

Manatee River News

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Serving Communities North and South of the Manatee River

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NewsWorthy

Bradenton man admits to multiple thefts

A Bradenton man, Steve Tanner, 47, admitted to committing numerous thefts this week in Anna Maria Island, Palma Sola and Cortez, according to Manatee County Sheriff's Office reports. Sheriff's detectives arrested Tanner last Tuesday on charges of grand theft and burglary. Sheriff's investigators have found some of the items he stole in local pawnshops.

According to the sheriff's report, Tanner's wife told detectives she sold the items her husband had stolen to pawnshops. Tanner's wife has not been arrested. Tanner admitted to stealing a construction compactor valued at \$1,500, as well as a generator and other tools worth \$3,200 from homes in NewsWorthy, page 2

Thunder Rolls



CHERYL L. WEBB/Manatee River News

Photographer Cheryl L. Webb captures a storm brewing at Myakka State Park. Webb's photo is an entry in Florida's Official State Park photo contest.

After delay, Braden River wins 'A'

State finally corrects scoring error in FCATs, school continues streak

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It took awhile, but Braden River Middle School finally got the 'A' ranking it knew it deserved all along.

The school has received an 'A' ranking on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) for the past seven years, but this year there was a glitch in the scoring. The rating was listed as "incomplete" after a teacher mistakenly handed out a six-inch paper ruler for the math portion of the exam, which

was to be used on another section of the test, according to BRMS Principal Randall Petrilla.

The school immediately reported the error to the state, and 20 tests were invalidated as a result. However the wrong stack of tests was incorrectly invalidated, so the problem went back to the state to resolve. Finally it has been manually corrected, and the school has been awarded its 'A' grade once again.

Petrilla has been employed at BRMS for 14 years and has spent the last four as principal. During his time there, the school has

received less than an 'A' rating only once. He said he respects the way other schools prepare for the FCATs, but BRMS does things differently.

For instance, most schools hold pep rallies and celebration days to prepare for the exams. Petrilla said BRMS takes it business as usual.

"Our philosophy is to prepare the kids for these kinds of tests," Petrilla said. "We don't have parties and things like that. We teach as usual, and we want the kids to show what FCATs, page 3

PrepFootball

Area teams secure Homecoming victories

Tigers, Pirates play 37-point games, one renders opponent scoreless

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Most coaches won't admit it, but they hate Homecoming Week.

For the players, classmates, parents and alumni, it's a week of fun and festivities. For the coaches, it's a week of distractions during a critical time of the season. It even means having many of the best players out on the field being driven around in fancy cars with Homecoming

queens.

Palmetto Coach Raymond Woodie said his team had some perfect practices last week and were ready for the distractions that came with Homecoming. They proceeded to pound Cardinal Mooney, 30-7.

But it didn't start easily. The Tigers trailed 7-3 at the end of the first quarter, but the Palmetto defense took over and gave them field position allowing the Tigers to take the lead in the second quarter.

The Tigers came out strong in the third quarter. Tailback Marva Carley ran for 136 yards on 13 carries, including a tackle-busting 70-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Jeremiah McKinney scored two short touchdowns and kicker Brandon Tarpley kicked three field goals.

The defense was the key, allowing only 124 total yards to Mooney's leading rusher Steve Ierulli. Mooney scored its only points on a 51-yard touchdown pass off an end-around in the

first quarter.

So far this season the Tigers have only one loss, and the team is primed for its second straight playoff berth.

"We are executing in all phases of the game," Woodie said. "We are getting better at the right time, and we are getting better every day."

After six games, the Palmetto defense has allowed only 33 points and has not been challenged since the opening game Football, page 3