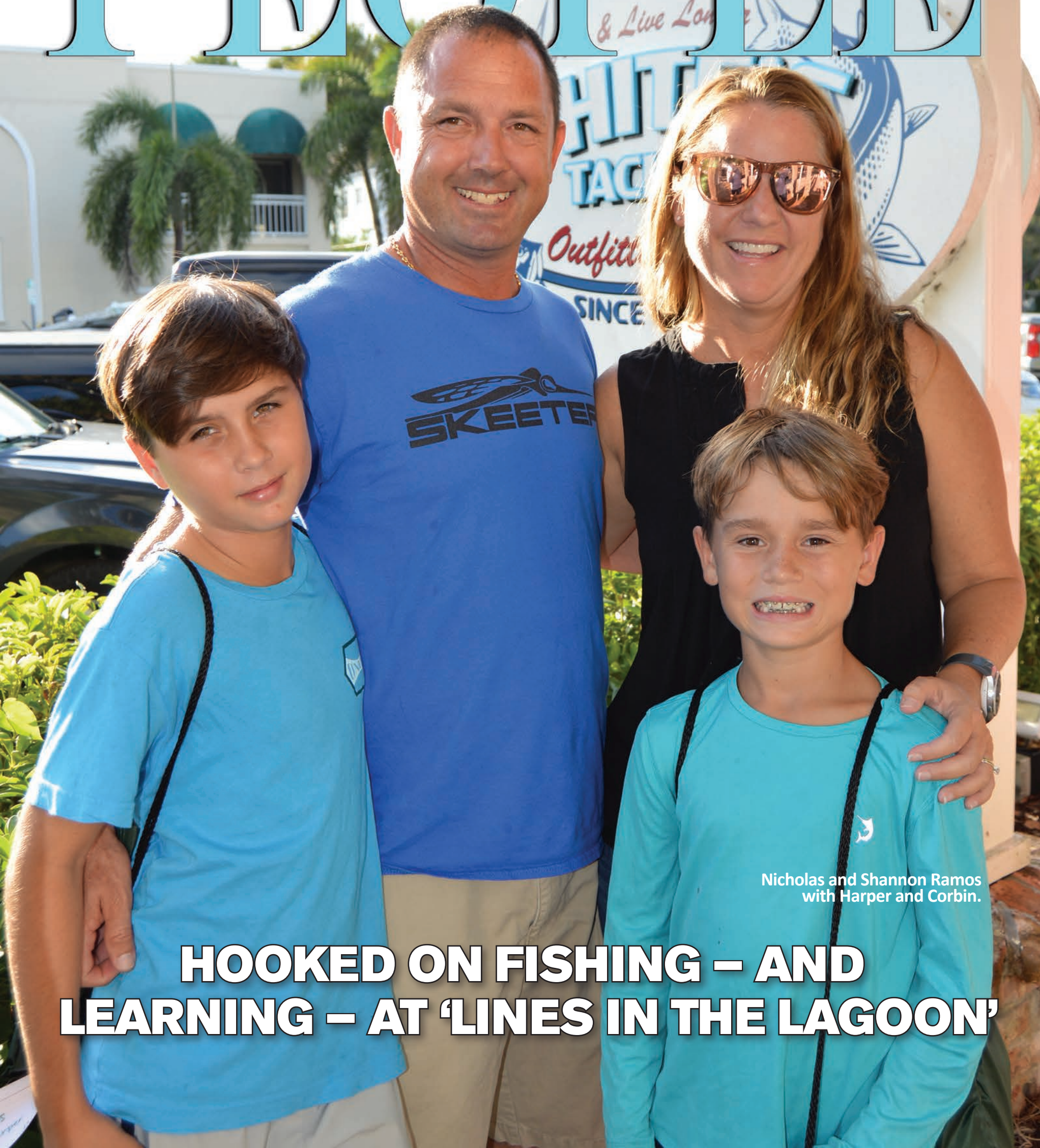


32963

PEOPLE



Nicholas and Shannon Ramos
with Harper and Corbin.

**HOOKED ON FISHING – AND
LEARNING – AT ‘LINES IN THE LAGOON’**

PEOPLE

Hooked on fishing – and learning – at ‘Lines in the Lagoon’



Edie Collins, Carrie Franco and Ashley Simmens.



Sara Anderson, Paul Fafeita and Lauren Tracy.



Payton Andrews, Madeline Richards and Heidi Andrews.



Mateo Vigneault and Gordon Sulcer.

BY STEPHANIE LaBAFF
Staff Writer

WINNERS BOX:

Grand Champion:
CH Brown, 397 inches, the highest cumulative inches for snook, redfish and sea trout

Mystery Fish:
Tyler Beare, 19-inch cubera snapper

Largest Non-Premium Fish:
Ethan Hunt, 44-inch jack

Ugliest Fish:
Axel Brown, 17.5-inch flounder

Biggest Trout:
Mason Sullivan, 17 inches

Biggest Red Fish:
Mathew Vatland, 28.5 inches

Biggest Snook:
Chris Campbell, 40.5 inches

Youngest Anglers:
Finley Durjan, age 4
and Cannon Arnold, age 5



Rob Banzhaf and Austin Banzhaf with Will Della Porta and Kelley Della Porta.

PHOTOS: STEPHANIE LABAFF

The eighth annual Lines in the Lagoon Tri-County Junior Fishing Tournament measured up once again this year, drawing 142 anglers who reeled in a whopping 368 fish during the recent seven-hour catch and release tournament.

Participants, from kindergarten through 12th grade, had gathered on Friday evening for a captains’ meeting at White’s Tackle, where they geared up in preparation for an early day on the lagoon. Bright and early Saturday morning, they fished by boat and on land, and submitted digital photographs of their catches before offering the fish back to the lagoon.

After a long and satisfying day on the water, the fishing fanatics met at Walking Tree Brewery, which donated a portion of beer proceeds, for an awards ceremony and to celebrate a job well done. While youngsters

dined and played yard games, their parents bid on a variety of auction items and purchased raffle tickets for a highly desired Dragonfly paddleboard.

The event is organized annually by a group of environmentally conscious teens and their families to raise awareness about the ecological health of the Indian River Lagoon. Their hope is to develop stewards of the environment at an early age, who will continue to keep our waterways clean and safe for future generations.

Proceeds from the tournament support the Ocean Research & Conservation Association’s Citizen Scientist Fish Monitoring program and the Coastal Conservation Association’s Florida Star youth fishing

programs, explained Edie Collins, board president.

Additionally, the nonprofit helps fund research designed to assess the causes of the diminishing fish populations, and studies that evaluate factors that are damaging the diverse ecosystems, including habitats, breeding grounds and nurseries.

“There were only two trout caught this year during the tournament. We have three prizes for trout, so that was really unusual. That indicates that the trout in the Indian River Lagoon are not present,” said Collins. “We’re trying to focus more on the fish habitats and how certain species of fish are being depleted in the Indian River Lagoon.”

Collins said the Indian River Land Trust is working alongside Coastal Conservation to assess how mosqui-

to impoundments – diked areas of salt marshes or mangrove forests that control water levels to mitigate mosquito breeding – might be affecting areas where the fish are eating.

Young adult committee members of Lines in the Lagoon will once again drop their lines to assist ORCA by catching fish to assist that nonprofit’s research efforts. Fish that are caught will be measured and studied to determine the health of individual species and the ecosystem that supports them. The ecosystem of the 181-mile Indian River Lagoon is considered “the most bio-diverse habitat in North America,” and provides a varied habitat to 4,000 plant and animal species.

For more information, visit linesinthelagoon.com. ■

PEOPLE



Connor O'Brien, Landon Kahler and Brandon Cochrane.



Baxter Corrigan and Griffin Hutton.



Page Wilkerson with Riley and Marlow.



Nicki Genoni and Kristie Challenor.



Owen Collins and Andrew Simmens.



Joshua Miller with Moses and Judah.



Maclean Kahler, Hugh Cochrane and Chris Campbell.



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 <p>BAYTREE OCEAN VILLAS \$1,545,000 Luxe 4000 SF 3BR/3.5BA/4GR Den. Gretchen Hanson 772.713.6450 #244635</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>PARAGON CONDO \$1,497,000 Ocean views. Luxe 9th floor 3BR/3.5BA/3Cg. Gretchen Hanson 772.713.6450 #246899</p>	 <p>OCEAN OAKS WEST \$1,399,000 5/5.5, 3CG, pool. Impact glass. Built 2015. Chip Landers 772.473.7888</p>
<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>OCEANGATE \$775,000 Panoramic Ocean View updated Penthouse. Becky Rossway 772.633.4190</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>SILVER OAK ESTATES \$660,000 4/3, large lot, well maintained. No HOA! Beth Livers 772.559.6958 #246859</p>	<p>COMING SOON</p>  <p>OCEAN CHATEAU \$450,000 2BR/2BA, 1200 SF. Great ocean views. Michelle Clarke 772.263.0386</p>

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