

Sugarmill

NEIGHBORS

HAPPY
Mother's Day

Meet Jay and
Kimberly Pelton

*Dreams +
Perseverance
= Success*

★
MEMORIAL DAY
★
REMEMBER AND HONOR





Meet Jay and Kimberly Pelton

Dreams + Perseverance = Success

Article and Photos by Michele Eisch Photography & Design

There are some really famous people out there that have said some extraordinarily accurate things. They're often-quoted people, and with good reason. Many of us can relate in numerous ways to these quotes, and after meeting with Jay and Kimberly Pelton, I'm reminded of a few of my favorites. In their eight years together, they've faced cancer, job change, the death of a child, broken ribs, anxiety, depression, Covid, the loss of both parents, a favorite dog, and more. All of this while having the underlying dream of opening a business...so we can add "new business start-up" to the list. I was inspired not only by this couple's journey but to include a few of my favorite quotes here:

"That which does not kill us makes us stronger." - Friedrich Nietzsche

"Surprise yourself every day with your own courage." - Denholm Elliott

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity." - Amelia Earhart

"You just can't beat the person who never gives up." - Babe Ruth

"It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up." - Vince Lombardi

"If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced." - Vincent Van Gogh

"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it." - Henry Ford

"Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny." - C.S. Lewis

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all." - Dale Carnegie

"Believe you can and you're halfway there." - Theodore Roosevelt

I suppose you get the idea by reading these quotes that the Peltons have remained strong and can proudly say they are thriving and joyous today through perseverance, strength, and always keeping an eye on the future.

Kimberly is a proud Connecticut Yankee, a fellow New Englander after my own heart. Jay is originally from Indiana. They got together using a popular dating app, and married about three and a half years later. They just recently celebrated their 5th anniversary!

Jay is the proud parent of two boys he raised as a single father. Joel, his oldest, would have turned 26 this April, but sadly was killed in a car accident at the age of 21, two weeks before Christmas. The Peltons had only been married about ten months when it happened. Jake, his youngest, is 23 and works at Cody's in Crystal River. Jake recently blessed them

with a granddaughter, Lyanna Mae.

Kimberly has two sons. Matthew, age 24, and Tyler age 21. Matthew is studying Astrophysics in the Doctorate Program at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Tyler is in the United States Navy and stationed in San Diego, CA.

Jay and Kimberly never let adversity get in the way of pursuing their respective career paths. Somehow, they stuck with it. Jay is currently a Deputy Sheriff for Lake County. He's dual-certified in law enforcement and corrections and has devoted 29 years to the fields. This coming July 4th (ironically, Independence Day) will mark his retirement.

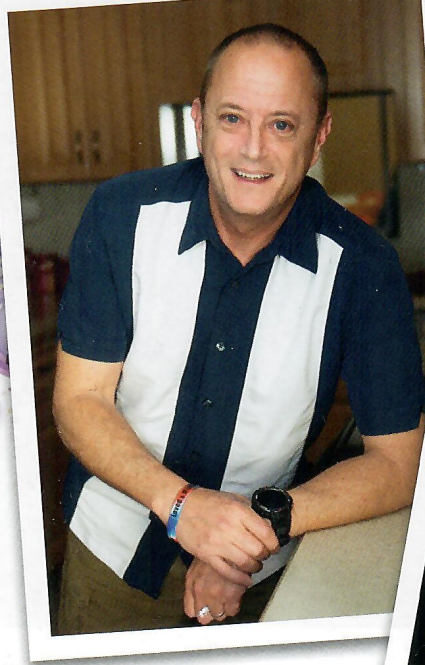
Kimberly spent many years as a stylist in a salon here in Sugarmill, and after a moment or two of clarity, decided to strike out on her own and open her own salon. It's been quite a process, but she says, "Jay has supported me every step of the way - even pushing me. It's going really well, and we're about to celebrate the first anniversary of Innovative Edge Hair Design. I only imagined it before, but

now, it's a reality and going well." Jay added, "We looked everywhere for the right space at the right price, and finally found the perfect space up in Crystal River. We renovated, friends came together, and having everyone participate in getting the salon open was really a special time." Kimberly, in part, made the decision because of everything they'd been through. She realized that life doesn't wait. Tomorrow

isn't promised, and she decided, "Do it now, or I might never do it."

In their spare time, the couple belongs to the West Citrus Elks club, although admittedly, with the dynamic nature of the last year, they haven't been able

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to participate much. Previously, they hosted trivia night and often enjoyed dinner parties, craft shows, and karaoke.

At home, Jay and Kimberly have two adorable dogs. River, a Boxer mix, is a rescue found abandoned in the Ocala National Forest in very rough shape - malnourished, full of ticks, fleas, cuts, and near death. He's now healthy

and happy with the Peltons. Chance is also a rescue. He's a two-year-old Chihuahua removed from a hoarding situation who loves to greet people.

Jay has called Sugarmill Woods home for about 29 years, and Kimberly also loves it. She says, "We love our street. It's quiet and our neighbors are great. They're always willing to lend a helping hand when needed."

Today, Jay and Kimberly can confidently say that their adversity has only strengthened them. They believe that the bad things in life can be the very things that bind you.

I really enjoyed catching up with them, because they reminded me of one of the things I've always believed: we're all imperfectly perfect, and our journey is rarely linear.



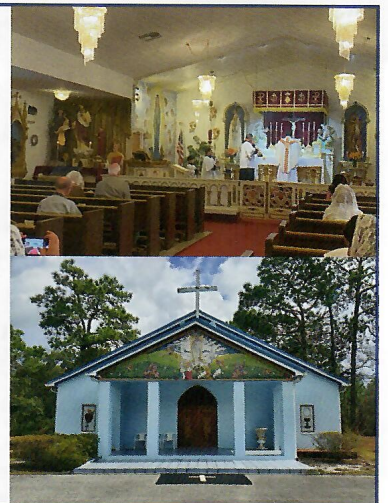
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