



## Steakhouse collects money for Empty Stocking Fund

COMMUNITY, 1B

# The Destin Log

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021 | THEDESTINLOG.COM

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Peter Rounce and Kenzie Motai are opening City Food Hall in the spring of 2022 in Destin Commons. The food hall will not have national franchise brands. TINA HARBUCK/THE DESTIN LOG

## City Food Hall to open in spring at Destin Commons

Tina Harbuck  
The Destin Log  
USA TODAY NETWORK

What do you call 10 chefs working under one roof? Destin's first City Food Hall.

Set to open in Destin Commons next spring, City Food Hall will showcase 10 specialty restaurant concepts offering food and drinks, an expansive indoor/outdoor bar, two Topgolf full swing simulators with a variety of multi-sports games, several HDTVs and comfortable lounge seating, according to a news release.

City Food Hall is the brainchild of founders Peter Rounce and Kenzie Motai, who have opened a food hall concept in Miami, New Orleans, Chicago and Jackson, Mississippi, to name a few.

However, they never gave opening one in Destin a thought until they visited the area.

"Destin never stuck out to us on the radar," Rounce said.

See CITY FOOD HALL, Page 5A



Signs are already touting City Food Hall at its future home in Destin Commons. PROVIDED

## Boats to light up harbor for holiday parade

Tina Harbuck  
The Destin Log  
USA TODAY NETWORK

If you're a last-minute planner for the holidays, don't fret, there is still time to get that boat registered for the 35th annual Holiday on the Harbor Lighted Boat Parade, set to sail at 6 p.m. Sunday in Destin harbor.

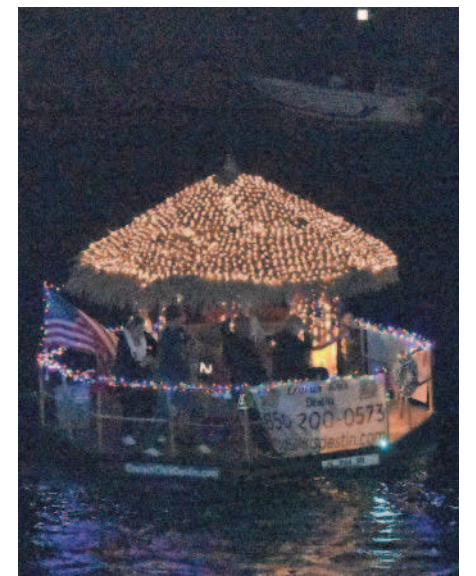
As of early Monday, nine boats had paid their registration and at least four more said they would be entering the parade sponsored by the Destin History and Fishing Museum.

"This is always the same deal, folks wait until the last minute to come in and register," said Kathy Marler Blue, executive director of the museum.

Last year, nearly 30 boats entered the event.

"I'll be here (at the museum) all day Saturday and Sunday. So, we'll take boats up to at least noon on Sunday," Blue said.

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The 35th annual Holiday on the Harbor Lighted Boat Parade is set for 6 p.m. Sunday in Destin harbor. TINA HARBUCK/THE DESTIN LOG

## Salvation Army collects toys for Angel Trees

Sharon Dooley  
Special to The Destin Log  
USA TODAY NETWORK

FORT WALTON BEACH — It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas, with images of the holidays seen throughout the community. Among those images are the iconic Angel Trees.

"Angel Tree, it comes out of our social services," said Salvation Army Lt. James Milner, who serves as corps officer with his wife, Lt. Abby Milner.

The couple and their staff work with Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida to provide Christmas toys to children whose families face financial distress.

Area families register with the two

organizations, with their children's ages and needs placed on angel ornaments. Individuals, families and organizations can adopt angels and provide holiday gifts for the children.

This year, there is a small change in the Angel Tree distribution.

"This year we are not doing a toy shop," Abby Milner said.

A few years ago, the distribution had been designed to give parents and guardians a shopping experience. For 2021, the program is returning to the traditional Salvation Army Angel Tree, which provides a little more than toys.

"We're taking specific information

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A military group assists the Salvation Army of Okaloosa and Walton counties and Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida during the 2020 Angel Tree drive. The two organizations accepted donations of toys, which are distributed to families who registered for this community outreach program. Flanking the volunteers on the left is Salvation Army Lt. Abby Milner and on the right Catholic Charities representative Eva Wise. This year, the Angel Trees can be found at every Walmart in Okaloosa and Walton counties, Sam's Club, Second Breath Styles, EDC Guns, Starbucks in Destin, the Silver Sands Premium Outlets and in both the Salvation Army's thrift store and social services office. PROVIDED

### Beware

Better Business Bureau warns of the 12 Scams of Christmas, 6A

### Catching state record?

Bow'd Up hauls in a 244-pound bigeye tuna, 2B

### Weather

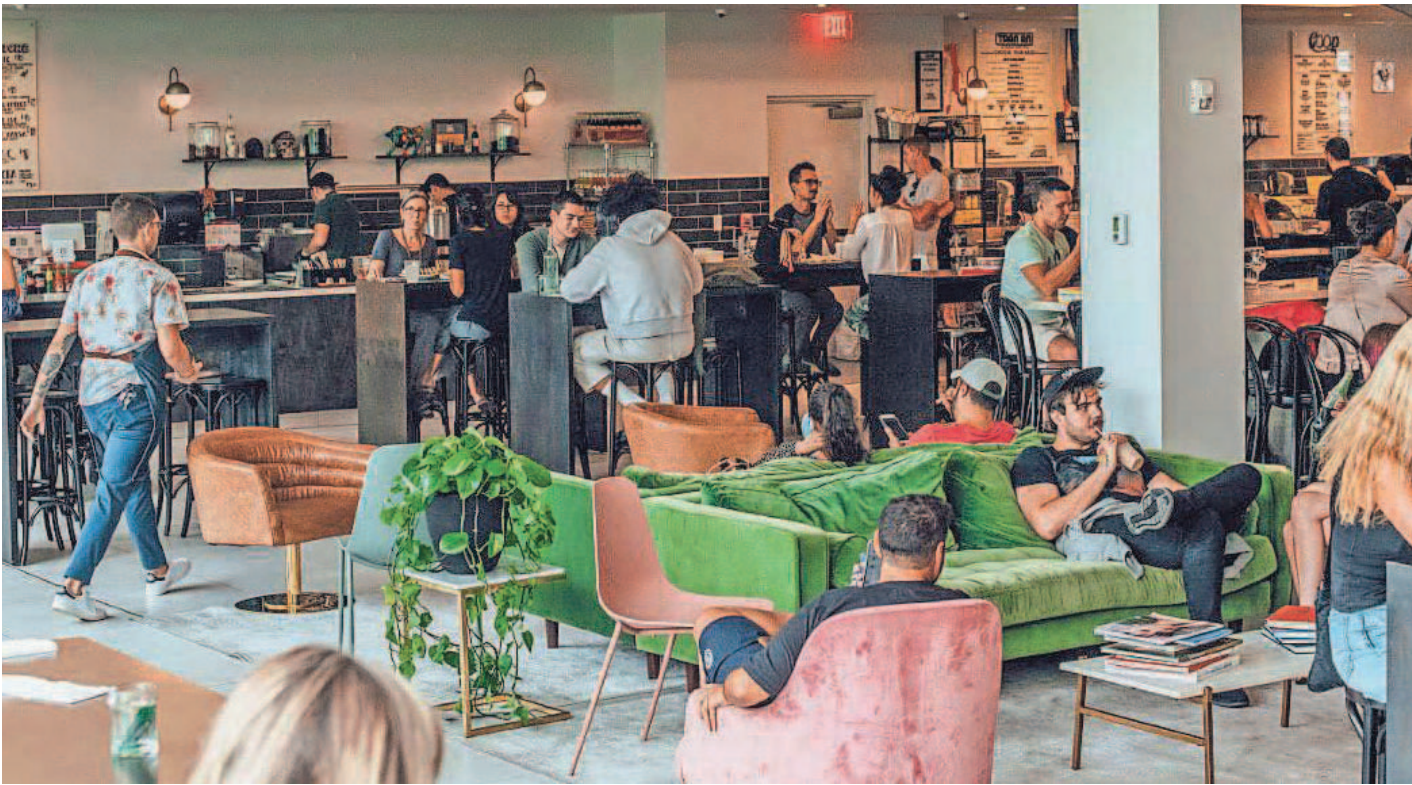
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The City Food Hall concept is very popular in the Miami area. PHOTOS PROVIDED



This is what a food hall looks like in the Miami area.

## City Food Hall

Continued from Page 1A

Rounce said they even talked with Destin Commons for the longest time and had no interest.

“Then we got on a plane ... flew up to Destin and fell in love,” he said.

After seeing it and being here, “How can we not?” he added.

“It has that small-town charm, but on a higher level. It’s such a warm, welcoming place and we fell in love with it,” said Rounce, who is from a small town in the Bahamas. “So we went from having no interest, to being excited.”

Rounce says he loves the “whole Destin vibe ... the fishing thing, the beach thing. The whole Destin vibe has a lot of synergy with who we are as individuals, which is reflected in our brand.”

His business partner Motai is just as excited.

“Absolutely we’re excited to be in Destin Commons. ... It’s an amazing destination,” Motai said.

“The concept is really to highlight what the city has to offer under one roof,” he said.

“We always like to work with as many local chefs as possible so we can highlight them,” Motai added.

### Not a mall food court

The food hall will not have national franchise brands.

“We like to find that up-and-coming chef in Destin. One with a food truck or maybe doing pop-ups at a farmer’s market ... give them the opportunity,” Motai said.

As a matter of fact, he and Rounce were in town just a few weeks ago and headed to 30A to check out some of the trucks.

“We give them a platform to try their



This is interior of one of the food halls in Miami with an expansive bar and lounging area.

brands out at very little risk,” Motai said.

After the pandemic, it’s expensive to open up a restaurant and sign a long lease. That’s where City Food Hall comes in.

“That’s what makes us unique; everything is set up,” he said.

Motai said they build out a full kitchen in the back and vendors can cook all day long.

“We build out the vendors’ stall in the front which is also equipped,” Motai said. “You can come in and start operating in less than a week. ... You just have to set up your menus.

“We want to give those trucks a more permanent location without the burden of opening a full stand-alone,” he added.

However, it isn’t just about food.

“We don’t just look for good food, we look for good people as well,” Rounce said.

“I would take a good person who cooks OK over someone who is an amazing chef but not a good person. It’s building community... that’s what important,” he said.

### Topgolf and multisports

Rounce and Motai are avid golfers, and brought their clubs along when they visited Destin.

City Food Hall will have two Topgolf Swing Suites for the novices and aspiring pros. The suites include a massive screen and other multi-sport games.

The full swing golf simulator technology is the same simulator used by PGA Tour pros for off-course practice.

“Golf enthusiasts can develop their swing and challenge their friends, all while enjoying a cocktail, craft beer and delicious food,” Rounce said in the news release.

“And they can catch the game on one of our HDTV’s. We believe City Food Hall will become one of Destin’s top culinary and nightlife destinations,” he added.

City Food Hall at Destin Commons will be in a 14,000- square-foot space next to the Foot Locker.

For more information, visit [cityfoodhall.com](http://cityfoodhall.com) or email [info@cityfoodhall.com](mailto:info@cityfoodhall.com).

## Angel Trees

Continued from Page 1A

about the children,” she said. “The tags will have sizes.

“We’re asking that donors buy a toy and an outfit for the child they adopt,” Milner added. “We know the community is generous.”

The return to tradition creates a community outreach activity for donating families, James Milner said.

“It’s great for the community to do;

it’s a great family event,” he said. “They can look at the angels and identify for that child.

“They can go and shop for this child as if it’s their own child, so that Christmas morning is a great morning for every child in this community,” he added.

In addition to the donations, volunteers are needed to help organize and distribute Angel Tree packages. Individuals, church or professional organizations, civic groups, and even teens who need community service hours may volunteer. Information can be found at the Salvation Army’s website:

[www.salvationarmyflorida.org/fort-walton](http://www.salvationarmyflorida.org/fort-walton).

Angel Trees are located at every Walmart in Okaloosa and Walton counties, at Sam’s Club, Second Breath Styles, EDC Guns, Starbucks in Destin, at the Silver Sands Premium Outlets and in both the Salvation Army’s thrift store and social services office.

Toy donations are accepted until Dec. 13.

The Salvation Army offices are at 425 Mary Esther Cut-Off in Fort Walton Beach. Catholic Charities is at 11 First St. SE. in Fort Walton Beach.



More than 25 boats participated in the annual Holiday on the Harbor Lighted Destin Boat Parade last year. This year’s event is scheduled to start at 6 p.m. Sunday. TINA HARBUCK/ THE DESTIN LOG

## Parade

Continued from Page 1A

Entry fee per boat is \$25. Prizes will be award in 10 categories from private to charter, tour boats, sailboats, Best Overall and the city of Destin Heritage Award for the boat that represents the historic harbor.

The lighted boat parade will begin on the west end of the harbor and cruise past Margaritaville at HarborWalk Village where judging will take place.

The parade will be visible from the docks and restaurants west of Grand Harbor Condominiums.

The evening will wrap up with fireworks sponsored by HarborWalk Village.

## Attack

Continued from Page 4A

All told, of the 18 Dauntless dive-bombers that launched that fateful morning, one was shot down by friendly fire and five others fell to Japanese aircraft. Not until Dec. 22, 1941, would a telegram arrive at 140 Eighth Ave. NE in Minneapolis informing Mrs. Marie Willis that her son was missing in action. Four days later, a personal letter from Rear Adm. John H. Towers arrived, this one bearing news that her son’s status had been changed to killed in action.

The name Willis would carry on in the war that claimed his life. On Dec. 10, 1943, the destroyer escort Willis (DE 395) was placed in commission in Houston, Texas. Ironically, its combat actions came not against the Japanese, but in the Atlantic, serving in antisubmarine task groups hunting for U-boats. After Germany’s surrender, Willis shifted to the Pacific Theater, arriving at Pearl Harbor on Aug. 7, 1945, 44 months to the day after her namesake flew into the midst of the first shots of the day of infamy and just days away from the end of World War II.

For millions of Americans, life changed eight decades ago and the threads of that moment in our history should always endure in our national memory just as the droplets of oil that still leak from the shattered hull of the Arizona beneath the waters of Pearl Harbor remind us of what happened one Sunday morning.

## Gun safety

Continued from Page 4A

Parkland school shooting, our country has made some progress. We elected a president who supports gun safety, a gun safety majority in the House of Representatives and a Democratic-controlled Senate. However, without a commitment to change the rules of the filibuster, a split majority in the Senate is not enough.

We have the ability through our vote in the 2022 election to strengthen democracy or to lose it.

The next election is no longer about what we hope to achieve. The next election is about what we cannot and will not lose.

*Fred Guttenberg is a gun violence prevention advocate whose 14-year-old daughter, Jaime, was killed in the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida.*

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