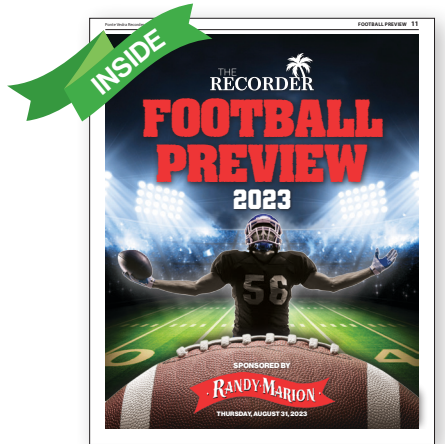


THE RECORDER



Football Preview
Pages 11-30

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Thursday, August 31, 2023

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TPC Sawgrass initiative eliminates plastic bottles

By Anthony Richards

TPC Sawgrass took a massive step in keeping the environment in mind with the second phase of its sustainability initiative, which includes replacing all plastic water bottles with reusable bottles.

The latest phase went into effect July 31, while the initiative as a whole began in 2019 after meeting with its roughly 300 staff members in preparation for hosting THE PLAYERS Championship that year.

From those meetings, they rolled out the initiative which featured the promotion and placement of recycle bins throughout the facility.

However, then following the COVID-19 pandemic, TPC Sawgrass general manager Derek Sprague felt that it was time to start exploring new ways that the

TPC SAWGRASS continues on Page 32



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!
The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!

Inside the world of NIL in college sports

Education is key for staying in tune with the ever-changing landscape

By Anthony Richards

The world of college sports has changed and continues to change ever since the NCAA adopted its policy to allow student athletes to profit from the use of their name, image and likeness, also known as NIL, in the summer of 2021.

Although it has been more than a couple of years now since the change in the rules was made, there is still much confusion that exists out there among everyone involved at times.

Fans, players, coaches and even university officials are slowly beginning to understand more and more with each day that passes, and one of the businesses that is involved in the NIL effort is The Brandr Group, which is based in Ponte Vedra



Photo by Jayne Kamin-Oncea / USA Today Sports

This upcoming college football season will be the third since the NCAA has allowed players to profit from NIL.

Beach.

According to Len Stachitas, chief administrative officer with The Brandr Group, educating everyone involved has been a major key since the NCAA's ruling went into effect.

"We have a team that does educational classes on NIL, and we get phone calls all the time from athletes and parents wanting to know more," Stachitas said. "We are a group rights business, which means

NIL continues on Page 37

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BRIEFS

GTM Reserve offers volunteer orientation

Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM) will offer a new volunteer orientation on Friday, Sept. 1. Interested volunteers will learn about the background and history of the reserve, volunteer opportunities and the benefits of volunteering at GTM.

The orientation will be held from 10 to 11:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1.

After completing the volunteer application, contact volunteer coordinator Abby Kuhn to ensure that it was received.

Best-selling author to speak at Sisters in Crime meeting

Best-selling author, ghostwriter and teacher Lana McAra will be the guest speaker Saturday, Sept. 2, at the next Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime meeting. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Branch Library.

McAra is an award-winning, international best-selling author and ghostwriter of 43 titles through traditional publishing with a million books sold, many under the pen name Rosey Dow. She has written 27 books including three cookbooks and has been teaching students how to write fiction for 20 years.

Lana won the national Christy Award for "Reaping the Whirlwind" in 2001, and her historical cozy mystery series, "Colorado," sold more than 250,000 copies. She lives in Live Oak, Florida.

The group welcomes misters and sisters to learn more about writing, promoting and enjoying crime fiction. For further information, contact floridasistersincrime@gmail.com.

Jacksonville Humane Society offers extended hours, free adoptions

The Jacksonville Humane Society is offering extended hours and free adoptions on Friday, Sept. 1.

The Humane Society, regularly open until 7 p.m. on Fridays, will stay open late for a "Pajama Paw-ty" themed adoption event from 7 to 10 p.m. In addition to all adoption fees being waived, special pajama party-themed activities will be offered to folks visiting during the event. Wearing pajamas to the event is not required, but it is encouraged.

The Humane Society is located at 8464 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. It will be open from noon to 10 p.m. Sept. 1. Adoptions are free all day long.

GTM Reserve offers guided exploration hike

A guided exploration hike will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, at Guana Tolomato

Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM).

Learn about the Guana peninsula's natural biodiversity, expansive cultural history, vital estuarine resources and current efforts to protect these resources.

The hike starts at GTM Research Reserve Trailhead Pavilion (west of Guana Dam), 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Register at secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/BXNYPCjD39k-TVpfvXk2Ew?t=1666293644.

The event is free but parking is \$3 per vehicle. Wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are also recommended.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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1	5	9	8	3	2	4	7	6
8	9	4	1	7	5	3	6	2
3	1	6	9	2	4	5	8	7
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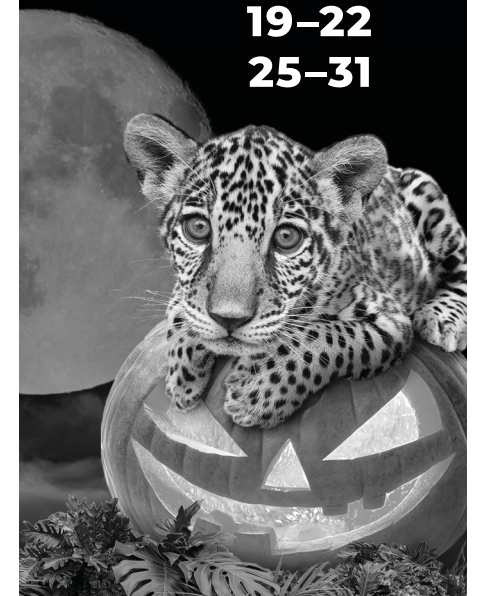


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Columbia Restaurant diners can help support Betty Griffin Center in September

People can let their appetites provide support for the Betty Griffin Center by dining at any of the seven Columbia Restaurants in Florida in September during the 26th Annual Columbia Restaurant Community Harvest program.

For the entire month, Columbia donates 5% of all guests' lunch and dinner checks to the charitable organizations chosen by customers. Guests simply choose a charity from a ballot that's provided with the

check and the restaurant calculates the 5%. There's no additional cost to the guest.

"Every dollar we receive through this annual fundraiser makes a tremendous impact on our ability to operate our shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence and helps with funding the prevention programs we provide throughout the county," said Betty Griffin Center Development Director Kenlie Kubart. "It's a fun way to give and support a very serious cause."

The Columbia Community Harvest takes place at seven Columbia Restaurants throughout the state, including the St. Augustine location at 98 St. George St. in the Olde Town area. All Columbia locations are open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. For more information, go to www.ColumbiaRestaurant.com

Over the past 25 years, the Columbia Restaurant Community Harvest has donated more than \$3 million to nonprofit

organizations throughout Florida.

The original Columbia Restaurant was founded in Tampa's Historic Ybor City in 1905 by Cuban immigrant Casimiro Hernandez Sr. and is now Florida's oldest restaurant. All Columbia locations are owned and operated by fourth- and fifth-generation members of the founding family except for Columbia Restaurant Cafe at Tampa International Airport, which is operated in partnership with HMSHost.



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The Recorder's garden columnist Kathy Esfahani of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery shares her tips for growing gorgeous gardens in Northeast Florida.

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

Butterfly Gardens

"Happiness is like a butterfly; the more you chase it, the more it will evade you, but if you notice the other things around you, it will gently come and sit on your shoulder." — Henry David Thoreau



By Kathy Esfahani

It can be captivating to watch a butterfly! We find ourselves taking a moment away from the hectic demands of everyday life to enjoy the wonder of these delicate creatures.

Planting a butterfly garden is a beautiful and colorful way to attract butterflies into your landscape.

An intentionally planned butterfly garden provides a safe place for these visitors. They can easily find food and water, take shelter and reproduce. Strong butterfly populations also support the larger environment by attracting other insects that benefit the garden and providing food for animals, birds and lizards that help control pests in the garden.

A sustainable butterfly garden should include vegetation that supports both adults and larvae; plants that provide shelter from strong temperatures, heavy rain



Butterfly Garden

and predators; and a water source for the butterflies. Remember these tips as you design your butterfly garden:

- Garden both in full sun and partial shade.
- Include plants that support larvae and adult butterflies.
- Select a variety of plants that bloom at different times so that the butterflies have a consistent food source.
- Use quality topsoil to ensure plants and flowers are enriched.
- Include sweet-smelling plants and/or herbs such as sedum and lavender.
- Arrange plants in groups, as butterflies are more likely to land in a concentration of color instead of on a

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery



Flower of the Week

Coreopsis

single plant.

- Choose plants of varying heights, colors, shapes and sizes.
- Include a water feature — even a simple shallow dish with water and rocks will encourage butterflies to visit!

When planning for your butterfly garden, be sure to include several of the following plants: black eyed Susan, butterfly bush, coreopsis, fennel, firebush, gaillardia, lantana, milkweed, pentas, porterweed, purple passion vine, sage and sunflowers.

Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Coreopsis

Please email Kathy at kcg.pvr@gmail.com for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future. For more information & ideas, visit Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. The phone number is 904-655-7373.

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For additional information visit chsfl.org/chefs

Things to know about county yard waste guidelines

By Anthony Richards

With the peak of hurricane season upon us, there will be its share of limb debris or trees down that will come from it as a result.

However, it's one thing to cut up or collect the debris sitting in one's yard after a storm passes through, but what is the best way to go about making sure it gets picked up and does not sit there for a lengthy period?

The St. Johns County solid waste division has certain guidelines that they ask residents to follow in order to make the pickup process an easier one for everyone involved.

When it comes to yard waste, leaves, grass clippings, twigs and other smaller pieces should be bagged, bundled, tied or in a garbage bin no larger than 32 gallons and should weigh no more than 50 pounds.

Branches, shrubs and stumps, which can be common following a storm can be placed at the street but only if they

are less than six feet long and weigh less than 50 pounds.

They must also be stacked into neat piles that are parallel to the curb.

Living in Florida also produces a lot of palm fronds as debris. The county recommends that palm fronds be stacked in neat piles with the fan portion facing away from the curb and street, which will allow for easier and quicker access for collectors to grab and transport to the truck.

Some of the things that should not be put out for yard waste collection include whole trees, land clearing debris, any yard waste heavier than 50 pounds or more than six feet, landscape, timbers, garden hoses, planters and yard decorations.

The county also instructs that yard waste should never be put in a person's recycling cart or in front of vacant lots, which do not have a house on the property.

Having people place items on vacant lots has also been mentioned and dis-

cussed at previous Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District meetings in the past.

All yard waste, garbage and recycling must be separated by the resident and placed curbside by 6 a.m. on the scheduled collection day for that area.

The county is divided into two collection companies with Republic Services in charge of collecting the garbage, recycling and yard waste for the northern half of St. Johns County north

of the St. Johns River following County Road 208 and north of State Road 16 to the ocean.

Meanwhile, Advanced Disposal services residents in the southern end of the county south of the St. Johns River and once again following County Road 208 and south of State Road 16 to the shore.

To find out which days your area gets collected, call 904-827-6980 or email solidwaste@sjcfl.us to find out.

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Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice Specialists

Brothers Ben and Dan Espling run Espling Jewelers, which has two locations, one in Jacksonville and the other in Jacksonville Beach. The business was started as a watch repair shop by their parents, Bengt A. and Laura Espling. Today, Espling Jewelers buys, sells and repairs high-end jewelry and watches.

Ben and Dan Espling

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me a little about Espling Jewelers.

Ben Espling: Dad started the business a long time ago, 1972. It was basically a watch repair shop. Since then, through the years and growth, we went more into jewelry and sales. We still do complete watch repair, and now we do a lot of estate jewelry, buying and selling and coins and even silverware.

Dan Espling: We can custom-make jewelry, and we have a lot of new items in stock.

Ben: We're both gemologists, so we are used to identify a lot of things. We've invested in technology and equipment for identifying things — including synthetic diamonds.

What's involved with becoming a gemologist?

Ben: To become a gemologist or a graduate gemologist takes time. It's not a three-month, quick certification. It's getting everything from a beginner's jewelry background to colored stones to diamonds to diamonds-graduate to colored stones-graduate. Then, there's lab testing. You go to GIA — Gemological Institute of America — either New York or California or other labs around the country.

We also have DCA — Diamond Council of America — and several of the guys on staff have certifications through them.

We also support the Pearl Association. We have a couple of guys that have pearl certifications and graduate pearls through GIA.

So, we've got a lot of education.

Dan: I have jewelry in my blood.

Ben: We've both been jewelers at the bench, making jewelry, doing everything from setting stones, soldering, carving, designing ... we've both done that pretty much all our lives. We have a lot of years of experience.

The definition of a jeweler can be a lot of things, from the guy who sells you something to the guy who owns the place to the guy who fixes your watch or sits at the bench. We've worn a lot of hats.

What was it like growing up in a family-owned business such as this one?

Dan: I'd say we grew up with a positive can-do attitude. There was nothing that we couldn't do, build or repair. We always could tinker with little things, and the jewelry business was just a good place to nurture that.

Did your dad show you the intricacies of all the different things that he would do?

Ben: He wasn't actually a jeweler. That, we took on ourselves. But he was a master watchmaker who trained under somebody who's well-known, Henry B. Fried.

Dan: Correct. But we wouldn't be in the business or have gone on to further training without his leadership and knowledge.

Ben: I should mention that Mom was there all the time working in the store.

Dan: The two of them were ... a "dynamic duo." They were married for 67 years.

What should people know when they are looking for a piece of jewelry, a diamond or a watch?

Dan: It's not so much what you would have to know as who you know.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Ben, left, and Dan Espling stand behind the counter at their Jacksonville Beach store.

Ben: You should be comfortable with who you're dealing with. If you're not, then you're not going to feel right about any of the answers anyway.

What do you like most about what you do?

Ben: That I never know what's coming through the door next when it comes to the estate jewelry. There's some new, exciting treasure showing up. And then, the history behind it, the story behind it; I think of it like the "Relic Hunter," where it's just something new and unknown. Sometimes it takes research to figure out: What is it?

Dan: I like that every jewel tells a story. Its whereabouts and the life it's had and the life it's shared with the person who owned it.

Ben: We look at diamonds all the time, and you can look at the cut of the diamond and often tell the time period, the history ... Maybe the wear where it's been rubbing on another stone, which would have to be another diamond.

Dan: I think you can come in contact with something that will certainly outlast your being. If you've found something that's already 100 years old and it lasts another 100, it transcends your existence.

Ben: When somebody brings it in and you have a look and say, well, is this a reproduction or is this something that was pieced together with stuff from 150 years ago and then redone maybe 30, 40 years ago? When did they

first use white gold, and what metals did they use in the 1800s vs. the 20th century?

Are you from Jacksonville originally?

Dan: We were both raised in Jacksonville, and we live in this Jacksonville community.

Ben: We both surfed this area, fished all through the Intracoastal and the ocean. I played music up and down here: art walks and things, restaurants here in Jax Beach.

What do you like most about living in the Jacksonville area?

Dan: I love the weather. I like the outdoors that we have here. It's great for hiking. I like cooking outdoors, grilling and all that. And the people here. It's a friendly kind of town.

Ben: Weather and outdoors — and anything to do with water. Recently, I have found a lot of good hiking, not only at the parks, but our zoo's pretty good, too. So is going down to St. Augustine and some of the hiking there, like at the Alligator Farm. I enjoy visiting and revisiting those places.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an abridged version of the article that first appeared in the April-May 2023 issue of The First Coast Register. To read the full article, go to pontevedrarecorder.com/stories/ben-and-dan-espling,48304.

Chan named celebrity chef for Delicious Destinations

By Anthony Richards

A premier food and wine event in Jacksonville for the past 21 years has been the Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation's Delicious Destinations.

During that time, it has become not only a marquee nonprofit fundraiser in the area but also a culinary dream for those who enjoy the intricacies of some of the finest food and wine the Southeast has to offer.

The theme of this year's event is "Salt & Fire," and many of the dishes presented during the showcase will be tailored to fit with the theme.

Each year's theme is an excellent way to allow the chefs in attendance to demonstrate their creative side and allow their dishes to really evolve into something memorable.

In many cases, even just walking by the culinary spread on display will catch the attention and amazement of those passing by even before it is tasted.

This year's featured chef for the Celebrity Chef by the Sea Luncheon event at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Friday Sept. 8 will be Dennis Chan of Blue Bamboo Canton Bistro.

He will be joined at the special event with master sommelier Matthew Citriglia, director of wine education for Southern

Glazers.

The two-day event will conclude with the main event at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

Chan is a native, having grown up in Jacksonville and in many ways his path to becoming a chef was one he discovered at an early age, as his family owned 12 restaurants throughout the past eight decades.

According to Chan, some of his earliest memories of food came during his childhood, as he remembers standing on a little stool next to his grandfather's restaurant stove and just watching him cook.

Chan and the culinary world found a perfect fit with each other when he opened Blue Bamboo in Jacksonville in 2005 after graduating from the Culinary Institute of America.

Following his time in school, he worked for Disney and learned under the tutelage of celebrity chef Ming Tsai.

The knowledge and experience he gathered during that time prepared him for his creation of the Blue Bamboo, and he has since strived to pass along that knowledge to others by serving as an adjunct professor at Florida State College at Jacksonville and by teaching personal enrichment cooking classes at Blue Bamboo.

He has also written a pair of cookbooks in his career, with the first one called "Hip



Contributed photo

Dennis Chan of Blue Bamboo Canton Bistro will be this year's featured chef for the Celebrity Chef by the Sea Luncheon event at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Friday Sept. 8.

Asian Comfort Food," being published in 2019 and the second, "Let's Eat!," hitting shelves a couple of years later in 2022.

Chan has also held the position of president of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association Northeast chapter and was chosen as one of 16 chefs to take part in the Hormel Foods Culinary Enrichment and Innovation Program.

He currently lives in Jacksonville with

his wife Elizabeth, and their 8-year-old sons Bennett and Michael.

"After working around the country, I am so happy to have found my way back home," Chan said.

The list of featured chefs for the 21st Annual Delicious Destinations is presented by Miller Electric Company includes:

- Nathan Beriau, director of food & beverage, Montage Palmetto Bluff
- Bogdan Boerean, executive chef, The Mar-a-Lago Club
- Garrett Gooch, executive chef, The Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island
- Tom Gray, executive chef, Prati Italia and Town Hall
- Scott Maurer, executive chef, Ocean Key
- Steve Mengel, chef administrator, The Greenbrier
- Hermann Muller, executive chef, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club
- Paige Murray, pastry chef, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club
- Darin Sehnert, owner-chef, Chef Darin's Kitchen Table
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- Tim Turner, executive chef, Epping Forest Yacht Club
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Baptist Health program helps moms during pregnancy, postpartum

Maternal mental health conditions are the most common complications of pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum – affecting one in five women. Baptist Health opened a new day program, The Motherhood Space, to support pregnant and new moms with perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMADs), often referred to as postpartum depression.

Participants attend the program Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon for up to three weeks. The Motherhood Space Day Program, located in the Baptist Healthy Living Center at the Winston Family YMCA, is led by a team of psychologists who specialize in perinatal mental health.

The Motherhood Space is officially open to new participants.

“We are here to help. Moms, you are not alone,” said Jill Garrett, PsyD, PMH-C, licensed psychologist, program director of The Motherhood Space and mom of two. “We recognized the need for intensive and comprehensive support for expectant and new moms, and we’re honored to launch The Motherhood Space Day Program to make this much-needed support more easily accessible to moms in our community.”

To make it easy for moms to participate in The Motherhood Space Day Program, there is a private lactation area for breastfeeding mothers and on-site child care available at no cost through the YMCA KidZone.

“Every detail has been carefully crafted around what mothers experiencing mental health conditions need most,” explained Terrie Andrews Ph.D., vice president of Baptist Behavioral Health. “From the thoughtful programming to the convenient location, we know The Motherhood Space will be a place of healing for so many women in our community.”

Eligibility

Individuals in the perinatal period (pregnancy or up to 18 months postpartum) who are experiencing maternal mental health challenges such as depression, anxiety, OCD, PTSD, panic disorder or bipolar are a good fit for the program.

The Motherhood Space Day Program accepts most insurance plans. Interested participants can contact our caring coordinators to determine if this offering is a benefit of their coverage and share next steps for involvement in The Motherhood



Photos provided by Baptist Health

Space.

Those interested may call 904-376-3800 and select option 4 to speak with a caring coordinator. More information is also available at baptistjax.com/motherhood-space.

Additional resources

The Motherhood Space Day Program is the next phase in Baptist Health’s continued commitment to supporting the behav-

ioral health needs of the community.

As part of this commitment, nearly 40 free, educational videos are available through The Motherhood Space on YouTube on a wide range of topics including strategies for support, PMADs 101, “baby blues” and self-screening tips.

Baptist Health educators also host free, virtual new mom support groups to share and discuss experiences as new mothers from the comfort of home.

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(detail) John Frederick Kensett (American, 1816 - 72), *Singing Beach & Eagle Rock, Magnolia, Massachusetts, 1864*, oil on canvas. Courtesy of the Thomas H. and Diane DeMell Jacobsen Ph.D. Foundation.

HUGS St. Johns in need of volunteers

Local all-volunteer nonprofit HUGS St. Johns is already busy this new school year providing food and clothing to local children in need.

Since 2008, HUGS volunteers have worked closely with St. Johns County school counselors, social workers and nonprofit partners like the Betty Griffin Center. HUGS has two primary areas of focus: providing for food- and clothing-insecure kids from pre-K through high school.

“Every year, St. Johns County has 400 or more children who are considered homeless, and thousands more living in poverty or facing crisis situations,” said Founder and Director Brette Reiman. “Our volunteer team works so hard to meet the needs of these great kids. We are reaching out to the community because we truly need more volunteers.”

Already, HUGS volunteers have packed more than 100 emergency clothing bags to kick-off the new school year and stocked emergency food pantries at 23 schools and partner agencies.

Clothing volunteers are needed any Tuesday or Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon at the HUGS warehouse in St. Augustine.

“Our clothing program volunteers help pack duffel bags filled with new and gen-

tly used clothing, shoes, socks, undies, toiletries and school supplies,” said Karen Burke, clothing program co-director. “We appreciate volunteer help even just one day each month!”

HUGS volunteers also manage emergency food pantries at 23 schools and agencies and restock the first Friday of each month with canned items, snacks, breakfast food and more to fight food insecurity.

“We have a great team of delivery drivers who have a lot of fun together,” said food program co-director Holly Ross. “We hope others will consider joining us the first Friday of any month to help deliver food to schools.”

For more information about volunteering with HUGS St. Johns, email info@stjohnshugs.org or check out <https://instagram.com/stjohnshugs.org> or <https://www.stjohnshugs.org>



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Four Scouts from Troop 277 achieve Eagle status

Boy Scout Troop 277 in Ponte Vedra Beach recently recognized its four newest Eagle Scouts.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest achievement possible in the Boy Scout program and requires years of dedication. The Scouts who earn this rank work through learning and leadership requirements and complete a service project for the community.

All four of these Scouts have been active members of Troop 277, which is sponsored by Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The Eagle Scouts are:

- David Darracott is a senior at Nease High School this year. His Eagle Scout project aided the Jacksonville Animal Care/Protective Services pet shelter with donated dog food and toys, and he built and installed storage shelves for the shelter. Aside from Scouting, David enjoys working out at the gym. He is enrolled in the Engineering Academy and AP, honors programs at Nease.

- Ben Blatt is a senior at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville. While in Troop 277, Ben camped more than 70 nights earning several outdoor awards. His Eagle Scout project was building six doghouses for Animal Care Protective Services. Aside from Scouting, Ben runs cross country and is involved with the



Contributed photo

Pictured left to right: David Darracott, Benjamin Blatt, Garrett Smith and David Jerome.

wrestling team and student vestry.

- Garrett Smith is a junior at Ponte Vedra High School. Garrett's Eagle Scout project worked with Peace of Heart Community in Ponte Vedra Beach building an elevated firewood shed for the residents to use. Aside from Scouting, Garrett

enjoys music and is involved in marching band.

- David Jerome is a senior at Ponte Vedra High School. David's Eagle Scout project involved re-landscaping the front and welcome sign area at the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center in St

Augustine. Aside from Scouting, David enjoys traveling and watching the Jaguars play and is involved as a leader in the Curbside Clean Up Crew at his high school.

For more information on Scouting or Troop 277, go to www.BeAScout.org.

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Photos by Anthony Richards

Senior quarterback Ben Burk's vision as a runner presents the Sharks' offense with dual-threat capability.

PONTE VEDRA OFFENSIVE PREVIEW

Veteran group ready to shine after years in scheme

By Anthony Richards

The offense for the Ponte Vedra Sharks has the potential to really make some noise and be the best offense head coach Steve Price has had since taking over three years ago.

There are many reasons why this has the chance to be the case, but at the top of the list is the return of quarterback Ben Burk, who is a senior and is entering his third year in the system as the starting signal caller.

Not only does Burk look more comfortable and in command than he ever has, but he presents a dual-threat capability to hurt defenses from in the pocket by completing passes down the field or picking up yards of designed run plays.

It also helps that he will have plenty of help around him, from a solid offensive line to a powerful rushing attack and an assortment of receiving options to target.

A couple of those receiving options include deep threat Ryan Smith, whose speed allows him to break free of the secondary and junior tight end Landon Okla.



The Sharks' offensive line will look to help pave the way to a productive season, with Michigan commit Jake Guarnera (No. 53) leading the way at center.

At 6 feet 2 inches tall, Okla offers a large target for Burk to aim for, as he uses his combination of speed and size to prevent matchup problems on a nearly weekly basis.

Senior Cole Madison is also part of the veteran-laden receiving corps and presents another sure-handed option for Burk and the Sharks' coaching staff, while fellow senior Griffin Owen is making the transition from the backfield to receiver.

"We just need to work a little more

on our timing and getting that perfect depth on our routes," Owen said. "We're loaded with talent, but now we just need to execute."

At the end of the day, the Sharks' identity in recent years has been to look to establish the run in order to ensure a balanced offensive attack.

The pieces are once again in place to do just that and lean on their running game at times during games if they need to, thanks to not only a strong group of

backs, but also a powerful offensive line that should be able to open plenty of holes to run through.

"I'm really tight with our o-line and we even hang out on the weekend," Case said. "I really appreciate all the work they put in and all that they do."

One of the most talked about players heading into the 2023 season is senior center Jake Guarnera, who is a University of Michigan commit.

Guarnera played offensive tackle in recent years but makes the switch to center for this season to help the team fill a hole there and solidify the middle of the line.

Looking to take advantage of the running lanes created by the offensive front is a backfield led by junior Brian Case, who is a hard-nosed runner between the tackles and has shown good hands in the screen game as well.

"We've got a really good running back room," Case said.

Case enjoys the more carries he gets in a game, as he tends to build a rhythm as the game goes on and the ball gets placed in his hands more.

"My favorite play is inside zone, because I like running inside and between the tackles because that's where I can really do my thing," Case said.

Case and Burk will pose a dangerous duo in the backfield this season for the Sharks, as a result.



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DATE	TIME	OPPONENT/LOCATION
Sep. 1	7:00 pm	@Florida State University High School
Sep. 15	7:00 pm	Middleburg
Sep. 22	7:00 pm	@Menendez (St. Augustine)
Sep. 29	7:00 pm	@Flagler Palm Coast
Oct. 6	7:00 pm	Bishop Kenny
Oct. 13	7:00 pm	Tocoi Creek
Oct. 20	7:00 pm	@Orange Park
Oct. 27	7:00 pm	Nease
Nov. 3	7:00 pm	@Creekside

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DATE	TIME	OPPONENT/LOCATION
Sep. 1	7:00 pm	Creekside
Sep. 8	7:30 pm	@Ridge Community
Sep. 15	6:00 pm	@Fletcher
Sep. 22	7:00 pm	Orange Park
Sep. 29	6:30 pm	@Sandalwood
Oct. 6	7:00 pm	St. Augustine
Oct. 13	7:00 pm	Flagler Palm Coast
Oct. 27	7:00 pm	@Ponte Vedra
Nov. 3	7:00 pm	Tocoi Creek

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DATE	TIME	OPPONENT/LOCATION
Sep. 1	7:00 pm	Seabreeze
Sep. 8	7:00 pm	Mainland
Sep. 22	7:00 pm	@St. Augustine
Sep. 29	7:30 pm	@Fleming Island
Oct. 6	7:00 pm	IMG Academy
Oct. 13	7:00 pm	Creekside
Oct. 19	7:00 pm	@Buchholz
Oct. 27	7:00 pm	Oakleaf
Nov. 3	6:30 pm	@Mandarin

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DATE	TIME	OPPONENT/LOCATION
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Sep. 8	7:00 pm	@Menendez
Sep. 15	7:00 pm	Sebastian River
Sep. 22	7:00 pm	Ridgeview
Sep. 29	7:00 pm	@Hollis Christian Academy
Oct. 13	6:30 pm	@Paxon School For Advanced Studies
Oct. 20	7:00 pm	@Crescent City
Oct. 27	7:00 pm	North Florida Educational Institute
Nov. 3	7:00 pm	Providence School

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CREEKSIDE KNIGHTS

2023 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT/LOCATION
Sep. 1	7:00 pm	@Nease
Sep. 15	7:30 pm	@Buchholz
Sep. 22	7:00 pm	Mandarin
Sep. 29	7:00 pm	Oakleaf
Oct. 13	7:00 pm	@Bartram Trail
Oct. 20	7:00 pm	Fleming Island
Oct. 26	6:30 pm	@Atlantic Coast
Nov. 3	7:00 pm	Ponte Vedra

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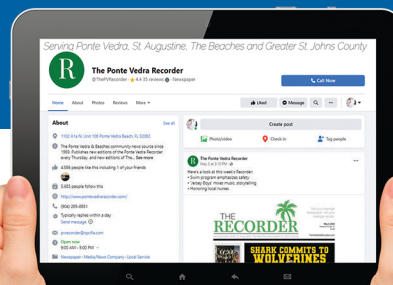
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DATE	TIME	OPPONENT/LOCATION
Sep. 1	7:00 pm	@Chiles
Sep. 8	6:30 pm	Andrew Jackson
Sep. 15	6:00 pm	Nease
Sep. 22	6:30 pm	Sandalwood
Sep. 29	6:30 pm	@Parker
Oct. 6	6:30 pm	ED White
Oct. 13	6:30 pm	Englewood
Oct. 26	6:30 pm	First Coast
Nov. 3	6:00 pm	Atlantic Coast

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Photos by Anthony Richards

Senior running back Cam Smith has the ability to break free for a long run every time he touches the football.

NEASE OFFENSIVE PREVIEW

Panthers look to beat opponents in a variety of ways

By Anthony Richards

The biggest question surrounding the Nease offense heading into the season pertains to the starting quarterback spot and who will fill the vacancy left with the graduation of two-year starter Marcus Stokes, who is now playing college ball at the University of West Florida.

That question remained a constant factor throughout the spring and fall practice and head coach Collin Drafts has given the nod to junior Nate Harry heading into the season.

“Coach Drafts is a great coach and he’s taught me everything I know,” Harry said. “I’m just excited to get out there and make the most of this chance that I have.”

Harry beat out senior Zach Buttacavoli for the starting spot and showed signs of his potential during the kickoff classic against Menendez.

He looked comfortable operating the offense in his first competitive snaps since gaining the role and made some plays both with his arm and with his legs.

One of the things that helps Harry as



Maddox Spencer (No. 14) will be a major threat in the passing game for the Panthers this season.

a first-time starter is the weapons he will have surrounding him this season.

And it starts with senior running back Cam Smith, who will be the guy primarily lining up with Harry in the backfield.

Smith has game-breaking ability and has a combination of vision and explosiveness to find the hole along the line of scrimmage and then use his speed to make things happen at the next level of the defense.

Smith’s playing time increased as

the year progressed a season ago due to injuries to other members of the backfield and he took full advantage of his opportunity.

“In our offense, it doesn’t matter who gets the balls, as long as we’re driving the ball down the field, and I just want to help with that,” Smith said.

He enters his senior season as the top option at running back and will look to be someone the Panthers can lean on, as well as a reliable offensive line led by

senior Demarco Blackmon.

“There’s been a lot of competition this offseason,” Blackmon said. “At the end of the day, iron sharpens iron. As seniors, we know we’ve got to step up and be the leaders this year.”

The Panthers’ strong rushing attack is something defensive coordinators will have to adjust for, which means opening possibilities for big plays in the passing game.

The receiving corps is deep for the Panthers with several options, and it will be fun to see how the Nease coaching staff incorporates them all into the scheme on a weekly basis.

Leading the way is junior Maddox Spencer, who shined in the kickoff classic and looks to already have developed quite the rapport with Harry in the early going.

“Maddox is like my best friend off the field, but I’m super close with all of the receivers,” Harry said. “It definitely makes a difference out there.”

Spencer has proven a knack for finding the holes in the secondary and has sure hands to go with his quickness.

“We’ve been very strong in the weight room this offseason, because that’s always a big thing for us,” Smith said. “The work you put in there will show up on the field. It’s all about having high energy in everything that we do.”

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Sep. 8	7:00 pm	Wolfson
Sep. 15	7:00 pm	North Florida Educational Institute
Sep. 22	7:00 pm	@Christ's Church Academy
Sep. 29	7:30 pm	@University Christian
Oct. 5	7:00 pm	Hilliard
Oct. 13	7:00 pm	Master's Academy
Oct. 27	7:30 pm	Trinity Christian Academy
Nov. 3	7:00 pm	@Beachside

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Sep. 10	1:00 pm	@Indianapolis Colts
Sep. 17	1:00 pm	Kansas City Chiefs
Sep. 24	1:00 pm	Houston Texans
Oct. 1	9:30 am	Atlanta Falcons
Oct. 8	9:30 am	@Buffalo Bills
Oct. 15	1:00 pm	Indianapolis Colts
Oct. 19	8:15 pm	@New Orleans Saints
Oct. 29	1:00 pm	@Pittsburgh Steelers
Nov. 12	1:00 pm	San Francisco 49ers
Nov. 19	1:00 pm	Tennessee Titans
Nov. 26	1:00 pm	@Houston Texans
Dec. 4	8:15 pm	Cincinnati Bengals
Dec. 10	1:00 pm	@Cleveland Browns
Dec. 17	8:20 pm	Baltimore Ravens
Dec. 24	4:05 pm	@Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Dec. 31	1:00 pm	Carolina Panthers
Jan. 7	TBD	@Tennessee Titans

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PONTE VEDRA DEFENSIVE PREVIEW

Tradition of stingy defenses continues with Sharks

By Anthony Richards

Making life difficult has become a staple of the Ponte Vedra High defense in recent years and this year's crop looks to keep it going.

The last couple of classes were able to create a tradition of stingy defenses and the current players were either a part of those squads or have been around the program and are fully aware of what the expectation for the unit is.

"Our goal every year is just to be the best defense in the state," Senior linebacker Maddux Babin said.

The expectations can be lofty and provide pressure at times, but the squad embraces that pressure and expects nothing left from themselves as well.

One of the key members patrolling the back end of the Sharks' defense in the secondary is senior cornerback Joe Mahoney, who continues to progress with each year and has reached the point where he is one of the best cover men on the First Coast.

He has a knack for keeping pace and staying stride for stride with receivers down the field, and seemingly always being in the right position to make a play on the ball in the air.

He rarely seems to get rattled by a game's situation, which is such a valuable trait to have, especially as a defensive back with the mindset needed to have success at that position.

Regardless of the various top receivers the Sharks face this season, they can feel confident that they will have the ability to hold their own against them knowing Mahoney is in coverage.

The Sharks have had to replace leaders at linebacker the past couple of seasons with Luke Pirris and Trooper Price



Photos by Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra student section roots on their defense.

graduating in their respective years.

However, the Sharks are poised to have their next linebacker leader step up this season in the form of Babin, who presents an attaching style similar to the previous two.

"I've really worked on my speed, strength and agility every day in the summer, and I can see now where that's really paying off," Babin said.

It is a family affair for the Sharks, as his younger brother Talan Babin is a sophomore and a member of the line-backing corps.

Up front for the Sharks is Nicholas Grieco, who enters his senior season as a force to be reckoned with along the interior of the defensive line.

"We just need to keep improving on the little things, and just keep containing on our gaps," Grieco said.

He moved from primarily nose tackle a year ago to playing a three-technique, which is where he positions himself wider down the line so that he is lined up with the outside shoulder of the guard instead of with the center.

The transition has made it a busy but productive offseason for him.

"I've really been working on getting better with my first step so that I can really explode into the guard," Grieco

said. "It's all about staying lower and that takes place with a good first step."

The brotherhood of the Sharks' defense is one of the aspects Grieco has enjoyed the most during his time as a member of the program.

"We've been together for a long time now, so we've really had time to develop together," Grieco said. "We're all out here just helping each other, and as a result, we get better as a team. It's scary to know it's my last year, but we're all just ready to make the most of it."



Senior Joe Mahoney has established a reputation as one of the best defensive backs on the First Coast.

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Aug. 31	8:00 pm	@Utah
Sep. 9	7:30 pm	McNeese
Sep. 16	7:00 pm	Tennessee
Sep. 23	7:00 pm	Charlotte
Sep. 30	TBA	@Kentucky
Oct. 7	TBA	Vanderbilt
Oct. 14	TBA	@South Carolina
Oct. 28	3:30 pm	Georgia (Jacksonville, FL)
Nov. 4	TBA	Arkansas
Nov. 11	TBA	@LSU
Nov. 18	TBA	@Missouri
Nov. 25	TBA	Florida State

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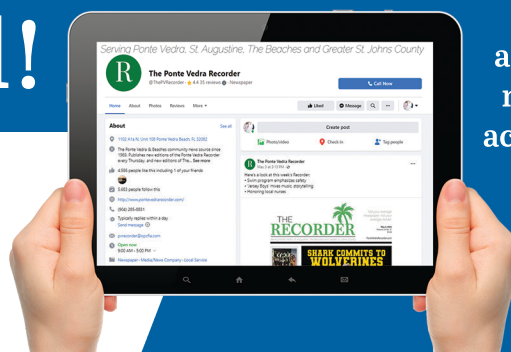
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NEASE DEFENSIVE PREVIEW

Panthers are all grown up, ready for bounce back

By Anthony Richards

Look for the Nease Panthers to be much improved on the defensive of the ball this season, as they have the potential for a big bounce back campaign after a disappointing season a year ago.

Disappointing is exactly what it felt like for many Panthers' defenders who know firsthand how tough it was and are happy to see the light at the end of the tunnel, because they believe there is more potential there and that last year does not live up to the standard of defense at Nease and what they expect of themselves.

However, one thing to remember is that the talent has always been there, but in many ways last year was a perfect storm of both a bevy of young players everywhere on the field and a new defensive coordinator.

We'll do not look now, but those players are now having a year of experience under their belt and are not having to learn a new coach this time around.

"Everything was just really new last year, but we've just been learning more and more every day and another offseason has just been so helpful in learning the defense," McClafferty said.

The result is a defense that looks so much more in control and the playmaking ability for that entire side of the ball has escalated because of it.

For the Panthers, it starts up front with a powerful and athletic front that does a nice job of getting penetration into an opponent's backfield or collapsing the pocket do their quarterback does not have time to let the receiving routes develop.

Helping lead the way are a trio of seniors, Noah Hellyer, Morris Halyard and Logan Terry.

Terry handles a lot of defensive tackle duties and occupies the space in the middle of the line with the goal of creating interior push and standing tall against the run.

"We've been focusing on a lot of team bonding and just trying to make those connections happen, and now we just want to come out and give our best and show that it's all been worth it," Hellyer

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Photos by Anthony Richards

Flying to the ball is the name of the game for the Panthers, including for seniors Cade Papineau (No. 2), Canon McClafferty (No. 17) and Adriann Reyes (No. 7).

said.

The linebacking corps for the Panthers has some young talent within it, highlighted by sophomores Noah Hodge and Jacob Curry.

One of the signs of Curry's athleticism is that he is one of the return men back to receive kickoffs for the Panthers, which is not a usual duty performed by a linebacker.

It just shows his versatility, and that if needed he could play both sides of the ball, but at the moment he is starting to really showcase himself as a talented linebacker.

Providing a veteran presence in the linebacking corps is seniors T.J. Noel and Adriann Reyes.

The last line of defense for the Panthers is its secondary, which appears to be a strength on the team heading into the season.

Senior safety Cade Papineau patrols the back end and has a knack for reading the quarterbacks eyes and breaking on to the pass if thrown in his area. His patrol back there provides a nice safety net for the Panthers to prevent big plays from happening.

Junior Elisha Lockett and senior Canon McClafferty are a pair of defensive backs that can keep pace and stay on the hips of receivers during routes, which can make completing passes difficult.

"It's going to be different this year," McClafferty said.



Noah Hellyer is a relentless defender coming off the edge for the Panthers.



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Sep. 9	8:30 pm	Southern Miss
Sep. 16	12:00 pm	@Boston College
Sep. 23	TBA	@Clemson
Oct. 7	TBA	Virginia Tech
Oct. 14	TBA	Syracuse
Oct. 21	TBA	Duke
Oct. 28	TBA	@Wake Forest
Nov. 4	TBA	@Pitt
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BARRACUDAS, BEARS, KNIGHTS LOOK TO MAINTAIN WINNING FORMULAS

By Anthony Richards

St. Johns County has a lot of football talent at the schools in the area, and there are big things heading into the 2023 season for several teams.

Beachside High School's second season is underway and there is enthusiasm in the air after the Barracudas finished with a winning record of 6-4 in their inaugural season.

Winning is something people gravitate to and there is a good vibe that the Barracudas can replicate that success this year.

One thing the Barracudas did not struggle to do last year was move the ball, and at times even looked to do it with ease, as they averaged 37.3 points per game and proved fun to watch.

The offense appears to have what it takes returning to have another spectacular year both through the air and on the ground, and they got off to the right foot scoring 35 points in week 1 against Toco Creek, despite losing the contest 38-35.

A couple of the main weapons fueling the offensive side of the ball for the Barracudas is senior wide receiver Bryce Gee, whose 6-foot-3-inch frame makes him a matchup nightmare and a perfect suspect for jump balls, especially in the red zone.

And adding yet another dimension to the offense is fellow senior Cohen Beebe, who is the opposite in terms of size compared to Gee, but lightning quick and a hard man to tackle in the open field.

It may only be still the early stages of year two, but head coach Pete Duffy has some things cooking in the Beachside football program.

For Bartram Trail, it has more than a decade since they last had a losing season, and this year will be perhaps the most uncertainty they've had in a long time, at least when it comes to the sideline.

That is what happens when a legendary coach retires as Darrell Sutherland did following last season.

Now, Cory Johns takes over the program that Sutherland helped establish into a power across the state.

That may sound like some big shoes to fill, but Johns does have the help of having some extremely talented players to coach in his first year on the job.

It all starts on offense with senior Riley Trujillo, who is a verbal commitment to UCF, and knows how to use his tall frame to impose his will on a defense with his strong arm and dynamic mobility.



Photos by Anthony Richards

Bryce Gee of Beachside will be a tough matchup for opposing secondary's during his senior season.

No play is ever over when Trujillo is taking snaps because he has no issues with breaking out of the pocket and making plays happen.

Senior running back Laython Biddle offers a nice compliment for Trujillo, as Biddle is not shy about sticking his nose into the pile and fighting for the yards he needs for the first down.

The Bears main rival Creekside also has high expectations heading into the season, and looks to build on the 9-3 record they finished with last year.

One thing about last year's squad is that although they won a bunch of games, they found themselves in a lot of high-scoring affairs.

Although the offense proved that they could hold their own and come out ahead on most occasions, the goal is for the defense to take the next step in 2023 and not allow as many points.

Junior quarterback Harrison Miller will run the show once again for the Knights, after he threw for 1,773 yards and 20 touchdowns as a sophomore.

It should be fun to watch Miller and the offense continue to grow together even more in the next couple of years.



Senior Riley Trujillo returns at quarterback for Bartram Trail for the 2023 season.



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DATE	TIME	OPPONENT/LOCATION
Sep. 2	6:00 pm	UT Martin
Sep. 9	12:00 pm	Ball State
Sep. 16	3:30 pm	South Carolina
Sep. 23	TBA	UAB
Sep. 30	TBA	@Auburn
Oct. 7	TBA	Kentucky
Oct. 14	TBA	@Vanderbilt
Oct. 28	3:30 pm	Florida (Jacksonville, FL)
Nov. 4	TBA	Missouri
Nov. 11	TBA	Ole Miss
Nov. 18	TBA	@Tennessee
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GUEST COLUMN

Financial issues to consider before marriage

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

Married couples face some financial considerations that single individuals simply don't. For example, married couples can file their taxes as married, either jointly or separately, at both the federal and state level. But does simply checking a different box on your tax forms guarantee a better outcome? Not necessarily.

If you both earn roughly the same amount, being married and filing jointly could bump you into a higher tax bracket. On the contrary, if one spouse earns little or no income and the other is the primary wage earner, filing jointly may result in paying less tax. In other words, by tying the knot, you may wind up owing the IRS more or less than if you remained single. Your tax adviser can help determine the potential outcome for your situation.

Domestic partnerships and civil unions

Although a handful of states recognize domestic partnerships and civil unions, the IRS does not. So, while these designations may offer some of the same rights and responsibilities available to married couples, it's only at a state level and on a state-by-state basis.

nations may offer some of the same rights and responsibilities available to married couples, it's only at a state level and on a state-by-state basis.

Benefits for married couples

Here are a few benefits married couples can enjoy, assuming both spouses are U.S. citizens:

- The ability to transfer an unlimited amount of assets to your spouse, free from federal gift or estate taxes, either during life or at death.
- More tax-planning options upon inheriting your spouse's retirement account.
- The right to open an IRA on your spouse's earnings record, if you are unemployed.

Timing your marriage

If you're thinking about marriage, choosing a wedding date that accommodates family, friends and employers — not to mention the venue and reception hall — can be a wedding planner's greatest challenge. To complicate matters even more, should you also consider



Contributed photo

the IRS when selecting a date? Your tax advisor can help you decide, but here are some things to think about:

Dec. 31 of each year. For tax purposes, that means even if you wait until the last day of the year to walk down the aisle,

Your tax filing status is determined on

MARRIAGE continues on Page 33

DID YOU KNOW?

FLORIDA DIVORCE LAWS CHANGED ON JULY 1ST

Alimony and **Adultery** are addressed by new laws that went into effect on July 1, 2023. Register for our upcoming classes to learn more about these changes and other divorce laws and financial considerations.



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TPC Sawgrass

Continued from 1

program could be advanced.

“As the dust settled from the pandemic, we looked at what else we could do,” Sprague said. “Eliminating plastic water bottles was what we came up with.”

Although replacing all the plastic drinking bottles on the grounds with either reusable material or paper may have seemed like a large task, it was the logical next step to take for Sprague and the golf club.

“We put about 1,000 bottles a day in our carts for our members, so that’s more than 300,000 bottles a year,” Sprague said.

According to Sprague, they had Coca-Cola trucks coming in for deliveries on a daily basis.

“When you look at all those bottles on a pallet, it just looks like a big blob of plastic sitting there,” Sprague said. “You don’t even see the water in them.”

The club has 400 members to go with its roughly 300 employees and guests that visit the facility.

As part of the initiative, the plastic bottles placed in members’ carts have been replaced by Tervis reusable water bottles that have a special TPC recycling logo on them.

For those who are not members, the Tervis bottles can be purchased for \$10, and \$1.50 of every sale will go toward the St. Johns Riverkeeper through a partnership with them and TPC Sawgrass.

“We thought we could help pay it forward, and we’re hoping to be able to present them with \$10K to \$15K annually from those sales,” Sprague said. “We’ve already sold about 1,000 bottles in the early going. It’s a well-rounded initiative with everyone involved receiving the benefits.”

By rolling the second phase out in late July, it meant



TPC Sawgrass began the latest phase of its sustainability initiative on July 31 by replacing all plastic water bottles in carts with reusable bottles.

introducing it in the middle of a heat wave, which some questioned, but in Sprague’s eyes it allowed them to see where they could make the most improvement.

It was quickly realized that ice dispensers were needed around the grounds in order to keep the water cool on hot summer days to go along with the 16 water bottle refilling stations that had already been placed throughout.

According to Sprague, there has been a lot of pride by



Photos courtesy of TPC Sawgrass

TPC Sawgrass will donate a portion of the proceeds of reusable bottles sold to the St. Johns Riverkeeper and its efforts.

employees in connection with the initiative, because they know how much of an impact it can make and how much it can reduce the amount of waste that makes it to the landfill.

“Here at TPC Sawgrass, we’re the flagship of the TPC, and we plan on sharing our insight with other courses in the TPC network,” Sprague said. “Golf courses are a great habitat for wildlife and we’re just trying to do what we can to make it even better.”

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Samsung invites all schools for national STEM competition

By Anthony Richards

Each year Samsung Electronics America, Inc. presents its “Samsung Solve for Tomorrow” competition for schools across the country to take part in, and with another school year is underway they are taking applications for the 2023-2024 program.

It is the 14th year of the nationwide competition, which is designed with the goal of empowering students to think creatively in the fields of STEM, which includes science, technology, engineering and math.

The competition is open to public

school students from sixth grade to seniors in high school.

The electronics company invites teachers to submit an application and pose the question to their students of how they would address some of society’s most prevalent challenges by applying the principles of problem-based learning techniques.

Not only is the initiative a great way to create hands-on implementation and create classroom discussion surrounding real world problem thinking, but it also allows the students to feel like they are making a difference in the world, where they may not otherwise experience being

so young.

However, Samsung realizes the importance of capturing creativity and getting it in the minds of the next generation early on because they will one day be the ones who will be tasked with solving the problems they face.

Locally, Nease High has had a group of students take part in coming up with and creating ideas as part of the competition over the past couple of years, as part of a group taught by Kevin Lay.

A couple of awards will be up for grabs for students participating to win, which include the “Rising Entrepreneurship Award,” and the “Sustainability Innova-

tion Award,” which will both help earn additional resources and funding for their respective schools.

“We’re excited to witness the energy and creativity of our young participants, who represent the future,” said Ann Woo, head of corporate citizenship at Samsung Electronics America. “With a prize pool of \$2 million, we’re truly investing in the potential of Gen Z to shape the world with their visionary ideas and make a positive impact.

The application period began Aug. 29 and will remain open until Oct. 27 for any schools or students that have an idea and wish to take part.

Marriage

Continued from 31

the IRS will consider you married for that entire year. If there is a notable disparity between your two incomes, getting married by Dec. 31 could benefit your tax situation. However, if your combined income pushes you into a higher tax bracket, you may want to wait until the following year to marry to avoid a negative impact on your current-year tax bill.

Income isn’t the only factor that influences whether marriage could impact

your tax situation. Answering questions such as who incurs deductible expenses, who can claim children as dependents, and what tax preferences you might qualify for can also help you gauge the potential effects of marriage on your tax situation — and help you determine the best time to exchange vows.

Our firm does not provide legal or tax advice.

This article was written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Jamie Seim, CFP, Senior Vice President – Investment Officer in Ponte

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Jacksonville Symphony's free Community Concerts return

The Jacksonville Symphony has announced its annual Community Concerts, presented by Haskell. A Symphony tradition, these concerts welcome all of Jacksonville to Jacoby Symphony Hall for a preview of the season's musical offerings. Performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, and Saturday, Sept. 16, in Jacoby Symphony Hall.

Both Community Concert performances are free and open to all and will feature a lively mix of both classical and pops favorites. Music Director Courtney Lewis and the musicians of the Jacksonville Symphony will deliver an exhilarating performance with something for every musical taste showcasing the full versatility of the orchestra.

"Symphonic music has the power to bring people from all walks of life together in ways that few other art forms can," said Lewis. "I simply cannot wait to welcome the community to Jacoby Symphony Hall for these special concerts. It is



Photo provided by the Jacksonville Symphony

The Jacksonville Symphony will present free concerts on Sept. 15 and 16 in Jacoby Symphony Hall.

my hope that listeners will leave feeling overjoyed and inspired, ready to embark on a journey of symphonic excellence throughout the '23-'24 season."

Admission to the Community Concerts is free of charge, but a ticket is required. Up to four free tickets are available per person on a first come, first served basis. For larger groups, contact Haley Cox, group sales and community engagement manager, at hcox@jaxsymphony.org.

For more information and to claim tickets, go to JaxSymphony.org.

The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. In addition, the Symphony provides music instruction for youth and operates the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras. For more information about the Symphony, go to JaxSymphony.org.



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Jacksonville Symphony Chorus to hold auditions

The Jacksonville Symphony Chorus is holding auditions on Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Jacksonville Center for the

Performing Arts. As a treasured community asset for more than 30 years, the Symphony Chorus provides vocals for various symphonic performances throughout the season.

"We're looking forward to welcoming more talented individuals to our ranks," said Jill Weisblatt, chorus manager. "The Symphony Chorus is such an integral part of the performances in Jacoby Symphony Hall and helps add a deeper sense of depth, meaning and emotional dimension to the overall experience of our concerts."

Auditions on Sept. 9 will begin at 9 a.m. and are by appointment only. Interested individuals must complete the audition form at jaxsymphony.org/symphony-chorus-membership and email it to Jill Weisblatt at jweisblatt@jaxsymphony.org.

For more information about the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus including approved attire, time and financial commitments and what to expect at the audition, go to jaxsymphony.org/symphony-chorus.

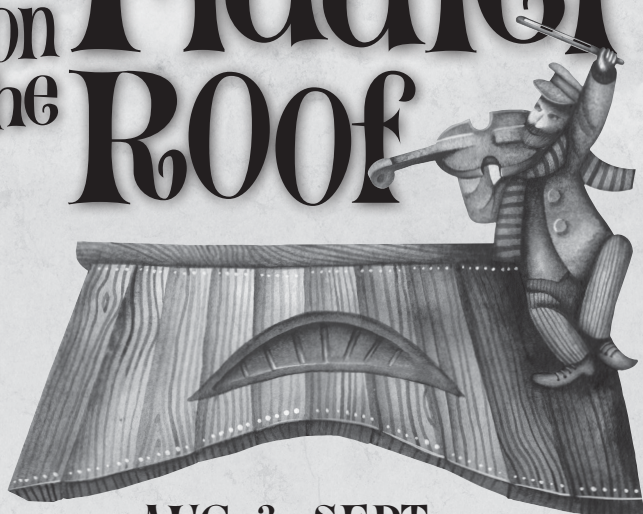
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WEEK 2 FOOTBALL PREVIEW



Nate Harry (No. 15) and Quinn Bradfield (receiving pitch) will be key offensive options for Nease against Creekside on Sept. 1.



Photos by Anthony Richards

Ben Burk and the Sharks travel to take on Florida State University High in Tallahassee in week two action.

Panthers face county rival, Sharks travel west

By Anthony Richards

The Nease Panthers passed their first test of the 2023 season with a 10-7 overtime victory against Jackson High last week and now they will face another stiff test against county rival Creekside High on Sept. 1.

One of the major questions heading into the highly anticipated week two matchup surrounds the health of Cam Smith, who left the game on the first drive last week and did not return with an apparent shoulder injury.

The Panthers' offense struggled to find rhythm at times during the contest but were able to gut out a win and start the season on the right foot.

However, if Smith is unable to go, the Panthers have some viable options with both junior Andrew Moses and sophomore Quinn Bradfield splitting carries

and doing a nice job filling in against the Tigers.

Losing Smith during a game is a shock but knowing that Smith may not go will allow the Panthers' coaching staff to devise a game plan around that, which means that the offense should look much more comfortable with a week of practice under their belt.

The Knights have an explosive offense that can do damage both on the ground and through the air and are led by junior quarterback Harrison Miller, who knows how to operate their system.

The Panthers stymied the Tigers in week 1, who possess another dangerous offense that can present dual threat options of attack, so it will be interesting to see how the Panthers can build off of that effort heading into week two.

Last season's contest between the two teams turned out to be a shootout with

both teams marching up and down the field before the Knights pulled away late for a 62-41 victory.

For Ponte Vedra, they stood toe-to-toe with Bartram Trail, but the offense hit some rough patches in the second half that they were not able to overcome.

As always seems to be the case, head coach Steve Price has a resilient group of players that never quit until the final whistle blows.

Now it just comes down to making some slight tweaks and making sure to finish strong, because the win was there for the taking and they know it, which is something they can definitely build on moving forward.

This week, the Sharks travel out west along Interstate 10 to Tallahassee to take on the Florida State University High School, for the return trip

of a home-and-home series where the Seminoles came to the Shark Tank a year ago.

Just like for the Panthers, the Sharks are looking to even things up against the Seminoles, who defeated the Sharks on their home field, 24-13 last season.

One of the things that looks to still be in place one year later is the prowess of the Sharks' defense, which looks to have found its next wave of leaders and playmakers once again on that side of the ball.

The Sharks were able to hold an athletic Bears' offense to just seven points in the first half and created resistance throughout the second half but were faced with some short fields that made things challenging at times.

However, they held their own throughout it all and now turn their attention to the Seminoles.

JAXUSL teams up with JU, Jaguars, GotSport for Youth Soccer Day

JAXUSL, the United Soccer League (USL) franchise group bringing men's and women's professional soccer to Northeast Florida, has teamed up with Jacksonville University, the Jacksonville Jaguars and GotSport to host a soccer

clinic for boys and girls ages 4 through 12 ahead of the Texans vs. Jaguars regular season game on Sept. 24 at EverBank Stadium.

The youth soccer clinic, presented by GotSport, will be directed by JAXUSL's

Mauricio Ruiz and run by JU soccer players and coaching staff in the Flex Field at Daily's Place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost of the clinic starts at \$60 and includes a ticket to the Texans vs. Jaguars game, which kicks off at 1 p.m.

that afternoon. Family and friends of clinic participants can also purchase game tickets starting at just \$45 each (plus fees).

"We're delighted to partner with JU,



FOOTBALL IS BACK IN A BIG WAY



Nease and Ponte Vedra both hosted season opening matchups to start the 2023 season on Aug. 25, and the atmospheres were rocking under the Friday night lights at the Shark Tank and the Panther Den.

Photos by Anthony Richards





Photo by Mitchell Layton / USA Today Sports

The adoption of NIL in college sports was something Len Stachitas with The Brandr Group anticipated coming one day.

NIL

Continued from 1

we don't represent individual athletes, but instead groups of athletes. Deals get done through the group."

The number of people required to be considered as a represented group varies depending on the sport and league.

"In the NFL it's six or more and in the MLB it's four or more," Stachitas said. "For the NCAA, a group can consist of three or more players from a university or six or more from multiple teams."

The Brandr Group currently represents athletes from 86 colleges across the country by creating opportunities for them and insight to help them manage the NIL

landscape.

The business was created about seven years ago and has worked in various professional sports leagues since then, but Stachitas always believed that college sports would follow suit eventually.

"We anticipated some day it would come to this in college," Stachitas said. "The market's not that big yet, but college fan bases are pretty passionate, so it won't stay that way for long. We believe it's going to grow exponentially, just as it has in the pros."

Although the concept of NIL is new for the NCAA, it is something that has been prevalent at the professional level for roughly more than 40 years, with 70% of all apparel sold coming through the NIL process.

There are even more avenues within NIL

that make it the complexity that it is, including two sides for licensing and active use.

According to Stachitas, the licensing includes products, such as T-shirts, jerseys and bobblehead dolls or any merchandise that can be sold, while active use means that an athlete is actively involved, such as an autograph session or personal appearance.

For some fans, NIL has gotten out of control, and they may not like the new path that college sports is on.

However, The Brandr Group promotes itself as "NIL done right," and their employees as "experts taming the wild west of NIL marketing."

"We're transparent throughout the process," Stachitas said. "The schools know all the deals that we do."

Wesley Haynes founded The Brandr

Group years ago and much of the staff at the beginning had ties to the PGA Tour, which is what led them to make the company's headquarters in Ponte Vedra Beach.

One of the best parts of the process is when they receive thanks from an athlete or their parents for helping them line up their NIL opportunities.

Those moments are when Stachitas realizes the advantages of NIL and how it can impact a person's life.

"I think back to when I was a college athlete, if someone gave me \$100, I would have been ecstatic," Stachitas said. "We just got a thank you from an athlete at Wake Forest the other day. It becomes real when a mom and dad walk into a bookstore (on campus) and see a jersey with their kid's name on the back."

JAXUSL

Continued from 35

the Jaguars and GotSport to host this unique soccer clinic prior to the Jaguars game against the Texans," Ruiz said. "I'm excited to team up with former JU colleagues and grateful to the Jaguars

and GotSport for their support of our soccer clinic to continue to nurture youth soccer talent throughout our Northeast Florida communities."

On Aug. 1, JAXUSL announced its founding partnership with GotSport, a leading sports software company based in Jacksonville Beach. GotSport will provide soccer software solutions and sup-

port across its digital platforms, help the club develop and manage its databases and support the growth of its forthcoming USL Academy through 2024.

For more information on the youth soccer clinic and to register, go to offer.fevo.com/texans-vs-jaguars-b9v9onz-8109bad?fevoUri=texans-vs-jaguars-b9v9onz-8109bad%2F.

JAXUSL's goal is to bring competitive USL Championship action to the First Coast by 2025 and to work with local authorities in the development of a 15,000-capacity community stadium and training facilities to host the club in Northeast Florida. For more information, go to jaxusl.com.

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF A BUDGET HEARING/REGULAR MEETING OF THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

The St. Johns County Airport Authority will hold a Budget Hearing/Airport Authority Board Meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 4:00 pm in the meeting room at the Airport's Conference Center – 2nd floor, located at 4730 Casa Cola Way, St. Augustine, Florida 32095. The Airport Authority Board Meeting will begin at 4:00 pm, directly followed by the Budget Hearing at 5:01 pm.

Notice to persons needing special accommodations and to all hearing-impaired persons: In accordance with the American Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact (904) 209-0090 or Florida Relay Service: 1-800-955-8770, no later than five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting.

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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14			15					16					
17			18					19					
20			21				22						
23					24	25					26	27	
		28			29				30				
31	32				33		34	35	36			37	
38				39	40						41		
42				43					44	45			
46		47	48				49		50				
51				52	53	54			55			56	57
		58							59				
60	61						62	63				64	
65						66						67	
68						69						70	

ACROSS

- Midway between east and southeast
- At right angles to a ship's length
- William Penn's business partner
- __ de plume
- Accomplished soccer coach
- Bone cavities
- __ juris: independent
- Popular Philly sandwich
- Northern Ireland county
- Performing artist
- S S S
- Lacks flavor
- Commercials
- Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- Qatar's capital
- Indigenous peoples of Alberta
- Popular footwear
- Indicates position
- Anglican cathedral
- Aircraft part
- Before
- Blood group
- Secretary organ
- Fencing swords
- The small projection of a mammary gland
- Technological advancement
- Male parent
- Dissociable
- More cold
- Cape Verde Islands capital
- Blood disorder
- Creative
- Sun up in New York
- Made angry
- Relieves
- Brooklyn hoopster
- Seasonings
- Movable barriers
- Attempt

DOWN

- Occur as a result of
- Spiritual essences
- Representative
- Entering
- Nobel Prize-winning physicist
- Midway between northeast and east
- Consumed
- Tablelands
- Kids' craft accessory
- Not known
- Sound directed through two or more speakers
- A major division of geological time
- Wild ox
- Shock treatment
- Turner and Lasso are two
- Genus of flowering plants
- Relating to ductless glands
- Stock certificate
- Satisfies

- Places to enjoy a rest
- Edward __, author and writer
- "__ but goodie"
- One hundredth of a liter
- Shabbiness
- TV personality Roker
- Triangular upper part of a building
- Speed at which you move
- Offend
- A reference point to shoot at
- Forays
- Biblical city
- Blatted
- Northern sea duck
- Shabby (slang)
- Allege
- Tax collector
- Whereabouts unknown
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Indicates equal

SUDOKU

7			8	5				
3			6	1	9			
				3	6			
8	3		7		2			
	7		5		8		6	
		6						
	4		9					
	2	5		1		7		3

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



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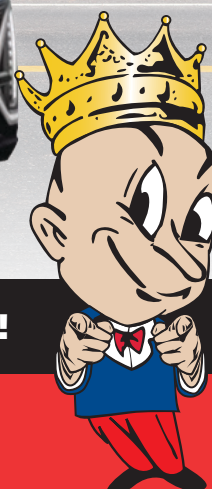
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