



BRADENTON HERALD

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Public weighs in on Riverwalk project

Enhancement ideas include shopping, sports venues

By JANUARY HOLMES
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BRADENTON — The public's wish list for Bradenton's \$2 million Riverwalk enhancement project includes everything from retail shops and day docks along the waterfront to outdoor venues

for sporting events. About 120 residents weighed in on what they hope to see for the Riverwalk during Thursday's public engagement workshop hosted by Realize Bradenton and the Bradenton Downtown Development Authority.

No idea was shot down. Not even the skateboard park — a potential crowd magnet. "We need something that sizzles," said Joan Voyles of Anna Maria as her table brainstormed their top three ideas for the project. "Something with pizzazz."

Her table decided that more riverside restaurants, public rest rooms and entertainment would do, along with increased security and lighting. Those items were a common theme among the crowd. Other ideas included

a fitness area, a rowing facility, paddle boat rentals, multi-layered fishing piers, art-inspired shaded areas and an artist-designed water fountain — for children to splash in to escape the Florida heat. Functional public art was a favorite with the crowd — from creative bathroom spaces to outdoor "living room" settings that serve

as benches. In fact, Ann Wykell, the DDA's public art coordinator made a pitch to artists for upcoming art commissions, such as creating sculptures that double as bike racks to use in downtown and possibly the Riverwalk. John and Susan Giordano, of Bradenton's The Promenade

RIVERWALK TO 9A

THE GULF OIL SPILL

LEAK FIXED - FOR NOW



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A commercial fishing vessel assisting in the containment of oil from the Deepwater Horizon wellhead sails toward the site of the leak Thursday.

OIL SPILL: DAY 87
BY THE NUMBERS
 The stoppage came 85 days, 16 hours and 25 minutes after the first report of the Deepwater Horizon explosion. Somewhere between 94 million and 184 million gallons have spilled into the Gulf, according to government estimates.

BP corrals oil, but will new cap last long term?

By CURTIS MORGAN
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It stopped. Finally, perhaps only temporarily, BP on Thursday managed to corral a raging gusher that for 85 days pumped a monstrous, shifting

stain of crude across the Gulf of Mexico, cost coastal communities in four states tens of billions of dollars and left a trail of sick and dead wildlife that scientists predict will only widen in coming years. Doug Suttles, BP's chief operating officer, cautioned it was still early

in a critical 48-hour pressure test intended to assess whether a massive new cap could control the jetting oil and gas without triggering a new, potentially worse blowout in the well deep underground.

LEAK TO 9A

BH GET THE LATEST | Updates on the pressure test at Bradenton.com/oilspill.

Husband: I tried to rescue my wife

All but one charge dropped against local man in lovers' triangle fatal crash

By BETH BURGER
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BRADENTON — Most of the criminal charges have been dropped against a local man police say chased a local eye doctor to his death after he caught him having sex with his wife. Prosecutors said Thursday they just couldn't prove Blair Hohmeister's driving led to Dr. Jason Evangelista's death. "The State must prove that (Hohmeister's) reckless driving 'caused' the death of (Evangelista). Here, we have no evidence the silver 2003 Honda Accord made any

HUSBAND TO 9A



TIFFANY TOMPKINS-CONDIE
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 Blair Hohmeister sits in the offices of attorney Mark Lipinski, where he made a brief statement Thursday.

BH Online extras
 Visit Bradenton.com for more photos and previous coverage of this story.

Local businesses to embark on trade mission to Panama

By GRACE GAGLIANO
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BRADENTON — An export sales mission to Panama in September has four businesses from Manatee and Sarasota counties approved for the trip. The registration deadline ended Thursday for the sales mission organized with the help of Manatee and Sarasota counties' economic development organizations. The

trip is designed to allow local companies to meet with officials in their respective industries to discuss business opportunities. So far, businesses registered for the trade mission include a Manatee County organic food distributor, a



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Mitch Blumenthal, founder and owner of Global Organic Specialty Source Inc., holds a box of certified organic Florida avocados in the company's refrigerated warehouse in Sarasota with his sister, Ronni Blumenthal, who is Global Organic's vice president of administration. Their business will be attending an export sales mission to Panama later this year.

PANAMA TO 9A

More coverage

5B | Port Manatee shows off at Ship Shape Showcase

Financial overhaul bill sent to Obama

By DAVID LIGHTMAN
 McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday voted 60-39 to approve the most sweeping overhaul of the nation's financial regulatory system since the Great Depression, clearing the historic legislation for President Barack Obama to sign into law. Obama hailed the mea-

sure's passage, calling it "a Wall Street reform bill that will bring greater economic security to families and businesses across the country. ... All told, this reform puts in place the strongest consumer financial protections in history. ... Because of this reform, the American people will never again

OVERHAUL TO 9A