

Manatee River News

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Serving Communities North and South of the Manatee River

FREE

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NewsWorthy

Police check boyfriend of missing woman

Manatee County Sheriff's investigators are looking into several possible leads regarding sightings of the missing Holmes Beach motel owner, **Sabine Musil-Buehler**, who was last seen two weeks ago. Unfortunately, none of the reports have been substantiated, officials said.

Musil-Buehler, 49, owner of Haley's Motel, was last seen Nov. 4 by boyfriend **William Cumber**. Authorities are investigating Cumber as a person of interest in a fire that destroyed a two-story office building at Haley's Motel Sunday. Cumber, 39, has a previous arson conviction on his record, and authorities say he has given inconsistent statements about his whereabouts at the time of the fire.

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PrepFootball

Tigers win, Pirates lose

Palmetto hosts Braden River tonight in first round of playoffs

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For Braden River, this wasn't the ideal way to launch its first ever post-season opportunity.

The Pirates got clobbered 34-0 by Southeast on Senior Night, and it could have been even worse as Southeast sat on the ball throughout the second half. The game didn't mean anything to the Pirates, but it was a big tune-up for tonight's game at

Palmetto where they will take on the Tigers, one of the hottest teams in the area.

Southeast wrapped up the Class 4A-9 championship with a win in the district tiebreaker, but the Pirates had to be disappointed with the loss to Southeast. The Pirates couldn't slow down any facet of the Southeast offense.

Southeast picked off three passes on the way to victory and only allowed Braden River

18 yards of rushing offense. Southeast jumped out to a quick lead only 36 seconds into the game when Waymon Bowden ran it in from 8 yards to give Southeast the lead. On the Pirates first possession, Southeast blocked a punt, and it was 13-0 just four minutes into the game.

For most of the first half, Braden River was pinned in its own zone and wasn't able to generate any offense, with only

60 total yards. They drove to the Southeast 33 late in the second quarter, but Jonathon Dowling came up with one of his two interceptions to stop the drive. Once the bands left the field after halftime, it was time to just mop it up. Braden River padded its offensive numbers in the second half, but it came against the Southeast backups. Two interceptions by Southeast in the third quarter sealed the win.

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School Spirit



JEFF BERLINICKE/Manatee River News

Braden River High honored its senior cheerleaders as part of the first-ever senior class at BRHS. They were honored during a loss to Southeast last Friday, but they will travel to Palmetto tonight for their first playoff game.

School budget crunch worries Dearing

Manatee County superintendent's last day will be Dec. 19

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Superintendent of Schools Roger Dearing may be leaving Manatee County late next month, but he had a simple warning for the county as it enters the new year.

The future of education in Florida doesn't bode well for anyone. Budget cuts have hit the school system dramatically, with more than \$24 million cut from the county budget. On Tuesday, the School Board cut another \$6.3 million from its budget and more cuts are expected. Proposals range from closing a school, a 1 percent pay cut, and eliminating guidance counselors, reading coaches and middle school athletics.

Board members balked at some of the

items that were among those proposed to be cut. They wanted to keep school resource officers at elementary schools, and they talked at length about the feasibility of outsourcing custodial services, cutting guidance counselors and benchmark testing.

"We are going to affect level of services in this district," Dearing said. "Almost everything has to stay on the list, and if it's not a classroom teacher, there are \$30 million of items, and two-thirds of that you have to cut."

Dearing said that it is a tough time to be

a school commissioner at any school in the state.

"I don't think the education system bodes well for the state of Florida," Dearing said. "The budget is the biggest thing to deal with, and it is affecting our students. Florida is 47th out of 50 states in the nation with the amount of money that goes toward education, and that isn't right."

Dearing might be leaving, but he will leave behind a solid legacy.

During his tenure, Dearing said one of the things he is most proud of is keeping Manatee County up to date with the expanding growth. Three new schools opened last year and two more are expected over the next five years. He's been among those who

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