the supervisor of the new City Parks and Rec Centers Department; With his hardworking crew they have been very busy working on the old Senior Citizen Center (which was donated to the City of Wewa by the Wewahitchka Woman's Club many years ago).

Along with his small crew he has been working on the Senior Citizen Center floor and has managed to polish it to look like new, saving the city thousands of dollars. He said his crew is working on the repairs of the building's windows, AC unit, walk-in freezer replacement (the City Council agreed to investigate the

cost of a new freezer that would hold a lot of frozen dinners that feed the senior citizens around the city who are homebound and those that come to the center daily. The city has made a major effort to restore the building to its former glory and make life better for the seniors who come to socialize with each other from Wewa and Port St. Joe, periodically. The city meetings are held in the same location monthly and any other special meetings that comes about.

DISTRICT 2-A MUST VOTE!

by Tom Wynn

With a tight race between Billy Traylor and Ward McDaniel, the Republicans voted Mr. Traylor as their Republican candidate. This November 8th citizens of Wewahitchka will vote again between Mr. Michael Charles Riley and Mr. Billy Traylor, those that live in District 2, that is. Traylor at one time or another, was a city commissioner, the mayor of Wewa, as well as a Gulf County Commissioner for many years. He also served as supervisor for the TDC in Gulf County.

Mr. Michael Riley had worked for the city of Wewa as an employee in the past.

No matter who you vote for, please come and do your civic duty, otherwise no complaints when your man did not make it into office. Make your VOTE COUNT, IT IS...YOUR...RIGHT! USE IT! There is several things on the ballot for you to vote for, yes or no, this man or woman etc. etc. Consider doing a little study before you cast your vote.

By casting your vote, you can see how important one vote can mean folks. History tells us that, especially in a small town like Wewa. Every vote counts! Wewa is doing early voting, so go visit the voting booth at the city library and say hi to the folks that serve you. They do a great job making sure we have a good experience casting our vote for the candidate of our choice. U.S. Veterans and your ancestors made it possible for you to be able to freely cast your vote, so honor them by giving the voting booth a visit.

PRAY√ THINK√ VOTE! SMILE :)

CITY LIBRARY ASKING VETERANS TO SEND IN THEIR MILITARY PHOTOS FOR WEWA HISTORY

by Tom Wynn

The Charles Whitehead Public Library has asked our local Veterans to send in photos of themselves during their military career. These photos will be on display at the library for Veterans Day and local history events.



THE WEWA WOMAN'S CLUB FLAG PARK WILL HAVE MORE VETS SOON AND THE VET MONUMENT LOCATED IN FRONT OF THE OLD

COURT HOUSE WILL GET A NEW HOME AT THE FLAG PARK!

The GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club continues to sell bricks (we need 4 more brick orders to make the next batch) for the Veteran's Flag Park at Lake Alice. The price is now \$60 for each veteran brick which includes the name of the veteran, rank and service emblem they served in. To order a brick, mail all information and check to P.O. Box 94, Wewahitchka, Florida 32465. Make check payable to: GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club. Local meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Mrs. Terri Norris at: 850-832-9670 for further information. They are selling a 1875 commemorative plate with most of the City of Wewa's old landmarks on it. It is a great piece of history. The cost is \$20 and is a fundraiser for the Woman's Club as well.

COME HELP THE WEWA WOMAN'S CLUB FUNDRAISER

by Terri Norris

The 10th Annual "Pulled Pork Dinner" has come around again. We will be serving the Pull Pork Dinner which includes sandwiches, baked beans, Cole slaw and dessert. The cost this year will be \$8 per plate. Please pick up your dinner at **Glad Tidings Fellowship Hall** or we can do a delivery to you in the Wewa area as well-call Terri at: 850-832-9670.

The Wewa Woman's Club invites you to join them on Tuesday November 8th at Glad Tidings Fellowship Hall at 5:30 for fellowship and food, meeting starts at 6:00 PM. Come join us ladies! A special guest speaker will be a young lady named Miss Flowers, will be teaching us how to make homemade mozzarella cheese. **TN**

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Soon to be known as "History of The Past"

By Tom Wynn

The old house that many of us drove by often on the Old Panama road will soon be gone and replaced by a brand-new home. Mrs. Barbra Atkins' house, which is one of the oldest houses in the Wewa area, was damaged by Hurricane Michael 4 years ago this past October 10th. Mrs. Barbra said she lived in the house for over 45 years and that she knew that the house was built in the early 1900's. I loved looking at the house for the past half century as did my father and family. She looks forward to her new home but will be months before she and her parents see that day.

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MATTHEW 22:35-40



Photographer Judi McCormack-
MORAL OF THIS STORY...

The Photographer distracted the snake for a second giving that lifesaving second for the bird to fly away into freedoms of the sky. Corn Snake lost a meal that day, but nature is not always so kind.

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WEWAHITCHKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Wewahitchka Historical Society
Wewa News October 2022

Members met on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at the Corner Café. Discussion was made concerning members attending a Cemetery Workshop on October 21, 2022, at the Charles Whitehead Public Library. Following the workshop participants will go to Jehu Cemetery to clean headstones. Upcoming events that the Historical Society will be taking part including a fundraiser yard sale at Lake Alice Park on Saturday, October 29, 2022. Some of the proceeds from this will go to "Help Save the Old Gulf County Courthouse." Another event will be the second annual Local History Day at Charles Whitehead Public Library, Saturday, November 12.

This event was a great success last year, and plans are to make it even bigger this year. Unfortunately, the Christmas at the Courthouse has been cancelled this year, but hopefully will be scheduled again next year. Linda Rozier Davis shared with members the information that she and other members have put together on the Church Project that is being compiled. They are gathering information on churches (both current and in the past) in Wewahitchka. Members are working on some fundraising projects for next year. The Historical Society are still selling the 2022 Afghans depicting historical pictures of Wewa buildings, people, and places. If you would like an Afghan, in either cranberry or pewter, please call Dianne Semmes at: 850.227.6425.

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

TW

Philippians 4:7

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Government employees, do you know what is the penalty for violating the oath of office?

- The fourth federal law, 18 U.S.C. 1918 provides penalties for violation of oath of office described in 5 U.S.C. 7311 which include: (1) removal from office and; (2) confinement or a fine. The definition of "advocate" is further specified in Executive Order 10450 which for the purposes of enforcement supplements....U.S.C.7311.
-

Psalms 118



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THE WEWA LIBRARY

by Joyelle Linton

The library has several programs lined up to complement our 2nd annual Wewahitchka Local History Day. This year’s event will be held on Saturday, November 12 from 10:00-2:00 CT. View local artifacts on display and speak with some of the locals that discovered these items. Browse our growing local history and genealogy collection. Local civic organizations will have booths set up to share information with the community. **Enjoy live music from Michael Lister and Greg Wood.** Free lunch will be served. For the kids, face painting and tattoos will be available. This event is free, and everyone is invited to join us.

Recently, the **Florida Public Archaeology Network** presented a Cemetery Resource Protection Program at the library. In partnership with the Wewahitchka Historical Society, a morning session was held at the library, followed by a hands-on learning experience at Jehu Cemetery.

On Friday November 18th at 10:00 a.m. CT the Florida Public Archaeology Network will visit the library to present, “Archaeology of Northwest Florida: a tour through our heritage. This presentation features a virtual tour of the major archaeological discoveries in the Panhandle of Florida. You’ll learn about 16th-century shipwrecks, Native American encampments and ceremonial centers, a civil war gun battery, a Spanish fort and mission, historic cemeteries, and the nation’s oldest battleship!

On December 5 at 2 p.m. CT join us for a Virtual/In-Person program, “Gulf County During WWII”. Explore some of the resources available at the State Archives of Florida and learn how they can help us understand how the state navigated World War II on the home front. From patrolling for submarines in fishing boats to buying war bonds, Floridians invested their time, money and skills in victory. Join archivist **Matthew Storey, Florida Archives Historian**, to discover more about using records at the State Archives to reveal details on how the state and citizens worked together in extraordinary times. This event will be live via zoom and can be viewed at home or at the Library. For the Zoom Link, please email Sarah at sburris@nwrls.com. **library phone no. (850) 639-2419.** Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00-5:00 CT. **JL**



WEWA AND ST. JOE SENIORS HAVE A BIG BBQ FEAST

by Tom Wynn

The Senior Citizens of Wewa and Port St. Joe all came together to a super BBQ meal in Wewa’s Senior Center. All had tons of fun and food. The Center was all decked out with fancy festive decorations, lots of veggies, meats and the last course of 4 or 5 sweets, the tastiest Southern favorites, Shzzzz! Don’t tell the kids!

Tom Wynn entertained the group by teasing them about who was the oldest in the room (Mrs. Vera Rosier being 98, “The Queen of Wewa”). To our surprise there were several in their late eighties that did not look a day over 60. Miss Louise was next up at age 91. The fellows played Pool while Mrs. Jo Ellen Campbell played the piano in the background.

Altogether we counted 50 of us “Silver Seniors” and some of the city workers joined us for lunch. Love them guys!! Sorry you missed it folks, but there will be another Feast, Turkey Day, a Thanksgiving to the Lord. **TW**

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WEWA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

by Polly Romiti Senior Beat

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we will start by thanking the City of Wewa for the wonderful fish fry at beautiful Lake Alice Park recognizing the county's seniors. Our senior clients from both ends of the county had a blast, especially the pristine scenery. We are also grateful for the increased quarterly contributions from the Board of County Commissions. This will be a great help in expanding the scope of services provided in our area. Couple that with increased funding from our Lead Agency, now we're on a roll.

Our Wewa Center is expanding activities for Senior Day Clients to include Exercises, Movies, Cornhole, Bingo, Billiards and more. These activities engage individuals in a variety of ways to decrease the dangers associated with social isolation. **All activities are free and open to anyone 60 years and older or with other disabilities.** Transportation to/from the Center may be available.

The Wewa Center was able to expand Home Delivered Meals to a sizable portion of clients who have been on the waiting list for some time. Volunteers are an integral part of bridging the gap for critical services needed for home-bound senior citizens. If interested in volunteering, contact the PSJ office at 850-229-8466 for more information.

A Volunteer Senior Companion event is scheduled in PSJ Nov. 6th at 10:00am EST. Join us for refreshments and learn how you can help your senior community. The GCSCA is still searching for Board members to represent the North portion of Gulf County. Bring your ideas, energy, and a willingness to help your community. Contact Eddie Fields, Executive Director at (850) 229-8466.

As we go into our Holiday season, both of our Centers WEWA will be closed Nov 11th for Veterans Day, and November 24-25th in observance of Thanksgiving. Site manager Renece Gainer is happy to report that new building signage is coming soon. Renece invites you to stop by for a cup of coffee, play a game of pool, socialize, or take part in various activities. If anyone is interested in more information, please contact Polly Romiti at (850)229-8466. **PR**

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OVERSTREET FIRE TOWER HISTORY STORY by Faye Davis



I was 5 years old in the year of 1968 and I was excited about my first day of kindergarten. My mama took me to what is now the Wewa Senior Center. I did my 1/2 day, and my teacher(s) were waiting for someone to pick me up. My parents worked for the Florida Forest Service, and both were working that day. My teacher(s) had to drive me 14 miles to my house in

Overstreet. My teacher/driver informed my mama that she couldn't drive me home every day. After I was told I wouldn't be going back to kindergarten, I curled up in a chair and said, "I guess I have to go back to work." When I was an infant until I was able to walk **Gene Hanlon's mom, Mary Frances**, tended to me while my mama was in the fire tower. Mama would tell me it's time to go to work, maybe that's why I was excited to start kindergarten. I was working and not getting paid. Because I couldn't go to kindergarten my mama became my teacher. My mama, **Verna Marshall**, taught me my letters, numbers, and colors. To be in 1st grade I had to take a test. My mama was worried that I wouldn't score high enough to enter 1st grade. As far as ranking I came in 2nd. The Overstreet fire tower became my 1st classroom. Thank you, mama. You were a great teacher!

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**THE WEWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS
ON THE FUNDRAISER**

By Ann Johnson

Just wanted to give everyone an update on our Fundraiser/Yard sale in Lake Alice Park. I want to thank everyone who donated money, time or items and bought things to make our fundraiser a huge success ! I don't want to single anyone out, but I feel I really need to thank **Tom Godwin** for his huge contribution.

Nov 12th --- Local History Day-- Wewahitchka Library There is still time to help if you have a few minutes to spare on Nov 12th from 8-2 cst,
Contact person: **Ann 850-867-5970**

GREETINGS FROM JASON MILLER

Happy Fall, whew, we made it through another Florida summer. Time to enjoy the other side of Florida weather, cooler & less humid. Some of you were able to avoid costly repairs on your air conditioner & some of you struggled with deciding on eating a meal or pay to repair your comfort machine. Most decide on the latter, dealing with Florida's relentless humidity, who can blame you. Now that your comfort machine can relax a bit, maybe it could use some maintenance, cleaning of the coils & fan, & drain lines could save you some money on your electric bill. Either way, it's a good time to have it serviced & prepare it for another Florida summer. Also, as it receives a cleaning the heating side can be checked so it can be ready to keep you warm . Thank you for trusting us with your comfort needs and enjoy the cooler days!

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LOCAL HISTORY DAY!

The Wewahitchka Library is preparing for our 2nd annual Local History Day, and they need your help! Do you have any photos or documents that represent Wewahitchka's history? They are looking for any photos that show the city of Wewa, housing, people, careers, etc. of Wewahitchka Florida. These photos will be used in slideshows at the Local History events, possible exhibits, and archived in our local history department. Help them to preserve our history for future generations! Please give the Librarian Joyelle Linton a call to make an appointment. Thank you!

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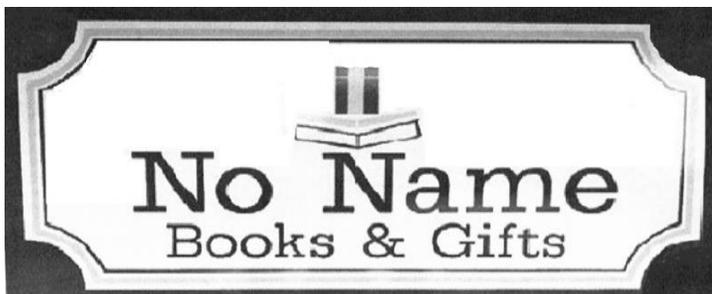
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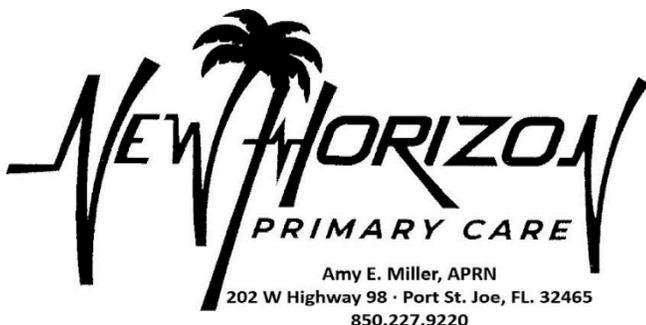


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Isaiah 1:4

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

by Tom Wynn

"I cannot brag about my love for our Creator because I am too weak to do so, but I can brag about his love for me, because his love never fails me."

As requested by several readers and Supporters of The Wewa News I will do my best to include "Inspirational Stories" and "Food for Thought" in each newspaper as I did in the past.

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DID YOU KNOW?

by Faye Davis

Did you know that before fingerprints were used that the Bertillon system was in use to Identify suspects?

If you have any "Food for Thought" you would like to share with us locals our email address is:
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**BAY COUNTY PUBLIC
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by Laura Roesch



What a great visit with the 1st and 2nd grade classes of WEWA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL! A loud and enthusiastic shout out to Ms. Kim Ludlam and 1st grade teachers BRANDY GORTMAN, TONYA GREENWOOD, LINDSEY SMITH and LAURA PERRY...and 2nd grade teachers KELLY SHIVER, KARA BREMER, TEILSHA COLVIN and KENETH TSCHUDI...always a good day in our world on books when children ask for “harder” books. How great is that? And as always, a huge thank you to our Team FLOW volunteers ...Deborah, Sharon, Nicki, Rebecca and Miss Betty Cleckley! None of this would be possible without every single one of you! **LR**

LASER POINTING BY ANYONE IS IT LEGAL? Let’s Take a Look...by Tom Wynn

Laser light can be very dangerous to the human eye as well as to animals. Some folks like to play with a laser and think nothing of the danger involved. It is a wise idea to never point laser light directly at a human or paint a car or truck with a laser light. Never point one at your

family pet or any animal in the face. Never point one at your own face. Never point at a laser at an airplane either.

Having spent 20 years flying in helicopters and fixed wing planes, I know the dangers of pointing a laser light beam at pilots. Not only can you potentially blind them, but you could also cause a crash of that aircraft “Danger Will Robinson, Danger!” As the Robot would say to Will in The Lost in Space series.

Having done the research for a traffic ticket case once I found the U.S. Air Force research on the subject matter in their medical manual. Class 3 Lasers produce dangerous laser light when turned on and aimed at the eyes.

Please consider this: The Florida Statue says it is a **3rd degree felony** see **Florida Statue 784.062 (3)(a) and (b)** causing injury to the eyes. Not to mention the Civil and Tort lawsuits that could result in you pointing a laser at someone and causing bodily injury. **Notice:** This information is for educational purposes only and is not legal advice.

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TOM WYNN VIA EMAIL:

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Ephesians 1:3-7

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WellCare

by Jo Ellen Campbell

On October 13, 2022, Kimberly Smith, a Medicare advisor with WellCare Health Plans, came to the Wewahitchka Senior Center. She came to share her knowledge about the various plans offered by WellCare. Her goal is to educate seniors about the various health care options available to them. She also treated the Seniors to a delicious lunch.

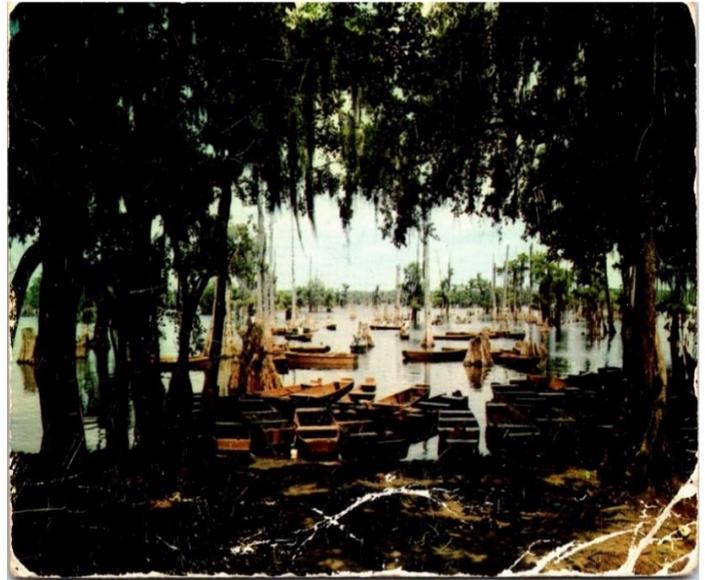
She is the representative for Gulf County as well as Washington, Jackson, Holmes, and Tallahassee counties. As she answered our questions, she pointed out the benefits of an Advantage plan in general and explained the advantages of WellCare. She showed that she thoroughly understands the plans WellCare offers and how other plans such as Tricare might work with them. She was very interesting and enjoyable to talk with and brought plenty of literature and little items to take home. One of the programs also offered for people with Medicaid and Medicare is called a Dual plan. The Wewahitchka Senior Center is going to host Kimberly Smith this month. In the meantime, she is available at: kimberly.smith@wellcare.com and her contact number is: **850-567-3861**.

IN CASE YOU FORGOT!

"...all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable (no one can place a Lien on these God-given rights) rights that among those(meaning there are other rights not mentioned here, oh King, government!) are LIFE, LIBERTY and THE PURSUIT of happiness."

Source: Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

KEEP YOUR MONEY LOCAL FOLKS



**A SWEET BIT OF WEWLA FLORIDA HISTORY,
"The Dirt, the Water and the Trees did not come cheap!"**

ROWELL'S FISH CAMP

by Tom Wynn

Be proud of your family history in America! We are the greatest nation that ever existed, an idea that worked and continues to work today, despite the news media on TV and the Internet. Wewa is artwork by our Creator who fashioned our area of Florida into a tapestry of the universe.

This very old postcard was provided by Mr. Gene Hanlon for our viewing. It is a photo of Rowell's Fish Camp, which at the time was the oldest fish camp on the Famous Deadlakes, having been owned and operated for 35 years at the time of the photograph.

Back many years ago when fishing and boating were paramount in the Famous Deadlakes. Wewa was the epic center for fisherman coming from all over the south to fish and enjoy the great weather as well. Wewa is "God's Country", and many old fishermen knew it. Many famous movie stars, producers, directors and politickerts love to fish and hunt in the Wewa area as well.

Today with the price of gas and poor economy as well as Covid-19 scare, fewer folks will take to the road to see and experience nature as it is in the raw. The beauty of Wewa and the Famous Dead Lakes is known worldwide. This old photo postcard was taken some time around the 1930's, near the West Arm Creek bridge for those locals.

Psalm 29

GRACELAND

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See Jodi Rustin- Sales Hwy 71 In Wewa
We will be selling The Wewa Historical Society
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out! Call 850-481-0855



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- SMILEY HONEY-The Bertonneau family.....(850) 639-5672
- WEWA BEE & HONEY-Greg Skipper.....(850) 819-4458

CALL 911 in Case of All Emergencies

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- TAUNTON BUILDING SUPPLY-Adam.....(850) 639-2336
- THE WEWA HISTORICAL Society-Ann.....(850) 867-5970
- THE WEWA NEWS-Tom.....(850) 404-2914
- TUPELO NUTRITION.....(850) 639-1007
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TW

THE SHRIMP LADY

CALL (850) 866-8520

WE ARE ON HIGHWAY 71
South just before downtown Wewa. Come on in! We have
Cantu Family Tupelo Honey, too. We also carry the Wewa News, while supplies last.



Kathe Jones

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INFORMATIONAL NOTICE

The Wewa News is a locally owned and operated 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 of the land called Florida.

WELLCARE BEYOND HEALTHCARE. A BETTER YOU.

Give Kimberly Smith a call and learn about
Additional Medicare Benefits you can receive from
the government, FREE! Call 850-567-3861

Up Coming Events and Other: Mark Your Calendars

The Local Bee Association is meeting at 6pm in the Gulf County Extension Agents meeting room on Tuesday November 1.

The Friends of the Wewa Library's November meeting will be canceled.

Looking for a Conceal Carry private class,
Call Glenn Norris at 850-832-9670. I will work around your schedule.