

## Steinhatchee Bait and Tackle:

# New owners 'keeping it local'

By DEBRA BUTLER  
Columnist  
Steinhatchee Bait & Tackle, a longtime local landmark located directly across from the Steinhatchee Boat Ramp, has recently changed ownership.

John and Valena Driggers, a hardworking young couple from Perry,

are the proud new owners. Both still work full time jobs in Perry – John at Georgia-Pacific and Valena at Nammo Defense Systems. Additionally, Valena runs her own part-time business, Air & Opportunity Drone Services and Imaging, where she provides drone-created videos and photographs of real estate listings and outdoor events.

Together with their six children, the Driggers have plenty of home-grown staff to rely upon. Daughter Koko Vaughn is on hand several days a week to keep things running smoothly, while John and Valena work the weekends and any other hours not committed to their other jobs.

One unique aspect of this family-owned and operated venture is that the Driggers go out of their way to promote and support other local businesses, artisans and suppliers.

The Driggers have partnered with McDavid's Cafe to provide hot "grab & go" biscuits for morning fishermen stopping in for bait and ice.

Whimsical wooden signs and wind chimes created by local artist, 2° Off Center, are hanging throughout the shop for sale, as well as thoughtfully-designed



New owners John and Valena Driggers of Perry began operating Steinhatchee Bait and Tackle on Sept. 19 this year.

## STEINHATCHEE BAIT and TACKLE

Gift Certificates Available

### HOURS:

6 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Wed. through Sun.

### Closed

Mon. and Tues.

71st Ave SE  
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Steinhatchee will kick-off the Christmas season on Dec. 5 with its annual "Christmas in the Park" and "Light up the River" boat parade festivities.

This year, the "Christmas in the Park" will be a drive-through event and will be hosted at the Community Center from 6-7 p.m. Saturday evening.

Drivers will be instructed to come into the Community Center through 11th Avenue, get a gift bag from Santa and drive ahead to get hot dogs and drinks. Drivers will exit onto Riverside Drive.

The hotdogs and juice boxes will be provided by the American Legion.

The annual "Light up the River" boat parade will begin at "dark-30" that same night at the Steinhatchee River Club in Jena, ending at Good Times Motel and Marina.

There will be prizes and trophies awarded to the best decorated boats.

Boaters who are interested in entering the parade may do so by signing up online at the Steinhatchee River Chamber website: [SteinhatcheeChamber.com](http://SteinhatcheeChamber.com)

The entry fee is a donation to the local "Sowers of the Seed" Food Pantry.

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