

School meetings will see new features added

By CHRISTINE HAWES
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MANATEE — School Board Chairman Harry Kinnan talks a lot about how he wants the school board to keep its focus on the classroom and the budget. Now he's arranging for others to talk a lot about it, too.

Starting at the next meeting on Feb. 14, two new features will be added to the old standby topics of student

celebration, recognitions, reports and presentations, and new and old business.

An elementary school will be highlighted at each meeting, Kinnan says there are so many of them in our county — 35 to be exact — that many of them get lost in the shuffle of district business.

Board meetings also will feature a focus on some aspect of curriculum or what is being taught in classrooms. The new features may end

up lengthening what already are often marathon events, stretching four to seven hours on Monday nights. But from Kinnan's perspective, the changes will help the public better understand their school system.

Check out Education Reporter Christine Hawes' blog, "The Learning Curve," at www.bradenton.com, follow her on Twitter @chawesreports and contact her at 941-745-7081.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Post reporter to speak in Sarasota

SARASOTA — Karen Tumulty, a nationally-known political correspondent for the Washington Post, will be a guest speaker Thursday at a presentation by the Lifelong Learning academy at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee.

Tumulty, an award-winning reporter who has also covered politics for Time Magazine and the Los Angeles Times, will speak at 3:15 p.m. at the university's Selby Auditorium. The theme of her talk is "The 2012 Election: Where Things Stand." For more information, call 941-359-4296.

BCS's "Prowl" to benefit Vautrinot family

BRADENTON — Proceeds from Bradenton Christian School's annual "Panther Prowl," to be held Saturday, will benefit the family of a school coach who died last week in a weightlifting accident.

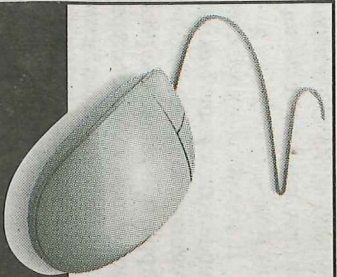
Don Vautrinot, who died at his home Jan. 18, was the school's junior varsity girls' basketball coach and varsity girls assistant basketball coach and also organized the annual Panther Prowl 5K event. The race begins at 7:30 a.m., and registration is at 6:30 a.m. To register for the Panther Prowl, go to www.bccspanthers.org/5k. Registration is \$25 for adults and \$20 for students. Businesses can also sponsor the event for \$100. Bradenton Christian School is located at 3304

43rd St. W. SCF hosts two upcoming concerts

MANATEE — State College of Florida is hosting two upcoming concerts at its Neal Performing Arts Center.

On Feb. 2, the U.S. Army Field Band Woodwind Quintet will hold a free concert at 8 p.m. And on Feb. 9, an 8 p.m. concert will commemorate the birth of Hungarian composer Franz Liszt. The concert will feature Michael Baron, a Florida Gulf Coast University professor, on piano, along with Naples-based soprano soloist Jeanie Darnell.

Admission is \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students and SCF employees. Need is located at the corner of 26th Street West and 60th Avenue West. For more information, call 941-752-5351 or 752-5252.



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