

Panther Press

Ph: 941-792-5454

September 2023

www.bcspanthers.org



We are highlighting our High School staff and students in this edition, and found it timely that we can introduce to you our new Interim High School Principal, Ms. Linda Danke. You may have seen her on campus as our former Learning Services Director and Teacher. She has more than 15 years of Principal and Head of School Leadership experience and holds a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership. Linda has a daughter, Shelby who is a shining light as she works in our Campus Cafe during lunch time.

Linda brings to our High School students familiarity and a sense of peace. Her main goal is to assist every student to develop their gifts and talents to find their place in God's Kingdom. Though cliché, she truly believes each student is a child of the King and holds a special place to serve God on this Earth. Linda is an incredible relationship builder with the students and will make sure she "pesters" our students in the hallways each day to build camaraderie and unity.

She has graciously offered to serve in this capacity through the remainder of the school year if needed. We will continue with the interview process for the Principal God already knows who will serve in a more permanent position. Please continue to keep us in your prayers and warmly welcome Ms. Danke to her new role at BCS!

BCS is always looking for talented, Christ-centered faculty and staff members! Please check out the link if you are interested in opportunities at BCS <https://www.bcspanthers.org/about-us/employment-opportunities>

If a loved one of yours wants to receive The Panther Press or you want to feature a story about BCS, please contact Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.



Panther Press Spotlight

We Love Mary DeJong!

Wednesday mornings you will see Mary DeJong come to our BCS Elementary Campus to read aloud to Kindergarten and First Grade students. Students, teachers, and staff look forward to seeing her every week.

Miss DeJong has been a BCS Panther for many years. She taught at BCS for 42 years. Most of her years were teaching Kindergarten. In fact, one of our Kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Angela Weaver, was Miss DeJong's student.

While she retired from BCS in 2017, she continues to serve at our school. You will see her at many athletic Home games welcoming fans and families from the ticket booth as well as cheering our Panthers on. We are thankful for her faithful service to our students and their families.

May God continue to bless Mary for being such a blessing.



THANK
☺ YOU

AP Scholars

Each year, many of our students take Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 14 subject areas. Advanced Placement is a program in the United States, as well as internationally, created by the College Board, which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. Colleges and universities may grant course credit to students who obtain high scores on the AP exams. College Board defines AP exam scores in terms of how capable the student is of receiving credit for a college course. The scores range on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). **We are pleased to announce our students had a passing rate of 86%, far exceeding the state and global passing rates.** In addition, a total of 48 current and recent BCS graduates have earned 2023 AP Scholars Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP exams.

AP Scholar is granted to students who earned a 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. BCS is proud to announce the following students who received this high honor:

Olivia Blank
Piyawat Bonnyasiriwat
Micah Campbell
Dominic DeFrank
Launa DeRosia
Mia Figuerola
Kaylie Funderburke
Devin Gooby
Jordan Gross
Alena Hollaar
Parker Hullinger
Celine Ith
Kristina Krikke
Joel Martin
Teagan Munce
Brett Woolery

AP Scholar with Honor is granted to students who earned an average of 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four of these exams. Congratulations to the following students who were awarded this honor:

Nathaniel Meloro
Fischer Schmidt



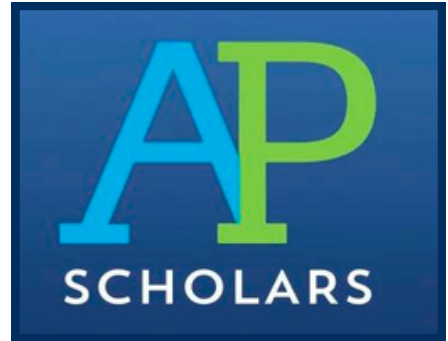
AP Scholar with Distinction is granted to students who earned an average of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. We are thrilled to announce the following students who received this high honor:

Ben Bradshaw
Becca Compton
Landon Dempsey
Allison Feikema
Abigail Jeter
Christina Magloire
Abby McSwain
Chelsea Pierre-Louis
Reid Price
Jordan Rowland
Cooper Stark
Noah Van Eerden

AP Scholars

Going into this year, BCS has five teachers of six subjects who acquired a 100% pass rate:

- Juan Arango (AP Spanish Language & Culture)
- Leah Kliewer (AP Seminar)
- Leah Kliewer (AP Research)
- Hailey Clark (AP English Literature & Composition)
- Karen Lord (AP Biology)
- Eric Gelston (AP Human Geography)



Our Advanced Placement teachers attend workshops and conferences in the summer to be more prepared for the classroom. They meet with our students on Saturdays to have group sessions and practice tests, and some even make breakfast for all their students on exam days. We thank all these teachers for their hard work and amazing dedication to our students! Congratulations to all the students and teachers who did an amazing job preparing for the AP exams!



Cubby Buddies

At BCS, we cherish traditions that bring our school community closer together. One such heartwarming tradition is the Cubby Buddy Program!

Every year, we pair up our amazing Senior students (Buddy) with our adorable Kindergarten students (Cubby), creating bonds that last a lifetime. These unique friendships are the foundation for many unforgettable moments, fun adventures, and cherished memories.

Stay tuned for updates as we prepare for more of the Cubby Buddy Program. It's such a blessing to see our oldest and some of our youngest students fostering friendships, spreading joy, and making memories that will last a lifetime!



Homecoming

By Christina Bradshaw, High School Student Council Leader

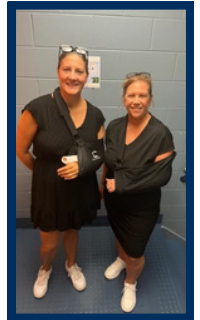
Homecoming at BCS is a week-long experience designed to create student connections and showcase a wide array of our students' talents. This year's Student Council hosted "Once Upon a Homecoming, 2023."



To kick-off the week, classic tales, turned beloved motion pictures, transformed the High School hallways with scenes reminiscent of child-hood favorites like Alice in Wonderland, Snow White, Rapunzel, and Peter Pan! Lockers became bridges and cityscapes, exquisitely hand drawn characters lined the walls, towers reached ceiling heights, and you may even have spotted yourself in the mirror on the wall while singing along to beloved theme music.

***Congratulations to the Juniors who took first place in the hallway decorating contest!**

Throughout the week, school spirit was evident through themed dress days and best dressed prize winners.



Homecoming at BCS creates a space for all students to participate. Classes compete in athletic competitions on Thursday with intense cheering in the stands. Friday's events host trivia, Mario Kart competitions, and the beloved class skits and lip syncs complete with creative choreography and costumes! The behind the scenes efforts by students and class sponsors is a remarkable testament to the many gifts that make up our student body.



Football players and fans had a second wind of energy just in time for the Friday night lights vs St. Stephens. Along with the white uniforms on the field, the fans filled the stands wearing white, waving white pom-poms and sporting new spirit wear designed and launched by BCS Spirit Club founders, Senior, Jordon Pasco, and Freshman, Brydon Cox.

BCS Panthers Football 14-7 win over St. Stephens was a wonderful ending to yet another Bradenton Christian homecoming story. Can't wait till next year!





Campus News

Spiritual Retreat

We believe that as followers of Christ we should detach from the busyness of life and recharge through God's word and with God's people. During the retreat, we will have moments for worship, teaching, time alone with God's Word, and great times of fun and fellowship.

Three noteworthy aspects of the retreat are TAWG (Time Alone With God), small group connection time, and cabin time. Each of these assigned times serve a great purpose.

TAWG is intentionally carved out to slow down and spend quality time with God. Students are provided journals with content to help prepare their hearts and minds for this important aspect.

Small group connection time is for 2-3 students to discuss questions provided in their retreat journal after each session.

Cabin time is a gathering each evening of assigned students from your grade level and gender. This is a time to debrief from the day and discuss what you've learned.



Spiritual Emphasis Week



Each semester we have a weeklong opportunity to worship together every morning and hear a biblical message from a special guest speaker. Our goal for students is to be challenged and encouraged in their walk with Christ. Each day our worship is led by our High School students and all the sessions are specifically tailored to the spiritual needs of the students.

October 2-5, BCS will be holding this year's first Spiritual Emphasis Week. Our speaker for this event is Robert Hemphill. Rob Hemphill has been in student and family ministry for over 20 years. Rob has a passion for seeing people come to know Jesus and be discipled into a deep relationship with Him. He believes it is a job to steward this next generation well as they become the church of today and tomorrow.

The focus for our week together is to dive into the question, "What would it take to upend our culture?" Rob believes when we begin to see as God sees, hear as God speaks, and follow as God leads, lives are changed... and the first one who needs change is usually ourselves.

Campus News

Bouwer Cup Golf Tournament

The 2023 BCS Bouwer Cup Golf Tournament presented by Stephen Jerome with Polis Jerome Group of Merrill Lynch and the Cox Family with Cox Auto Group was a roaring success!

We're thrilled to have gathered together to support the exceptional Christian Education provided by Bradenton Christian School.

A big shout-out and heartfelt thanks to our incredible sponsors, the passionate golfers who came to play, and our dedicated volunteers – your support made this event truly special!

Drumroll, please... We're excited to announce that the tournament raised over \$12,000 to benefit our amazing students and our thriving athletic program.

A special mention and gratitude go out to the Bouwer Family, one of our school's founding families, for their unwavering vision and constant support of our students and teachers.



Updates and Events

Wichers Auditorium Improvements:

We thank the Lord from whom all blessings flow, along with your heartfelt generosity, for the improvements to our Wichers Auditorium sound and light system this past summer.

Proceeds from our BCS Gala, "Illuminate!" and other donations, the Lord blessed BCS with a total of \$120,000 to accomplish our much-needed improvements.

Thank you to all who donated and participated in this project to help serve our students, teachers, our community, and ultimately to honor and praise the Lord! Our Wichers Auditorium is used for chapel every week, study hall every day, special programs, and a variety of presentations and meetings each month. It is one of the most utilized facilities on our campus.

Wichers Auditorium is named in memory of Thomas Wichers who was one of the BCS Founding families who helped establish Bradenton Christian School in 1960.



The 39th BCS Family Festival & Auction

On Saturday, November 4, BCS will be hosting the 2023 "Harvest Blessings" Festival & Auction on campus. This community event is a wonderful time of fellowship, food, and fun. Our goal also is to raise funds to help bridge the gap between the cost of our BCS education and the tuition charged to keep education accessible.

The Festivities begin at 3pm with the Festival and Silent Auction. The Festival is games run by our student clubs and local churches. Our auction has over 400 items ready for your bid. The Live Auction will begin at 6:45pm which is always a memorable time filled with high energy and excitement!

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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or

Heidi Sikkema

hsikkema@bcspanthers.org

(941) 792-5454 ext. 160



BCS Art Department- Maaike Braam

Maaike Braam, a BCS K-12 Veteran and Graduate, Class of 2013, passed away this summer unexpectedly. With her talents and love for art discovered at BCS with our Art teacher Debbie Snow, her family directed funds given in her memory to the Bradenton Christian School Art Department. BCS has been blessed by Maaike as a student and she blessed many in our broader community as she shared her amazing artistic talents as a career.

The funds given to the school in memory of Maaike will go to help our Art Department purchase much needed equipment for our ceramic arts. Her family and friends recently gathered to hang a plaque in memory of Maaike in the BCS Art room. Many BCS students were able to be a part of this as well. The plaque states: **"God blessed her with an amazing gift for art. She cherished the time spent in this room, and the world isn't the same without her sweet spirit."**

Parent of Maaike, Jan and Rosie Braam with Debbie Snow



Announcements



Interested in Volunteering?

Many hands make light work. The following verse is a famous expression of the need for Christian goodness to be visible in the world. Doing the work given by God is how His disciples distribute His light.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:15-16

Volunteering is far more than signing up for an event or completing a task. You are creating community, connecting with new families, and allowing God to shine through you.

There are many ways you may volunteer at Bradenton Christian School.

- Auction
- Giving Tuesday
- All Pro Dads
- Moms in Prayer
- Gala
- Check out our events that are coming up <https://www.bcspanthers.org/get-involved>
- To volunteer please contact Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.



Church Connection

Calling all BCS youth! Are you looking for a youth group or local church community to get involved with? We have information for the local youth groups and meeting times.

- **Bradenton CRC:**
Wednesday evenings at 6:45pm - 8:30pm
<https://bradentoncrc.org/ministries>
- **Bayside Community Church:**
Middle School services are during regular weekend times. High School is Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.
<https://www.mybayside.church/ministries/bayside-youth>
- **West Bradenton Baptist:**
Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm
<https://fortheneighborhood.com/students/>
- **Grace Community Church:**
Middle School services are during regular weekend times. High School meets Sunday nights from 5:30pm - 7:30pm.
<https://www.gracesarasota.com/channel/equip/you th>
- **North River:**
"The Swell" takes place on Sunday evenings at 4:30pm - 7:00pm
<https://www.gonorthriver.org/students>
- **The Bridge Church:**
Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm - 8:00pm
<https://www.bridgechurchfl.com/students>
- **First Baptist Church of Bradenton:**
Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm - 7:30pm for Middle school and High school students.
<https://firstbradenton.com/>

If you would like your church featured in Panther Press for youth events, please email Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.

If you would like to speak at Middle or High School chapel services for BCS please contact Calvin Morley at CMorley@bcspanthers.org.

Announcements



Important Dates

- October 2: Family Association Meeting
- October 3: Blood Drive
- October 3: National Honor Society Induction
- October 2-5: Spiritual Emphasis Week
- October 10: **Late Start**
- October 11: PSAT
- October 12: Picture Retake Day
- October 13: End of Q1/ **NO SCHOOL**
- October 16: **NO SCHOOL**

Late start details

- Start time on these Tuesdays is 9:00am for Elementary School and 9:10am for Middle and High School
- Elementary drop off begins at 8:40am, that is when supervision begins
- Students will be admitted to class at 8:55am (Elementary) and 9:00am (Middle & High)
- Parents who need to drop students off before 8:40am please register for before school care. Before school care for students in K-5 will be offered from 7:40am – 8:40am for a fee. Email mjones@bcspanthers.org or call 941-792-5454, ext. 157 for more information.

Blood Drive

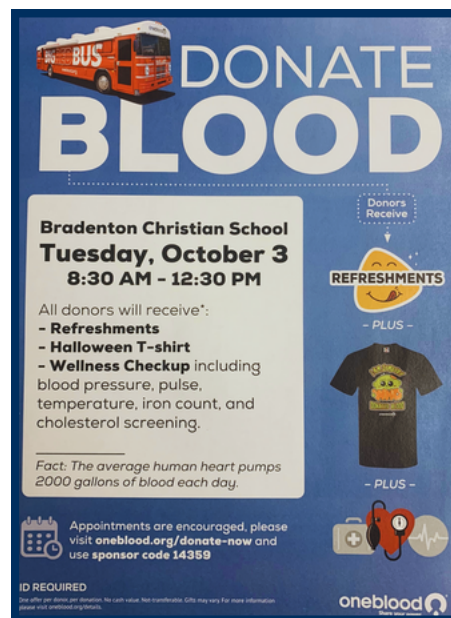
BCS hosts a blood drive three times a year:

- Oct 3
- Jan 23
- April 9

The blood is used in local hospitals and can save hundreds of lives for those who need blood transfusions.

The One Blood Donation Bus will be in front of the high school building on October 3 from 8:30am -12:30pm and anyone ages 16 and up is welcome to donate. Anyone who is 16 needs to fill out a parent permission form that Hailey Clark in the High School building has, but anyone ages 17 and up can just walk in. One Blood prefers you to make an appointment online at oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code **14359**, but they also accept walk ins.

Anyone who donates gets a free health screening, T-shirt, and snack. One Blood also makes a small donation to BCS for every blood donation.



Announcements

ALL PRO DAD

All Pro Dad Chapters provide an opportunity for dads to spend quality time with their children before school to strengthen their relationship. One day a month, many of our BCS dads and their kids meet together and walk through different topics that invoke meaningful conversations.

On September, 7th we had our first All Pro Dads meeting of the year in the Elementary School!

What a fantastic morning it was! We had an incredible turnout with 140 dads and kids coming together to celebrate the importance of fatherhood and family.

All Pro Dads is truly an incredible organization, and we're thrilled to be a part of their success. The bond between fathers and their children is something truly special, and it was heartwarming to see so many dedicated dads there.

Let's keep the momentum going and continue to build strong, loving families together. **The next All Pro Dads event is October 5th**, click the link to register:

www.bcspanthers.org/get-involved/all-pro-dads



Sports

Sports in Season

- Volleyball
- Football
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Swimming
- Cheer

To stay up to date on BCS sports, click the link below

<https://www.bcspanthers.org/athletics/teamshchedules>

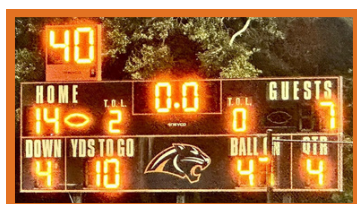
Varsity Football Homecoming Game vs. St. Stephens

By Coach Nate Strawderman

"I am so proud of every single person who has a hand in this program. Every student, every player, every faculty member, and everyone who believes in what we are doing.

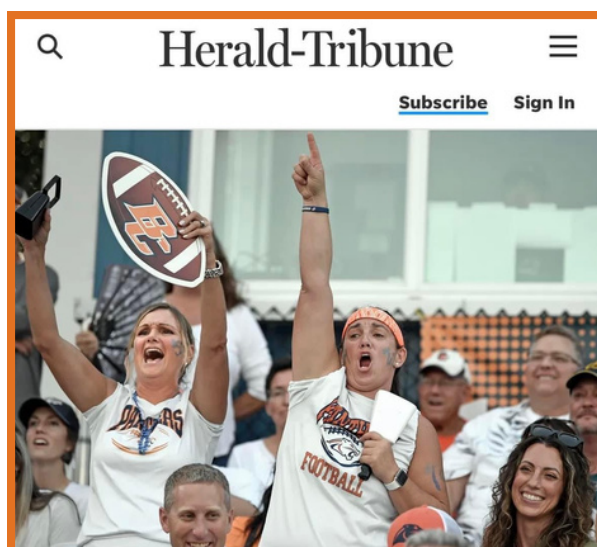
For the first time in 13 years we were victorious against St. Stephens who, I would like to mention, was ranked 5th in the state in our conference. It was a defensive battle and we came out on top.

I can't give one person the MVP for this game because it took every player on Friday to collectively beat this St. Stephens team. I always say that **GREATNESS** is coming, and now I can finally say **GREATNESS** has arrived. I love everyone who is a part of our program. I came here to win and that's what we are going to do,"



Game highlights:

- Ben Bradshaw- interception to start the game
- JB Baker- 63 yard touchdown catch
- Anthony Nguyen- 1 rushing touchdown



Panther fans spotted in the paper!

Photo credit to Herald-Tribune: Thomas Bender

Sports

BCS Volleyball

By Coach Zach VanDuinen

As the volleyball season began, the start was anything but ordinary. The season started with new leadership, as Zach VanDuinen took over two weeks before the season started. The program saw 65 girls come and tryout for the sport back in early August, the most BCS has had in its history of the volleyball program. BCS has a total of 6 volleyball teams this year to support the rising interest of many female athletes that want to be a part of the success and the community the Panther Volleyball program has experienced over the last few years.

The Varsity players chose the word, "Determined" for the program and it has been a rally cry for our teams, as the strength of our schedule has increased through the fall season. All of this does not happen without the foundation being implemented on day 1 about the values of trust, teamwork, and hard work. All of these are great to speak of, but players need to believe in these foundational truths, and each Panther can confidently say that they did. This has led to all our teams finding success on the court, but it is also evidenced off the court and in the weight room, led by assistant coach Emily Eurice, that the Panthers are accrediting the sense of purpose to do the extras to help with our steps to achievement.

The Varsity team, coached by Zach VanDuinen, assisted by Emily Eurice, have a 12-7 record. This record may seem insignificant or unimpressive to some, but the Panthers have played one of the toughest schedules in the state of Florida. This team is only getting better each day and is looking forward to the postseason to see how this difficult schedule has prepared them for tournament play.



Photo Credit to
Billy D Photography

Sports

BCS Volleyball Continued

The High School Junior Varsity team led by Jen and Ricky Tyrrell, to this point of the season is 10-1, and this team is playing as well as anyone in our area. With only 8 girls on this team, they have found the recipe to success to play a faster tempo and still develop their skills thus preparing them for their next step in their volleyball journey.

The Freshman team, led by head coach Dan Konczak and assisted by Riley Carey, has been a huge surprise to many. This team is combined of 9th, 8th, and a 7th grader, and has been blended beautifully, giving the coaching staff the opportunity to play JV teams and being able to compete at that level. Starting the season with a win at the Charlotte tournament, created momentum for this team that is still being carried over today.



The Middle School Varsity team is no different than the other teams mentioned above. Coach Hannah Overfield took the Middle School Varsity team to a High School JV tournament and took 5th place. This has led this team to be filled with confidence and a hunger to develop so that they can keep our Panther program moving in the right direction.



Middle School JV might be the hardest working team, and we have seen some of the biggest improvements through this season. Headed by Coach Jessica Lynch, the goal for this team at the beginning of the season was to consistently get three touches and get an attack on their third touch. They are fun to watch, as the hard work this team has put in has helped them progress to finding the next level.



Middle School Blue is a new team this year that is essential to our program. Head Coach Joanna Baugh has found consistency in the development of this 7th and 6th grade team, which was the point of emphasis for them. Even though some goals of development are different for each girl, it has allowed them to find the value of teamwork and working together to achieve a common goal.

Even though each team is doing and focusing on different things, the program will still have the focus together that Jesus is Lord of our life and allowing Him to be a part of each one of our players and coaches. This will continue to be essential, and we are thankful to be a part of a Christian school that allows us to talk about Jesus and be able to share life with them throughout our season. Even with our season winding down, we hope to see all of you at a home game in the near future to find out what the excitement is all about.

Sports

Congratulations Swim Team

By Head Coach Karen Freed

Fantastic News from the BACC Championship

Meet in Clearwater!

Despite having just 11 swimmers, our team shone brightly:

- Our girls secured 5th place, while the boys claimed an impressive 9th place.
- Girls 200 IM Relay: Teagan Stermer, Makayla Muneio, Morgan Elliott, and Maggie Cordell earned a well-deserved bronze medal.
- Boys 200 IM Relay: Jack Freed, Riggs Klika, Kuyper Johnson, and Jack Sallee also grabbed a bronze medal.
- Teagan Stermer showcased her talent with a bronze in the 100 Fly and a silver in the 100 Backstroke, both accompanied by new personal bests.
- Jack Freed demonstrated his excellence with a silver in the 100 Backstroke, achieving a personal best time.
- Makayla Muneio took the 4th place spot in the 100 Breaststroke, setting a new personal best.
- The girls 400 Freestyle Relay team, featuring Maggie Cordell, Ellie Dalman, Teagan Stermer, and Makayla Muneio, secured 4th place.

An outstanding performance by our swimmers!



To stay up to date on BCS sports,
click the link below

<https://www.bcspanthers.org/athletics/teamschedules>

Thank you Sponsors

Market Your Business to the Community Through BCS!

We invite you to take the opportunity to sponsor the Panther Press. The Panther Press is a monthly publication during the school year that showcases our community and all the amazing events, happenings, students and faculty. These newsletters are sent electronically which means timely delivery and accurate information. Additionally, all publications will be uploaded to our website. Imagine the exposure for your business throughout the school year for a minimal cost of \$200.

For more information contact Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.



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A collage of food items from Riverhouse Waterfront Restaurant, including a bowl of coleslaw, a plate of rice and beans, a plate of sweet potato fries, and a plate of a sandwich. The Riverhouse logo, featuring a stylized 'RH' inside a white flag, is centered over the food. Below the logo, the text 'RIVERHOUSE WATERFRONT RESTAURANT' is written in white. At the bottom, the website 'RIVERHOUSEFL.COM' is on the left and 'WATERFRONT DINING ON THE MANATEE RIVER IN PALMETTO' is on the right.

RIVERHOUSE
WATERFRONT RESTAURANT

RIVERHOUSEFL.COM WATERFRONT DINING ON THE MANATEE RIVER IN PALMETTO

A collage of food items from Urban Taco, including a plate of tacos, a plate of nachos, and a plate of a burrito. The Urban Taco logo, featuring the words 'URBAN TACO' in large white letters, is centered over the food. Below the logo, the website 'URBANTACOFI.COM' is on the left and 'BUILD YOUR OWN TEX-MEX RESTAURANT OFF STATE RD 70 IN LAKEWOOD RANCH' is on the right.

URBANTACOFL.COM BUILD YOUR OWN TEX-MEX RESTAURANT OFF STATE RD 70 IN LAKEWOOD RANCH

The Lakewood Ranch Insurance Advisors logo. The words 'Lakewood Ranch' are in a large, orange, serif font. Below them, the words 'Insurance Advisors' are in a smaller, grey, serif font. The text is flanked by two orange arrows pointing outwards. Below the text is a stylized blue graphic of a boat or a wave.

Lakewood Ranch

Insurance Advisors

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Polis Jerome Group


An advertisement for Morrish Stewart Orthodontics. At the top, a dark blue banner contains the text "Where Exceptional Is The Rule" in white. Below this, on a white background, is the Morrish Stewart Orthodontics logo, which consists of a stylized orange knot. To the right of the logo, the name "MORRISH STEWART" is written in a large, orange, serif font, with "ORTHODONTICS" in a smaller, orange, serif font below it. Underneath the name, the text "Free Initial Exam • 0% Interest Financing" is written in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a photograph of a smiling man with a beard, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. Below the photograph, the text "Dr. Dan Stewart" is written in a small, italicized, orange font. At the bottom of the advertisement, a dark blue banner contains the website "msorthodontics.com" in white. Below the website, another dark blue banner contains the text "Bradenton (941) 746-2463 Lakewood Ranch - (941) 751-0646" in white.



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