



Ribbon Cutting, C4

Will the Destin Diner rise again?

SPECIAL TO THE LOG

The old Destin Diner, at the intersection of Airport Road and U.S. Hwy. 98, was recently purchased by a local developer that plans to restore the dinner into a fresh concept.



Somers sells property, iconic metallic building for \$765K; other large projects also in the works

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After sitting vacant since 2008, a local developer plans to breathe new life into the old Destin Diner.

"My desire is to restore the old grandeur of the Destin Diner," said new owner Ryan Jumonville. "I want to restore the nostalgic feelings that came from eating there as a child."

Located at the intersection of Airport Road and



JOHN PAUL SOMERS



RYAN JUMONVILLE

U.S. Hwy. 98, the iconic Destin Diner opened its doors in 1992 after the family of former State Sen. Charlie Clary built the breakfast hotspot. Jumonville purchased the

property and the 2,367-square foot diner Oct. 10 for \$765,000.

At one point, the diner was slated to become a 4,720-square foot, 140-seat Denny's franchise, which was a step up from the original 85-seat eatery.

"After numerous delays, the franchisee decided not to move forward," said John Paul Somers, broker at John Paul Somers and Company.

With the property changing hands, Somers

said he expects to see the diner renovated, "back online" and serving food within the next three to six months. He is currently negotiating with potential operators for the diner, ranging from a Greek-influenced concept to classic American cuisine.

Somers also negotiated the deal between Jumonville and the previous owner.

"When we are in those nostalgic type of places, retro environments, it

makes you think about great parts of your past and great memories," Somers said of the metallic eatery, which is straight out of the '50s diner era.

Jumonville made headlines in June when he acquired the old First Note Music Hall building, after the successful South Walton venue closed weeks earlier. Somers said the restaurant portion of the old First Note building has been leased to a restaurateur out of Perdido Key

that plans to transform the space into a "South Beach" inspired lounge with an expansive wine collection, top-notch cocktails and mouthwatering desserts. The upstairs space has been leased by a fitness operator.

The news about the old music hall and the sale of the Destin Diner property are just two examples of the recovery that is taking place in the commercial

See DESTIN DINER C3

Walt Radford joins Crye-Leike

Special to The Log

Elliot Marcus, broker for Crye-Leike Coastal Realty, recently welcomed Walt Radford to his team of Realtors. Radford moved to Destin in 2012 after spending numerous summers vacationing in the area with friends and family that live in the community. He believes that the Emerald Coast possesses the most beautiful beaches in the world.

Originally from Alabama and relocating numerous times with his career, Radford always longed to live in the area that was most synonymous with the happiest moments in his life. He is a University of Kentucky graduate with an extensive



WALT RADFORD

career in sales in several industries. He obtained his real estate license in 2012 with the intent to assist others in a pleasurable and hassle-free real estate purchasing experience that rivals the many he experienced in his lifetime of relocations.

Whether it's selecting your primary residence, a vacation home, or an investment property, Radford looks forward to helping. He is an avid lover of the outdoors and has always been

at the mercy of his love for the water. This area greatly benefits him with his favorite pastime of boating and the many amenities of the area are extremely conducive with bringing together family and friends in creating the happiest of life-long memories.

BancorpSouth holds grand opening

Special to The Log

BancorpSouth Bank marked the opening of its new Destin office with ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Oct. 11 in a joint event with the Destin and South Walton Area Chambers of Commerce. BancorpSouth's new office, which opened for business on Aug. 27, is at 13331 Emerald Coast Parkway in Miramar Beach.

BancorpSouth President and Chief Operating Officer Jim Kelley, speaking at the ribbon cutting ceremonies, said, "The grand opening today of BancorpSouth's new Destin office reflects our continuing commitment to the growth and prosperity of Destin, South Walton and the surrounding area."

BancorpSouth began serving the Destin area in 2006 through a full-service banking location at 4507 Furling Lane. In 2008, Ban-



KATHY HARRISON | The Log

BancorpSouth's new office, which opened for business on Aug. 27, is at 13331 Emerald Coast Parkway in Miramar Beach.

corpSouth opened its Seagrove Branch on Highway 30A in Santa Rosa Beach.

The new BancorpSouth banking office is a multi-level, 17,000 square foot facility

fronting the Emerald Coast Parkway. The building features a spacious lobby area that includes teller stations, customer service representatives, and offices for busi-

ness bankers and commercial lenders.

A second floor community room is also available

See OPENING C3

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