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**Resource Center holds tasty event;
Winner update - bottom of story**



Helen Pettengill and Lauren Cabeza greet the public at the Taste of Nature Coast event in Chiefland.

Story and Photos

By Sharon Hardison © Oct. 18, 2018 at 4:28 p.m.

*** Updated Oct. 24, 2018 at 3:28 p.m.**

CHIEFLAND -- Although Hurricane Michael tried to throw a wrench in the works of The Taste of the Nature Coast event that was to be held on Oct. 9, it was just another challenge that was overcome by the staff and volunteers at the Tri-County Community Resource Center.

And so it happened on Tuesday evening (Oct. 16).

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Chef Jessie Williams and Autumn Davis pose before the event starts. Chef Jessie represented Cross City Rehab.

This masterpiece was created by Jessie Williams. It is a Smores Pumpkin Pie.



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Beverly Goodman and Diana Child strike a pose at the awards table before the event began.

Some of the awesome prizes available during the evening's raffle.



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Representing BarBQ Bill's were Lacy Malloy, manager along with co-workers Ashley Crawford, Haylea Feagle and Mike Richardson.



Representing The Filling Fork of Branford was Kendal Stinson. Laura Goss is the owner of the restaurant.

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Ryan Bell and the staff at BubbaQues and Bell's Catering could not be present for the event. They had headed up to the panhandle to feed the linemen. However, Mr. Bell offered \$10 gift cards to all who attended the event.

Jeff Cherry, Brittleigh and Jessica Cherry had samples of shrimp and rice and other goodies for people to enjoy from their restaurant, Cherry's, which is located in Trenton.



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Korey Griner and Sarah Gore entertained the crowd while they enjoyed the dining experience.



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People wait for the event to start, and partake in the event -- enjoying the company of others at their tables.



A display of the many activities and events that Tri-County Community Resource Center brings to the public.

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Being used to helping the public with emergency life situations, they tackled their own with grace and style.

Some of the chefs were unable to attend the rescheduled event on Oct. 16. For instance, BubbaQue's owner Ryan Bell had been working on sending staff and food to the Panhandle to feed the linemen working the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

Bell completely forgot about the rescheduled event. He couldn't be in two places at once. So, he sent \$10 gift cards for each of the attendees at the event with his apologies.

While not on the original list of restaurants, when asked if he could be another participant, Mark Swain of Beef O' Brady's gladly sent food and good wishes for a successful event. Another restaurant owner Dave's BBQ, was also asked if his restaurant could help out. While they couldn't be there, he sent barbecue sandwich coupons for those attending.

Diana Child welcomed everyone and explained how the event was done for those who did not attend the first one – last year.

Everyone was told to go to any of the participant's tables for tasty samples starting wherever they wished. Then they brought the samples to a table to eat and enjoy.

Great food and good conversations were enjoyed by all. Deciding what the favorite choices were -- in their eyes, taste buds and tummies was a bit more difficult.

After sampling all the food stuffs, the votes were placed in appropriate buckets for tallying.

The Tri-County Community Resource Center was founded to give local assistance to the residents and visitors of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties. The people and volunteers who work at the center help people with resume and job application assistance, unemployment, food stamps and Medicare/ Medicaid application assistance.

The center hosts child and family activities, has a clothing closet, computer and Internet assistance, a child and adult book-lending library, healthy cooking classes and also assistance for veterans.

*** (Update Provided By Tri-County Community Resource Center)**

The participating chefs were Lacy Malloy with Bar-B-Que Bill's; Jeff and Jessica Cherry with Cherry's Steak & Seafood; Jesse Williams with Cross City Rehab; Laura Fowler Goss with Filling Fork; and Mark and Stacy Swain with Beef 'O' Brady's.

The winners were

Best Appetizer: Laura Fowler Goss of The Filling Fork;

Best Entrée: Cherry's Seafood and Steaks;

Best Dessert: Chef Jesse with Cross City Rehab;

Best Presentation: Cherry's Seafood and Steaks.

The TCCRC raised was just over \$5,000 with 125 attendees.