

HOTEL

From Page A3

19th hotel in Gainesville took time, he said, because a lot of competition in the area made it an expensive place to set down roots.

“Hotels are very expensive to build and require a lot of capital, Navroz Sajju said. “Gainesville has a higher cost of entry than other places ... It’s something to celebrate now that we’re here because we now have the resources to enter the market.”

The 105-room Comfort Suites features spacious meeting rooms with technology setups, a saltwater pool and fitness center that



One of the rooms at the new Comfort Suites hotel on SW 13th Street in Gainesville. [BRAD MCCLENNY/THE GAINESVILLE SUN] [BRAD MCCLENNY]

features a Peloton bike.

Rooms are equipped with an oversize refrigerator and microwave, along with a sitting area.

“Families won’t feel like they’re on top of each other inside the room,” Azim Sajju said.

The hotel is marketed as a moderately priced space that clocks in at just under a mile from the UF campus.

Shuttles will be available to bring guests to UF Health Shands Hospital, downtown and to the airport.

IN BRIEF

Lighting project begins soon on NE Waldo Road

A project to improve lighting on Northeast Waldo Road between University Avenue and Northeast 39th Avenue is set to begin later this month.

The state-funded project is set to begin Monday,

Sept. 21, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.

In addition to existing light poles being replaced with new ones, the construction team will restore sidewalks along the road.

Motorists should expect both daytime and nighttime

work. However, no lane closures are allowed from 7-8:30 a.m. and from 3-7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The project, which will cost \$600,000, is expected to be completed next summer.

— Emily Mavrakis

ANDAZ

From Page A3

“It was a little bit of this spice or that spice. We had to experiment before we could get it right,” Syed said.

Khan was joyous when their only son, Abdul Khan, was born in 1996. Syed had lost five children during prior pregnancies, and Khan kept a close watch over her.

“He was so excited the day his son was born that he bought candy — trash bags full of candy, and handed them out to people he saw,” Syed said.

Khan moved to the United States around the time his son turned 5. The family stayed in South Africa before joining him later. Khan lived in Missouri, Chicago and The Villages before finally coming to Gainesville about six years ago with his family.

He opened Tikka Express last year after the closure of Andaz.

“I always said, ‘Why don’t we move to a bigger city?’ But he loved Gainesville,” Syed said. “The city gave him so much love and respect, and he loved the people.”

Tikka Express closed briefly after Khan’s death, but has since reopened under Abdul Khan’s leadership. He wears his father’s chef jacket while



Mehfooj Khan poses with his favorite cat, Maria (Don’t tell Hannah).

[PHOTO COURTESY THE KHAN FAMILY] [COURTESY OF NOORJAHAN SYED]

working in the kitchen.

“I feel like I have his energy and mine together,” said Khan, 24.

He said his father put pressure on him growing up to turn him into a strong-willed man.

“One day, there were 50 orders on the counter and I looked at him, and he looked at me, and he trusted me to take responsibility for them,” Khan said. “He built that mentality to keep going.”

The only ones who might miss him more than Syed and Khan, he said,

are his two house cats, Hannah and Maria.

“They were like his daughters,” Khan said. “He spoke more about them than anybody. They have their own room, and it’s bigger than mine.”

Khan said he is happy to talk about his father’s kind and caring personality not only because they are related.

“If he was not my dad, he would probably have been my best friend,” he said. “I’m sure he’s looking down and smiling at me.”

Funeral Notices



BROWN, VALORIA
Ms. Valoria Brown age 51 passed away August 31, 2020 at Shands Hospital at the University of Florida. Ms. Brown was a graduate of Flagler Palm Coast, class of 1987. She was employed with the Animal Hospital as a Technician.

Ms. Brown is survived by her children, Dwight Hubbert, Jr., Antonio Hubbert, Darryl Hubbert, all of Gainesville, FL, father, Ben Brown, Sr., Bunnell, FL, siblings, Ben Brown, Jr., Caesar Brown, Richard Brown, all of Gainesville, FL, Claudia Wright, VA, Crystal Wright, Atlanta, GA, and eight grandchildren.

Graveside Services for Ms. Brown will be held 2:30pm, Saturday, September 12, 2020 at Damascus Cemetery, Alachua, FL, Rev. Windy Butler Ford, Officiating. Arrangements entrusted to Chestnut Funeral Home, Inc., 18 N.W. 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL.

Ms. Brown will repose in the Chestnut Memorial Chapel on Friday, September 11th, 2020 from 2:00pm until 7:00pm, and on Saturday at Graveside from 1:30pm until the hour of Service.

Family and friends are asked to meet at the home of Ms. Brown, 5800 S.W. 20th Ave. Apt.#N3 at 1:30pm to form the Cortège.

Social distancing and wearing facial masks are still a county wide Order, please be aware and follow the Order inside and outside of any facility. If you do not have a facial mask, one will be provided for you by a Member of Chestnut Funeral Home Staff.

“A CHESTNUT SERVICE”

Funeral Notices



FINCHER, JOE NEAL
Joe Neal Fincher, age 72 of Gainesville Florida, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, September 5, 2020. He was born on August 3, 1948 in Charlotte, NC to Joe Neal and Carol Garrison Fincher. Joe graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

He was a successful business owner and sales representative for decades. Not only did he own The Gator Shop for 28 years, but he was also the co-owner of Gators Plus for 36 years and co-owner of Young Estates. Joe was a hard worker, determined, and focused.

As co-founder of Amazon Vision Ministries, Joe brought the “Hope of Christ” to thousands of people in the West Amazon River Basin. Serving faithfully at Westside Baptist Church from 1984 to 2020, his dedication to the church family was evident. Joe loved Brazil, AVM and Westside. Joe was a prayer-warrior and a faith-filled man.

Family came first to Joe Fincher, and as a dedicated husband and father, he sought to always full-fill the needs and wants of his family. His provision was unmistakable, but it was his abundant love that overshadowed all. Joe was committed.

If he was outside, then Joe was likely fishing, hunting, scuba diving, or snow skiing. Whether Joe was riding his Harley-Davidson or flying his plane, he loved travelling the world with family and friends. Joe sure knew how to live!

Most of all, Joe was an Evangelist, winning souls for Jesus Christ wherever he went. On the ocean he was an avid fisherman, but as a follower of Christ, Joe was a “fisher of men” (Matthew 4:19). Joe knew Jesus — and wanted you to know Him too.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Dawn Private Fincher, three daughters: Amy Fincher Ritch (husband Wiley, son John Wiley Ritch III “Trey”), Kimberly Fincher Young (husband Donnie, daughters Kaley Anne Young and Kinsey Grace Young), Jol Fincher Bass (husband Glenn, daughters Emily Dawn Bass and Annabelle Grace Bass), sister, Judy Fincher Haskin (husband Hank), and numerous nieces and nephews. Joe was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Thomas Ray Fincher.

The family will receive friends for visitation on Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 4:00-6:00pm at Williams-Thomas Funeral Home (West area), 823 N.W. 143 Street, Newberry, FL 32669.

A Celebration of Joe’s Life will be held Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 3:00 pm at Westside Baptist Church, 10,000 West Newberry Road, Gainesville, FL 32606, with Dr. Gary Crawford officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to AmazonVisionMinistries.org or to AVM by mail at P.O. Box 357595 Gainesville, FL 32635. Please visit Joe’s memorial page at

www.williamsthomasmemorialhome.com. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WILLIAMS-THOMAS WESTAREA 352-376-7556

OBITUARIES

KUBISEK, ELIZABETH
Elizabeth Kubisek, 67, longtime resident of Gainesville, Florida, died Wednesday, September 2, 2020, at her home.

Mrs. Kubisek was born in Garden City, Michigan on June 16, 1953 to the late Julian and Geraldine Boyer. She had lived in Gainesville, Florida for many years, working for and retiring from the Alachua County Sheriff’s Department. Mrs. Kubisek was an avid reader and enjoyed all kinds of puzzles.

She is survived by her husband, William “Bill” Kubisek; a son, Ted Kubisek; sisters, Brenda Boyer, Kathy Martin and Carrie McKee; and by two grandchildren, Vander and Cadence Kubisek.

Private family services will be held. Please visit her memorial page at:

www.williamsthomasmemorialhome.com. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WILLIAMS-THOMAS DOWNTOWN (352) 376-7556



WILKIE, BARBARA F.
Barbara F. Wilkie, 82, passed away peacefully on September 7, 2020 at the ET York Hospice Care Center in Gainesville, FL.

Barbara was born in Valdese, North Carolina. She graduated from Valdese High School in 1956 and moved to Gainesville, Florida in 1966. Barbara enjoyed a successful 37-year career in Academic Affairs and International Program administration at the University of Florida.

Barbara is survived by her daughter Wendt Wilkie (Jerry Murphy), son Tracey Wilkie, brother Ron Franklin (Susan), niece Holly Franklin, nephew Michael Franklin (Lindsey), grand-niece Livia (Franklin) and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her father Calvin Franklin and mother Azilee Franklin.

Barbara loved her family and friends, enjoyed a good party, fine food and drink, literature, films, music and lively discussions on the social, cultural and political issues of the day. She possessed a big heart, excellent taste, a sharp wit and a wicked sense of humor. Barbara’s was a life well-lived and she will be dearly missed.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. (When it’s cooler because she would have insisted.)

Memorial donations may be made in Barbara’s name to Haven Hospice at 4200 NW 90th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606 or at

devmail@beyourhaven.org

Contribute your thoughts, reflections, and love.

Words are powerful and healing.

Post your personal message and condolences to the family by signing the online guestbooks at

Gainesville.com/obits

Contribute your thoughts, reflections, and love.

Visit the obituary sections at

gainesville.com/obits

Post your personal message and condolences to the family by signing the online guest books at

gainesville.com/obits