

the HELICOPTER



The Rotary Club of Pensacola District 6940 Club 4248

WEEK IN REVIEW 8/13/2024

The hearty greetings and warm smiles of Rotarians Jane White and Charles Thornton welcomed Rotarians and visitors as they entered the Pensacola Yacht Club for the August 13, 2024, meeting of the Pensacola Rotary Club. The meeting officially came to order when President Henry Roberts led the Four Way Test. President Henry commented on the beauty of the recently completed Paris Olympics; nations coming together to compete in a peaceful and safe manner. Rotarian Ted Brown was next to the podium to lead Prayer & Pledge. It just so happened Rotarian Ted recently celebrated his 46th year as a Rotarian. Rotarian Ted shared a delightful story of how he was introduced to the Rotary Club of Pensacola by Rotarian Francis Taylor.

The weekly raffle is ascending to new heights as Rotarian Britt Landrum drew the seven of Clubs to claim \$7. With only 15 cards remaining in the deck, the raffle now stands at well over \$1,000.00. The Sunshine for the day was complete with a couple of jokes appropriate for an elementary school talent show and a reading of "An Ode to College Football". Visitors were recognized along with the birthdays of Rotarians Ken Woolf, Jessica Lyublanovits, and Matthew Massey.

Rotarian Ed Wonders had the pleasure of introducing the day's speaker, sports broadcasting icon Dan Shugart. As he has done for over 30 years, Dan presented his yearly outlook on the upcoming college football season. This year was a bit different, however, because after 43 years covering all things northwest Florida sports, Dan retired from WEAR ABC 3 News on June 29th of this year. Prior to his remarks concerning the upcoming season, Dan provided insight into his retirement. When asked what stood out to him most about his years in sports broadcasting, it wasn't a singular play, but rather the relationships that have developed with folks over the years. He also touched on his plans to catch up on his reading (currently reading a book about Thomas Jefferson) travel, visit family & friends, continuing to host the Prep Football Final show on Friday nights, and calling high school basketball games in January.

The yearly outlook began with a review of the Florida State Seminoles. In 2023, FSU was the second most experienced team in college football. In 2024, the Seminoles are the 73rd most experienced team in college football. With a strong defense in place, the success of the Seminoles will depend on the play of transfer quarterback DJ Uigalelei. The former Clemson Tiger completed 70% of his passes playing for Oregon State last season. West Florida High alum Darius Washington anchors the offensive line at left tackle for the Seminoles, while Niceville's Azarey'h Thomas will be a key contributor at defensive back. Additional players to watch include Alabama transfers running back Roydell Williams and wide receiver Malik Benson.

The Hurricanes of Miami were next on the docket. Coach Mario Cristobal will have Washington State transfer Cam Ward at quarterback and will return seven starters on a defense that was ranked 24th in the nation last year, giving up 321.6 yards a game. The key will be if Coach Cristobal is able to put the pieces in place to have a winning season.

In his third year in Gainesville, Billy Napier may have the most improved team in college football, but the final record may not reflect it. With a closing stretch of Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Texas, LSU, Ole Miss and Florida State, the Gators easily have the nation's toughest schedule. Senior Quarterback Graham Mertz is back to lead the offensive attack. Word out of Gainesville is that Freshman DJ Lagway is making good things happen from the quarterback position. While Florida lost a good bit in the transfer portal, it did pick up key pieces. One such piece is Wisconsin transfer Chimere Dike, who averaged 17 yards per catch last year for the Badgers. Ivy league Defensive Player of the Year Joey Slackman found his way to Gainesville via the portal to help solidify a potent defensive line that features 6'5" 449-pound mountain of a football player Desmond Watson. The linebacker and defensive back corps round out what should be top notch defense. Certainly a make-or-break season for Coach

Napier.

Dan began his prognostication for Kalen DeBoer's Crimson Tide squad by comparing the hire to when UCLA hired Gene Bartow to replace John Wooden as Men's Head Basketball Coach. Coach Bartow amassed a 52-9 with a trip to the 1976 Final Four during his three seasons in Westwood. Unfortunately, that level of success was not enough for UCLA supporters and Coach Bartow left after the 1977 season to begin the athletic program at UAB. Dan's parallel to Alabama's hiring of DeBoer? Like Bartow, DeBoer is a quality head coach with a proven track record of success. But unlike Bartow, Dan hopes DeBoer is given enough time to outcoach the shadow of his legendary predecessor Nick Saban. Coach DeBoer is tough as nails and will bring a different look to Alabama football. His hiring 49 hours after Coach Saban's retirement shows Alabama got the coach it wanted. Shoring up the defense will be key for Alabama. Six defensive players were selected in this past year's NFL Draft (four in the first two rounds). The secondary lost key pieces in Caleb Downs and Trey Amos but did add Domani Jackson and a trio of 5 Star Freshmen (Zay Mincey, Jaylen Mbakwe, and Zabien Brown).

The Argonauts of the University of West Florida will be led by second year head coach Kaleb Nobles. There is plenty to be excited about for the Argonauts 2024 campaign. Signal callers Marcus Stokes and Tony Bartalo lead a talented quarterback room. Adding Pensacola native and former Texas A&M Aggie Raymond Cottrell provides more big play capability at wide receiver for the Argos. Depth on both the offensive line and defensive line provides West Florida a luxury many teams do not have. The Argonauts are picked to finish second in the Gulf South behind Valdosta State. Argonauts in the NFL include Austin Reed (Chicago Bears), D'Anthony Bell (Cleveland Browns), and David Durden (Dallas Cowboys).

To provide plenty of time for questions, Dan gave brief overviews of the following programs:

- Coach Hugh Freeze and the Auburn Tigers will be better defensively this year with the return of eight starters. Payton Thorne's second year as the Tiger's quarterback will be aided by the rapid rise of freshman receiver Cam Coleman.
- Kansas Jayhawks success in 2024 will depend on how healthy quarterback Jalon Daniels remains.
- Ole Miss has a solid quarterback in Jaxon Dart that allows Lane Kiffin to do a lot of creative things on offense. If Ole Miss is able to play defense, it should be a good year in Oxford.
- Gus Malzahn has done a nice job of recruiting players to UCF.

Dan finished his time at the podium with several observations about college football. Folks have become jaded by NIL Agreements and the Transfer Portal. It is driving coaches from the game. * Soon it will come down to bidding wars for players and cause there to be fewer teams that can compete for national championships. * The beauty of college football is the regional rivalries. It is up to the stewards of college football, such as SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey, to make sure college football doesn't become too regional and parts of the country lose interest. Dan offered up his UCLA Bruins for an example. * The State Legislatures of Texas, Georgia and Florida passed NIL for high school students. What high schooler makes money for his school by playing a sport? * This type of environment goes against the teachings of the Sabans and Woodens where it is more important to develop by following a process and knowing that success is piece of mind in knowing you did your very best.

President Henry concluded the meeting by thanking Dan for a wonderful presentation and reminding the group that Kaleb Nobles will be the speaker for the August 24th meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Grissett

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROTARY

TODAY, TUESDAY, August 20, we meet at Pensacola Yacht Club.

PLEASE NOTE, Tuesday, September 3rd, we will meet at Pensacola Bay Center, 201 East Gregory Street.

We will continue to stream our meeting using Microsoft Teams; however, changes will be made due to poor wi-fi reception at PYC. You will no longer receive visual video of the meetings but will be able to listen to the announcements and hear the speaker. The link to join will be sent out in the same manner as before. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes, please let me know. 850-434-0684.

To increase the membership of our club, we will continue to offer three free lunches for potential new members.

Promote your business by placing an ad in the Helicopter. Your ad will run for a full month each week. Business card-sized ads are \$25.00, a 1/4 page is \$50.00, and a 1/2-page ad is \$75.00. To place your ad, send the prepared document to cbridwell@pensacolarotaryclub.org stating the size of the ad you wish to place. **Proceeds benefit the Rotary Club of Pensacola Foundation.**

To pay your quarterly Rotary Club dues with a credit card/debit card go to <http://www.pensacolarotaryclub.org/payment>. Please note a service charge will be applied to your payment.

2024-2025 Club Officers

•President	Henry Roberts
•Past President	Charles Beall
•President Elect	Allison Hill
•Secretary	Randall Richardson
•Treasurer	Lori Nesmith
•Communications Officer	Betty Roberts

Bulletin Information

Web Site: Pensacolarotaryclub.org
E-Mail: cbridwell@pensacolarotaryclub.org
Chris Bridwell, Executive Secretary
13 Palafox Place, Suite 200
P.O. Box 528 • Pensacola, FL 32591-0528
Phone: 850-434-0684

Clubs Available for Makeup

Five Flags	Pensacola Bay Center	Mon.	12:00 pm
Gulf Breeze	Legends at Andrews Institute	Tues.	7:00 am
Milton	The Hangar Restaurant	Tues.	12:00 pm
Seville	Seville Quarter	Tues.	5:15 pm
	meets every other Tuesday		
Cantonment	St. Luke's United Methodist Church	Wed.	12:15 pm
Perdido	The Point Church	Wed.	7:30 am
Pace	Stonebrook Village Country Club	Thur.	7:00 am
Cordova	Gulf Coast Kid's House	Thur.	7:00 am
Suburban West	Pensacola Yacht Club	Thur.	12:00 pm
Navarre	Broussard's Cajun Restaurant	Fri.	12:00 pm
Pensacola North	Hancock Bank, Creighton Rd.	Fri.	12:00 pm

District Governor

Mike Tatem
<http://www.rotary6940.org>

Assistant District Governor

Cliff Schornak

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the week of
August 20 through August 26

Hill Turner – August 24 – born in Pensacola, FL, in Rotary
40 years, Paul Harris Fellow + 1

Greeters and Ticket Sales

August 20

Greeters: Paul Tobin and John Trawick
Ticket Sales: Hill Turner and Ellen Vinson

August 27

Greeters: Joe Vinson and Stephania Streit
Ticket Sales: Stephan Wildish and David Williams

Prayer/Pledge And Sunshine

August 20

Prayer/Pledge: Meredith Bush Sunshine: Collier Merrill

August 27

Prayer/Pledge: Bruce Partington Sunshine: Leslie Mickles

Program Schedule

August

20 - Kaleb Nobles - UWF Football Coach
27 - Ben Woodason - Sovereign Ships

MEETING SCHEDULE

August

20 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and
MicroSoft Teams
1:00 Board of Directors Meeting
27 - Noon Regular Weekly Meeting at Pensacola Yacht Club and
MicroSoft Teams



PROUD TO BE BOARD CERTIFIED

Pamela L. Smith

Realtor, CRS, PMN, e-Pro, C2EX
Real Estate Counselors, Inc.

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

When it comes to the biggest investment of your life, choose a Realtor who has earned the endorsement of Florida Realtors as a Board Certified Professional. This professional endorsement is earned by Realtors who demonstrate high competency, professionalism in sales, ethical conduct, volunteerism, support for homeownership and sets us apart as The Best of the Best. Out of 238,000 Realtors, only 20 are Board Certified.

With over 30 years of experience, I deliver a high level of service based on industry knowledge, skills, a strong moral compass, and a deep connection to my community. Choose a Board Certified Realtor - You deserve to work with the Best of the Best.

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