

# 'BLESSING OF THE FLEET' FRIDAY

## STEINHATCHEE INN

Continued from page 6

a background in the hospitality business, the move from Pompano Beach to owning an inn in Steinhatchee seemed like a good fit.

Rob was a general manager for Marriott, and Barbara, before having children, worked as a director of sales and marketing.

"Rob was a great boss. Everybody loved him. He knew how to do it all from top to bottom and because of that earned respect from his employees," Barbara said.

"He could do everything from laundry, to the front desk, to cleaning the pool," she added.

"I've never asked anybody to do something I wasn't willing to do myself," said Rob.

The two fell in love, married, had two children and lived in Pompano Beach for 20 years.

Although they have been a part of the Steinhatchee community for almost five years now, the Lewis family has recently been thrust into the spotlight as the new owners of River Haven Marina.

By purchasing the marina and its related properties in December 2020, they can now offer much more to their vacationing guests.

The newly-renamed Steinhatchee River Inn and Marina now has a total of 17 suites (six with kitchens), four motel rooms, a two-bedroom waterfront cottage with its own dock and a total of six RV spots.

All vacationing guests now have the option of reserving a boat slip for an additional fee, as well as other amenities such as access to the pool and grilling area.

The eatery located behind the marina -- previously known as the "Back Porch" -- has typically only been open during scallop season, but Rob and Barbara plan to eventually have the restaurant open year round to offer room deliveries to their guests and give locals additional dining



The newly-renamed Steinhatchee River Marina, with a boat lift and docking, is shown at left with the Steinhatchee River Inn (right) located just "up the hill."

options.

Rob is a former U.S. Navy serviceman, fisherman and diver, but had never been scalloping until their move to Steinhatchee.

He loves that scalloping is such a family-friendly activity.

"I've done a lot of diving down in the Keys, and wreck dives in the Atlantic, and this was just so easy," Rob said.

Within the last two years Rob has also obtained his captain's license and now

enjoys spending his early mornings chatting it up with the other captains at the marina.

Barbara's marketing and hospitality skills fit perfectly with her role of running the inn, advertising and assisting guests with reservations.

Charities are dear to her heart, and in the past she and Rob have helped train two individuals with special needs through the Special Olympics organization of Taylor County.

They patiently taught the "housemen" the basic skills of sweeping, making beds, laundry and other aspects of housekeeping until the two were able to graduate on to other jobs.

The Lewis family would like to do more of that, "but the biggest obstacle with that was transportation," said Barbara.

Sometimes the workers would have to wait for up to two hours after their shift for the public transportation van to pick them up. Barbara has also reached out to Autism Anglers, a 501c3 non-profit organization, in hopes of offering them representation through the marina to raise autism awareness.

The Lewis family will host a "Blessing of the

Fleet" ceremony on Friday, Jan. 1, at 5 p.m. at the marina.

Barbara feels this would be a good way for the couple to commemorate the new year and their new business venture by having all boats associated with the marina -- and any other vessels whose owners may be interested -- blessed by their pastor.

"We want to start off

thanking God. We couldn't have done any of it without Him. Boating can be so dangerous. We just want to bless the boats -- anyone's boat -- bless the business and start off in the right direction," said Barbara.

Local boat owners are invited to attend. Cake will be served after the short service, and beer and wine will be available for purchase.



A view of the pool area at Steinhatchee River Inn shows some of the total of 17 suites (six with kitchens) and four motel rooms available for rent.



## Hunts honored for dedication

The Steinhatchee River Chamber recently recognized Jim and Joyce Hunt of Fiddlers Restaurant, as well as Tim & Shari Powell of River Haven Marina and Motel, for their many years of dedication to the community. "We wish them well in their much deserved retirement!" chamber members said.

# Booking Desk

**Editor's Note:** It is the policy of this newspaper to run the names of all those arrested and booked at the Taylor County Jail. All those listed below have been charged with a crime, but are considered innocent until proven guilty.

**Oct. 11:**  
**Ivan Jerome Curtis**, 36, no address given, poss. of cntrl. subs. without prescript., \$5,000 bond, Ptl. Mitchell, PPD.



Curtis

**Myron Maurice Howard**, 40, Lamont, Fla., battery on LEO, \$3,000 bond, Dep. Cruse, TCSO.



Howard

**Christopher A. Wynn**, 32, Perry, Fla., sell meth., \$1,000 bond, Ptl. Cephus, PPD.



Wynn

**Coty Allen Hartsfield**, 30, Perry, Fla., VOP, no bond, Dep. Reams, TCSO.



Hartsfield

**Oct. 12:**  
**Jessica Leigh Parker**



Parker

**Weatherly**, 27, Perry, Fla., drug equipment poss., poss. of meth., \$2,000 bond, Dep. Cruse, TCSO.



Weatherly

**Patricia Elaine Parker**, 49, Perry, Fla., poss. of drug paraphern., out-of-county warrant, \$7,000 bond, Dep. Reams, TCSO.



Parker

**Stacy Marie McClellan**, 34, Perry, Fla., marijuana poss. (-20 grams), MTV (unauthorized permit to drive), drug equipment poss./use, \$2,000 bond, Dep. Cruse, TCSO.



McClellan

**Tammy Darlene Perry**, 49, Perry, Fla., aggravated assault with deadly weapon without intent to kill, \$2,000 bond, Ptl. Phelps, PPD.



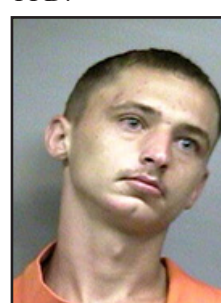
Perry

**Oct. 13:**  
**Richard L. Estey**, 39, Panama City, Fla., VOP, no bond, Sgt. Sexton, TCSO.



Estey

**Joshua Wade Coxwell**, 20, Eastport, Fla., trespassing on property, resist without violence, \$4,000 bond, Ptl. Chaffin, PPD.



Coxwell

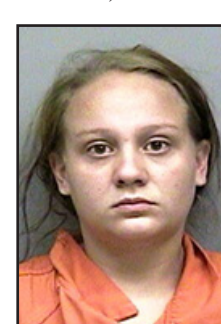
**Oct. 14:**  
**Bryckoski J. Jackson**, 30, Perry, Fla., two counts

of sell synthetic narcotic within 1,000 feet of place of worship, business or school, drug equipment poss., \$47,000 bond, Ptl. Cephus, PPD.



Jackson

**Makayla Hagan**, 20, Greenville, Fla., smuggle contraband (introduce into detention facility), poss. of cntrl. subs., VOP, no bond, Dep. Dorman, TCSO.



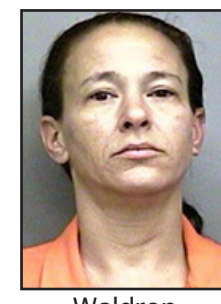
Hagan

**Dominic L. White**, 38, Perry, Fla., battery, VOP, no bond, Ptl. Wimberley, PPD.



White

**Christy Nicole Waldron**, 42, Perry, Fla., FTA (felony warrant), \$200 bond, Dep. Reams, TCSO.



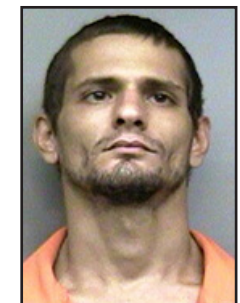
Waldron

**Oct. 15:**  
**Kyle Carter**, 30, Tallahassee, Fla., FTA, \$400 bond, Dep. Thigpen, TCSO.



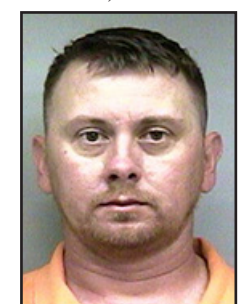
Carter

**Achilles Bradley Mantzanas**, 26, Perry, Fla., violation of injunction of domestic violence order, obstructing justice (tampering in third degree felony proceeding), \$65,000 bond, Ptl. Maily, PPD.



Mantzanas

**Derek Ryan Kelley**, 38, Greenville, Fla., VOP, no bond, Dep. Harden, TCSO.



Kelley

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