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Volume 3, Number 4

May 12, 2011

Hello Reader,

Features

[A Concise Guide to What Passed in the 2011 Florida Legislative Session](#)



Well it's all over but the governor's signing tour. So what happened in Tallahassee? Many of the most controversial votes came down to the wire and some that were thought dead sprung back to life. Here's your easy to read, bare-bones rundown of the bills that passed in the 2011 session.

[A Florida Real Estate Boom Is In the Making. Developers Say](#)



Pat Neal, who has built 8,800 homes in his 42 years as an independent local builder, sees a building boom ahead for Florida as more than 11,000,000 baby-boomers retire to the state by 2030. New home construction, with inventory levels claimed to be as low as four months in Manatee County, could rise from 20,000 to 100,000 in the next two years, Neal said. Britt Williams of Bruce Williams Homes says the Lakewood Ranch market alone will see a tripling of construction by 2013.

[Weekend Adventures in Bradenton, May 13-15](#)



It's back, the area's biggest fishing tournament – the Crosthwait Memorial – and this year there's fly fishing! Plus you can win \$25,000 clams with GLEE's Jane Lynch at the Palmetto Chopper dropper and the Threshers are in town to take on the Marauders. It's nothing but sea-life references in this Weekend Adventure in Bradenton!

[School Board Approves Incentives for On-time Retirement](#)



For the first time, the Manatee County School Board approved implementing an on-time retirement strategy for SAMP employees. Instead of an early retirement program, this strategy offers incentives for employees to retire when they are eligible instead of continuing to work. The plan was suggested by a member of the Budget Committee as a way to save money.

Government

Local

[Manatee County to Accept Gift of Land from Mosaic for 75-Acre Park in Duette at Tuesday BCC Meeting](#)



Housekeeping items, some well-deserved resolutions and the gift of a 75-acre property for the Bunker Hill Community Park will be on the agenda of the Manatee County Board of Commissioners for its regular meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday morning in the downtown county government building.


[Segways Spark a Tiff at County Commission Meeting](#)



For the second time in recent weeks, County Commissioners have split over the use of Segways in public parks. Now a winning bidder has been selected as a concessionaire but a policy on their use has yet to be created.

[Manatee County Commission Agenda Results May 10, 2011](#)

The Manatee County Commission held a regularly scheduled meeting yesterday at the



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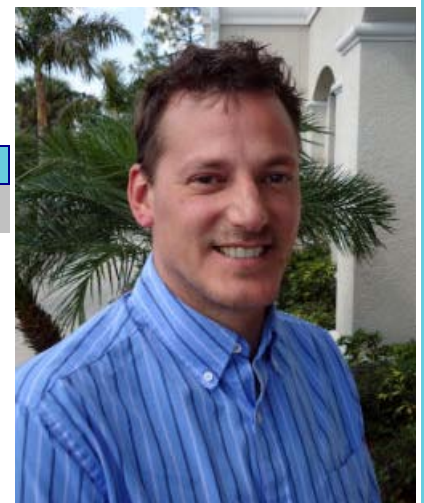
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The Community Notices

[Todd Mitchell recently awarded a SMART Scholarship from the United States Department of Defense](#)



Featured Business

[Ronald J. Hernden, CPA](#)
[PA](#)



County Administration Building in downtown Bradenton. The full agenda results follow.

State

[Florida House Votes to Legalize Tax Evasion by Online Travel Sites](#)



A house bill that passed last week would make it legal for online travel sites to continue avoiding paying tens of millions to local governments by charging only the tax on the wholesale room rate they pay – not the full rate, the way local hotel operators do, putting them at a further advantage over beleaguered state businesses, while costing underfunded municipalities sorely-needed revenue.

[So What Bills Didn't Get Passed in the 2011 Florida Legislative Session?](#)



While the Florida Legislature was able to pass a prolific amount of legislation this year, not all of the big issues were able to slide through. Some of the measures that failed to pass during the session included, the repeal of the Red Light Camera Law, bans on third trimester abortions, and the E-verify requirement for Florida employers to prevent illegal immigrants from unlawfully working in the state.

Law Enforcement

[MSO, Public Safety Director and Manufacturer Confident of Pro Voice Radio Fix](#)



Despite what was heard at a recent BCC work session, officials are confident that the Pro Voice communications system will be successfully implemented in the near future. Last week, several county officials sent letters to board members, hoping to rectify what they saw as potentially misleading information about both the systems and the causes and challenges in getting it successfully online.

[10 Year Old Girls Enticed to Get in Van While Walking Home From Bayshore Elementary.](#)



Two 10-year-old two girls were walking home from school at Bayshore Elementary when they were enticed to get into a panel van. According to an MSO report, the students began walking through the parking lot in the 6000 block of 26th Street West. When a gray, full-size gray panel van with shiny wheels and a black stripe down the side, possibly ending in flames, came along side the two girls.

Schools and Education

[Manatee Students Make Strong Gains in FCAT Writing Scores](#)



Students in the Manatee County School District made impressive gains in FCAT writing scores at every grade level tested, according to FCAT Writing results released today by the Florida Department of Education. Even as the state of Florida increased the designated level of proficiency required, most students performed at grade level-average or above.

[Manatee County School Board Regular Meeting Results May 9, 2011](#)



The school board approved a new on-time incentive plan that would promote SAMP employee retirement when they are eligible. They also rejected any bids for a medical clinic due to the current health care deficit and initial start-up fees associated with the venture. A new statute requires schools to raise school lunch prices until the amount is at least equal to that reimbursement received for free meals. This year it is only 5 cents, but it will likely be increased on an annual basis.

[Local Seniors to be Honored During Academic Scholarship Event](#)



A collection of some of the most gifted and determined senior students in the Manatee County School District will receive special recognition when the district hosts its "Academic Achievement Scholarship Signing Day" on Thursday, May 12, 2011, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Bradenton Auditorium.

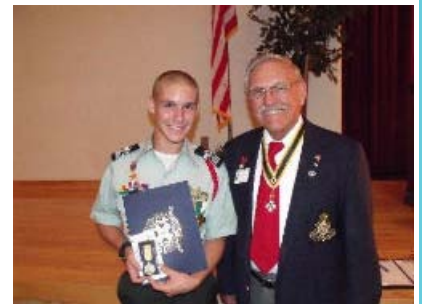
[The Open Mic](#)

Need to get something off your chest? Just want to express yourself on the issues facing our community? Let your inner editor loose in the Open Mic. Sound off and let everyone know whats on your mind!

[The Open Mic](#)

The Community Notices

[Braden River HS JROTC Hold Annual Awards Ceremony](#)



ROTC Cadet 1st Sergeant Jordan Granata and Harold Crapo, Jr., VP Saramana Chapter SAR.

Picture by: Elaine Crapo

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Last Week's Poll Results

Business and Financial

[Baird's Market Strategy. Week of 5/9/2011](#)



Growing concerns that the global and domestic economies are slowing sent commodity prices tumbling and the equity markets lower last week. Rising interest rates in Europe and Asia are taking a toll on those economies while \$4 gasoline appears to be the tipping point for the U.S. economy.

(as of 5/11/2011)

From the teams left at press time, who will win the Stanley Cup cup?

Community

[Letter to the Editor: May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month](#)



May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month and Healthy Start Manatee, as a proud member of the Healthy Teens Coalition of Manatee, is working to help raise awareness of this critical issue locally. Healthy Start Board President Jackie Kelsey wants to let readers some of the ways that this issue effects our community.

Choice	%
Tampa Bay Lightning	48%
Vancouver Canucks	5%
Nashville Predators	1%
San Jose Sharks	2%
Detroit Red Wings	5%
Philadelphia Flyers	1%
Boston Bruins	7%
Who Cares?	29%

[Community News - Manatee Movers and Shakers. 5/12/2011](#)



- Keller Williams On the Water Lending a Hand May 12, 2011 at Manasota ARC
- USF Sarasota-Manatee student receives SMART Scholarship from US Department of Defense
- Leadership Manatee Gains new member to Board of Governors
- Cadet 1st Sergeant Granata earns the SAR JROTC Bronze Medal.
- JROTC Cadet 1st Lieutenant Semajay Dunwoody earns Certificate of Recognition
- Natural Healing Arts welcomes Chris Waters to Practice

New Poll:

[Vote on this NEW Poll!](#)

What do you think of the 2011 Legislative Session?

Let us know what you think!

[View all of our Polls](#)

[Anna Maria City Pier Centennial Celebration is this Weekend!](#)



Anna Maria City Pier Centennial Celebration is this Weekend! The Anna Maria Island City Pier turns 100 this weekend and there is plenty of celebration honoring this beautiful old-Florida landmark. Get out to the City Pier Restaraunt and enjoy this iconic local treasure.

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Fishing

[Captain Favorite's Weekend Fishing Forecast. May 6, 2011](#)



Your fishing forecast features, coastal temperatures, sea conditions, tides and peak fishing hours. However, the best part of this fun feature is that you can customize your own forecast by following the links. So utilize The Bradenton Times to get you where you need to go and help you catch that big one

**** Catch of the Week ****

[Captain Favorite's Fishing Forum Week of May 9, 2011](#)



Our forum has everything you need to know for fishing this week. The Bradenton Times will now feature a catch of the week, fishing regulation updates, a fishing report from a local charter captain and weather forecast. This forum is unique because it allows for the reader to send in questions, pictures and comments. Its purpose is to promote interaction between average anglers and the fishing experts.



Anissa and Samantha, from Chicago, caught these trout on shiners with 3/0

[The 28th Annual Crosthwait Fishing Tournament adds Fly Fishing to the Mix](#)

It's time for Manatee County's favorite fishing tournament, only this year they've added some perks to the much anticipated event. The Sam Crosthwait Memorial Fishing Tournament has a new fly fishing division. Now in addition to the traditional inshore and offshore divisions, the fly angler can join in on the fun.



[Captain Zach's Manatee Fishing Report, May 10, 2011](#)



After a few weeks hiatus I finally got back on the water this week. We primarily fished the inshore waters of North Sarasota Bay. Once the fish decided to cooperate there was some pretty decent action. The one huge surprise was the trout, pompano, mackerel, and bluefish we encountered were not in the slight bit interested in eating the white bait offered them.

circle hooks. They were fishing with Captain Chad Gamble from Hook and Ladder Charters.

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As of Wednesday, May 11, we currently have: 1,683 Followers.

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Sports

[Bradenton Marauders Sweep First-Place Mets, 4-2](#)



The Bradenton Marauders, Class A-Advanced affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates, swept a two game series with the St. Lucie Mets Thursday, 4-2, at Charlotte Sports Park. The Marauders got on the board early with Aaron Baker driving home Jarek Cunningham in the first for a 1-0 lead. Cunningham hit a one-out triple of Mets starter Jeurys Familia to get on board. The sacrifice fly for Baker marked his team best 24th RBI of the season.

[Bark in the Park Night: Bring your Dog to a Marauders Game](#)



The popular Bark in the Park promotion returns to McKechnie this Sunday when the Bradenton Marauders host the Clearwater Threshers at 5 p.m. Bring your dog out to the ballpark and let him enjoy America's pastime.

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[Weekend Adventures in Bradenton, May 13-15](#)



It's back, the area's biggest fishing tournament – the Crosthwait Memorial – and this year there's fly fishing! Plus you can win \$25,000 clams with GLEE's Jane Lynch at the Palmetto Chopper dropper and the Threshers are in town to take on the Marauders. It's nothing but sea-life references in this Weekend Adventure in

Bradenton!

May 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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				

View the [Full Calendar](#)

Get realtime updates of news and events as they are posted.

Other Notable Events:



May 12, 2011

- [Drug Court Celebration](#) Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- [2011 Summer Adult Softball League](#) Time: 7:00 pm
- [Manatee Sarasota Sierra Club's General Meeting](#) Time: 7:00 pm

May 13, 2011

- [Anna Maria City Pier Centennial Celebration](#)
- [2011 New College of Florida Senior Thesis Art Exhibition](#) Time: 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- [The 4th Annual Payton Wright Foundation Golf Tournament](#) Time: 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

May 14, 2011

- [Anna Maria City Pier Centennial Celebration](#)
- [Ham Radio Classes](#) Time: 9:00 am
- [Dog Day Afternoon](#) Time: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

May 15, 2011

- [Desoto Memorial/Riverview Preserve Nature/Plant Id Tour](#) Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- [Robinson Preserve Nature/Plant Id Tour](#) Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

May 16, 2011

- [Republican Club of Manatee County](#) Time: 12:00 am
- [Anna Maria Island Democratic Club](#) Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

May 17, 2011

- [Desoto Memorial/Riverview Preserve Nature/Plant Id Tour](#) Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- [Tea Party Manatee - Weekly General Meeting](#) Time: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- [AMI Sail & Power Squadron - A GPS Seminar](#) Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

May 18, 2011

- [Bradenton City Council \(tour\)](#) Time: 8:30 am
- [The Courthouse Concert Series](#) Time: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
- [Manatee County Extension Service- Preparing Your Garden Soil For The Fall Crops](#) Time: 1:00 pm -

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[Eat Here](#)

[Early Learning Coalition](#)

[Henry Raines Show](#)

[Heintz & Becker](#)

[Kern Construction, Inc.](#)

[Manatee Rural Health](#)

3:00 pm

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[Red Barn Flea Market](#)
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