



MEDIA RELEASE

MATTIE KELLY ARTS FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Destin, Florida – December 22, 2016 -The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF) and the Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation (ECFF) are pleased to announce a lease agreement on the former Destin YMCA pool property has been reached, effective January 1, 2017. MKAF Board Chairman, Eric Navarre and Chairman-Elect Matthew Dahlman met with ECFF representatives recently to finalize the terms and conditions to which both parties agree with the approval of the Mattie Kelly 908 Trust. "Our goal is to have the 25-yard pool open by March 1st, which will allow the Destin Middle School swim team to use it for their 2017 season," said Kathi Heapy, ECFF Treasurer.

The lease begins on January 1, 2017 and runs for ten years with an option to renew for another 10 years. The ECFF plans to begin working immediately on both cleaning up the facility and fundraising efforts. Upon opening, the pool will be available for lap swimming, swim teams, and limited aquacize and lessons (due to the depth of the pool).

The ECFF's Destin Leadership Team will begin its efforts to collect donations of all amounts to apply to the renovation project. Anyone interested in making a donation to support the effort to reopen the facility is encouraged to contact the ECFF at ecfitnessfoundation@cox.net, or make a donation through their website at www.ecfitnessfoundation.org.

The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation was founded in 1995 on the beliefs of Destin Matriarch, Mattie Kelly, as Northwest Florida's champion of cultural arts and arts education for all. Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation is an independent not-for-profit charitable organization and is not affiliated with any other entity bearing the Mattie Kelly name.

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