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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 Saju 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 Saju said.

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

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

# OBITUARIES

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 Caro-

He was a successful busi-

ness owner and sales repre-

sentative 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 fo-

sion Ministries, Joe brought the "Hope of Christ" to thou-

sands 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 provi-

sion was unmistakable, but it

was his abundant love that

overshadowed all. Joe was

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 traveling the

world with family and friends.

Most of all, Joe was an Evan-

gelist, winning souls for Jesus

Christ wherever he went. On

the ocean he was an avid fish-

erman, but as a follower of

Christ, Joe was a "fisher of

men" (Matthew 4:19). Joe

knew Jesus - and wanted you

He is survived by his loving

wife of 47 years, Dawn Pri-

vatte Fincher, three daughters:

Amy Fincher Ritch (husband Wyley, son John Wyley Ritch III

Kimberly

(husband

daughters Kaley Anne Young

and Kinsey Grace Young), Joi

Fincher Bass (husband Glenn,

daughters Emily Dawn Bass

and Annabelle Grace Bass),

sister, Judy Fincher Haskin

(husband Hank), and numer-

ous nieces and nephews. Joe

was preceded in death by his

parents and his brother, Tho-

family will

friends for visitation on Satur-

day, September 12, 2020 from 4:00-6:00pm at Wil-liams-Thomas Funeral Home

(West area), 823 N.W. 143

A Celebration of Joe's Life

will be held Sunday, Septem-

ber 13, 2020 at 3:00 pm at

Westside Baptist Church,

10,000 West Newberry Road,

Gainesville, FL 32606, with Dr.

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 me-

www.williamsthomas

funeralhome.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

WILLIAMS-THOMAS

WESTAREA

352-376-7556

Gary Crawford officiating.

357595

morial page at

Street, Newberry, FL 32669.

mas Ray Fincher.

Fincher

Donnie.

to know Him too.

"Trey"), Young

Joe sure knew how to live!

committed.

As co-founder of Amazon VI-

lina at Charlotte.

cused.

BROWN, VALORIA 51 Valoria Brown age 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 Techni-

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, At lanta, GA, and eight grandchildren.

Graveside Services for Ms. Brown will be held 2:30pm, September 12, Saturday, 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 Cortege.

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 Funeral Notices OBITUARIES

KUBISEK, ELIZABETH Elizabeth Kubisek, 67, longtime resident of Gainesville, Florida, died Wednesday, Sep-

tember 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 Sheriffs Department, Mrs. Kubisek was an avid reader and enjoyed all kinds of puzzles.

She is survived by her hus-band, William "Bill" Kubisek; a 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.williamsthomas funeralhome.com. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WILLIAMS-THOMAS DOWNTOWN (352) 376-7556



WILKIE, BARBARA F. Barbara F. Wilkle, 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 Wendl Wilkle (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 CaMin 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



Post your personal message and condolences to the family by signing the online guest books at gainesville.com/obits

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### 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

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"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 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

## COVID

From Page A3

In Dixie County, the state health department reported the death of a 66-year-old man.

A 98-year-old woman from Gilchrist County has also died of COVID-19.

And in Marion County, three men and a woman who ranged in age from 70 to 92 have also died.

State health department data also show the number of COVID-19 patients being treated at local hospitals.

Thursday's data shows that 351 total residents and nonresidents have been hospitalized with the virus so far, about 6% of all local cases.

The state hospitalization is also about 6% of all cases, with more than 40,800 total hospitalizations.

Within Alachua County's borders, the cases break down this way: Gainesville, 4,696; Alachua, 357; Newberry, 259; High Springs, 143; Archer, 101; Hawthorne, 92; Waldo, 25; Micanopy, 44; Santa Fe, 15; University of Florida: 15; Tioga, 12; LaCrosse, 12; Earleton, three; Jonesville, two; Evinston, four. Thirty-two more cases don't have a specific area designation.

In surrounding counties: Bradford has had 881 cases and five deaths; Clay, 4,308 cases and 81 deaths; Putnam, 1,889 cases and 38 deaths; Marion, 8,967 cases and 235 deaths; Levy, 956 cases and eight deaths; Gilchrist, 485 cases and 11 deaths; Columbia, 3,467 cases and 43 deaths; Union, 731 cases and five deaths.

In the region, Suwannee County has had 2,519 cases and 64 deaths, and Dixie County has had 781 cases and five deaths.



Mehfooj Khan poses with his favorite cat, Maria (Don't tell Hannah). [РНОТО COURTESY THE KHAN FAMILY] [COURTESY OF NOORJAHAN

SYED1

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."

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



## Amendment to the Alachua County Capital Improvements **Program**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to s. 163.3177(3)(b), Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, will consider the adoption of an ordinance to update the 5-Year Capital Improvement Schedule previously adopted as part of Ordinance 19-25, the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan 2019-2040 ("Comprehensive Plan") at a public hearing to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2020 at 5:01 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

A copy of the proposed Ordinance updating the 5-year Capital Improvement Schedule can be reviewed in the County Manager's office located on the second floor of the above County Administration Building.

This public hearing will be held in an entirely virtual format through the use of Communications Media Technology. The public may attend virtually through Cox Channel 12, Facebook, and the County's Video on Demand website. The public may also attend the entirely virtual public hearing through audio only by calling 301-715-8592, and when prompted, use code 670 965 3024. The public may submit comment to the Board through email (bocc@alachuacounty.us) or by calling into the public comment message line when prompted to call during the meeting.

Public comment will be taken on this item prior to final action by the Commission. For public who attend virtually, once public comment is opened for this item, please call 929-205-6099 (enter meeting code 273 174 8038). Callers will be put in a queue, and prompted when it is their turn to speak. TO AVOID FEEDBACK, SPEAKERS MUST TURN DOWN THEIR MEETING SOUND WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMISSION. All commenters should state their name and limit comments to two minutes. The Commission will allow up to a total of 30 minutes for public comment. The public is encouraged to submit any written or photographic documents prior to the public hearing to bocc@alachuacounty.us.

All persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at this public hearing, they will need a record of the proceeding and, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Anyone with a disability who needs an accommodation, please call 904 462-0055 or TDD/TTY users please call 711 (Florida Relay System).

Robert Hutchinson, Chair **Board of County Commissioners**