

# THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE



## SPORTS

Haley Houchin eager for challenge of leading Central Hardin volleyball **PAGE B1**



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FRIDAY

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# Outdoor music venue taking shape

### E'town facility set to open next spring

BY GREG THOMPSON  
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

On the other side of roars of heavy equipment, sloshing of wet cement and the sounds of smoothing gravel awaits applause, laughter and crowds singing along with their favorite songs.

Still months away from the projected spring 2027 opening of the 10,000-seat outdoor music venue in Elizabethtown, construction is proceeding rapidly.

"Buildings are coming up out of the ground," said Janna Clark, executive director for Elizabethtown Tourism. "Getting out of the ground is a major milestone. When buildings are going up, that tells us all the work that is underground is done. That's a huge part in any construction project."

Daily, the venue takes shape. You can see what Clark refers to as "the bowl" in front of the steel structure surrounding the stage.

According to Project Engineer



GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise

**The steel structure of the performance area is taking shape at Elizabethtown's outdoor music venue which is expected to open next spring.**

Scott Fiepke, there is more than 600,000 pounds of tube steel being used in this project. An administration building, the slab for a concessions building and restroom facilities all are developing in their specific positions too.

A roundabout at the entrance to the music venue also is taking shape. On either side of the performance

area will be buildings - one for everything production related, while on the opposite side are facilities for the artists and a meet-and-greet area.

The next element to bid for the venue is the sign package.

"Signs, for example, that will be in the middle of that roundabout. That's kind of cool to imagine," Clark



GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise

**A roundabout situated at the entrance to Elizabethtown's new outdoor music venue is taking shape.**

said. A general manager has yet to be named who will oversee the venue.

"Our general manager will come from the venue managing world. Won't come from the sports park world ... won't come from the tourism world. This person will come from the world that has been successful at managing a venue," Clark said.

The general manager will work in tandem with DWP Concerts, a subsidiary of Danny Wimmer Presents, which will book the

performances.

DWP has the best affiliations and the best relationships with those in the touring industry, both artists on tour as well as festival organizers, Clark added.

Danny Wimmer Presents is responsible for largely successful music events such as Louder Than Life and Bourbon and Beyond held annually in Louisville.

"We are excited about having a

SEE VENUE/PAGE A4



Submitted

**Plans are being made to turn a field in Scheible Park in Vine Grove into a community garden. Shannon Rickey, founder of the Vine Grove Roots Initiative, said the garden will be a fully designed, intentional community space.**

## Community garden initiative introduced in Vine Grove

BY KODEE BRINEGAR  
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

A community garden is coming to Vine Grove to help knock down barriers for anyone facing food insecurities and to become a community-wide project for all to enjoy.

The Vine Grove Roots Initiative is a community-driven effort to transform available land into a productive, sustainable and educational garden space that serves the people of Vine Grove, according to founder Shannon Rickey.

"It's exciting," Rickey said. "This initiative is a big thing for the community."

The Vine Grove resident, who learned how to garden from her mother, said the community garden will take root in Scheible Park.

"If you look at Scheible Park as it is now, where the swing set is, we're looking to eventually use that whole field. It's meant to be scalable. We start with the raised beds because that's what the most need is right now," Rickey said. "Once we get through that part, we'll start looking at grants to build it up from

there where we can have along the road more or less a pollinator garden."

Rickey's vision is to eventually add fruit trees and berry patches and other amenities for anyone to use while enjoying the ark.

"We've got a wealth of knowledge in this community as far as women and men that have been growing vegetables and produce for families, for sale, for farmers markets, et cetera," Rickey said, adding that the garden is not meant to be in a competition with the farmers

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## Local knife retailer becoming knifemakers

### Red Hill Cutlery buys historic brand

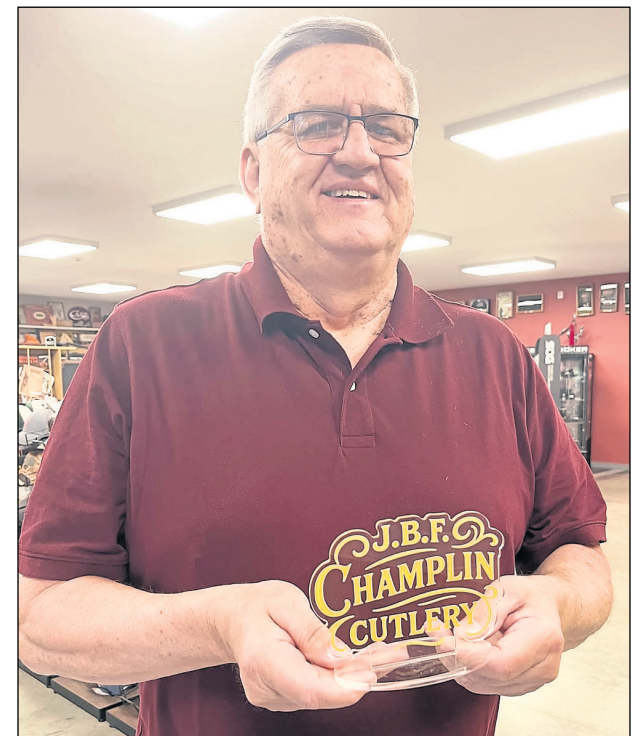
BY BEN SHEROAN  
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

After a lifetime as a knife collector and four decades as a knife retailer, Lonnie Basham is taking a step into manufacturing.

His passion for pocketknives helped fuel a business that sells and ships hundreds of knives weekly and has established Red Hill Cutlery as an industry leader.

It also gave rise to the Kentucky Museum of American Pocketknives where he displays his vast personal collection of artifacts in the rear of the store. The free exhibit, combined with the Guinness-certified World's Largest Pocketknife out front has become a tourist attraction and resulted in Radcliff being declared the Knife Capital of Kentucky.

Now the dream takes a new direction. Basham said he long has wanted to have his own knife brand. A connection among collectors led him to a historic twist as he was able to purchase rights to a name cherished in industry circles.



BEN SHEROAN/The News-Enterprise

**Lonnie Basham holds a store display of the logo for his new knife brand with a historic name. He acquired the J.B.F. Champlin trademark to restore the heritage of interest to collectors.**

For the first time in more than a century, knives bearing the trademark J.B.F. Champlin Cutlery are being made and will be available exclusively through Red Hill Cutlery.

"It is a big responsibility to bring all this history back," said his son, Jason Basham, who operates the knife store.

The initial run will be the first factory production of Champlin knives since 1886, Basham said.

Champlin was a knife distributor and salesman too before he became a manufacturer in 1865. Although his business lasted just a few

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### SINCE YOU ASKED

Results of The News-Enterprise online poll as of 8 a.m. Thursday. Should school meals be free for all? Yes: 46.8% • No: 4.2% • Based on income: 49%

TODAY'S QUESTION: Do you own a pocketknife?

### ELECTION

The sample ballot prepared by the county clerk depicts all races to be decided during the primary.

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