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The Kentucky Standard

Sunday, November 18, 2018



Courtesy Kentucky Owl

An artist's rendering depicts the interior of one of the planned buildings at the future Kentucky Owl Park, a distillery by The Stoli Group set to transform the rock quarry along John Rowan Boulevard. The plan by a world-renowned architectural firm calls for three pyramids on the complex.

Kentucky Owl unveils \$150 million vision

Distillery for super-premium
bourbon would transform
Cedar Creek rock quarry

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The Dedman family's vision of the future of its super-premium Kentucky Owl bourbon label certainly didn't include a train station or a pyramid-shaped distillery building. Not four years ago when it was resurrected from the Beaumont Inn in Harrodsburg, and especially not in 1879 when it was founded.

But the bourbon industry's unprecedented boom has shown a tendency to bring the past, present and the future together in innovative ways, and guests for Thursday's unveiling of the Stoli Group's plans for the new home of Kentucky Owl in Bardstown received a big "wow" factor that the descendants of C.M. Dedman never anticipated.

Thursday's gathering at the Spalding



PETER W. ZUBATY/The Kentucky Standard

Russell Pareti, the senior vice-president for marketing for the Stoli Group, snaps a picture of the architectural models for the new Kentucky Owl Park distillery at a gathering Thursday at the Spalding Hall chapel debuting the plans for the project, which is expected to break ground in less than two years.

Hall chapel allowed people to see for the first time the vision world-renowned Japanese architect Shigeru Ban had for

the Kentucky Owl distillery, the \$150 million project that will transform Bard-

See **OWL**, page A14

Heaven Hill announces \$17.5 million Bourbon Heritage Center expansion

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Heaven Hill's \$17.5 million expansion of its Bourbon Heritage Center in Bardstown will more than double the dimensions of the current facility, include a rooftop bar and expanded retail space, and provide guests with new tourism experiences, including hands-on laboratory learning and bottling their own bourbon.

The announcement was made at the visitors center on Gilkey Run Road by Heaven Hill President Max Shapira, Kentucky Tourism Commissioner Kristen Branscum and Cynthia Torp, owner and CEO of Solid Light, the design firm charged with coming up with the concept for the new facility.

Solid Light is partnering with Abel Construction to design and build the facility, which is expect-

See inside
for artist
renderings
of Heaven
Hill's
expansion

See **HILL**, page A5

Mass remembering Tommy Ballard to be held Monday

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It hasn't been long since friends and members of the Ballard family gathered at St. Thomas Parish to remember missing mother Crystal Rogers, but tomorrow, they gather to remember the man who never stopped searching for her. At a time when Nelson County crimes are gaining national attention and a grieving family gathers to grieve again, the frustration of waiting for a break in a case only adds to the heartache.

'Death investigation' doesn't
suffice

On a crisp November morning two years ago, Tommy Ballard was shot and killed while hunting with his grandson on family-owned property. The shooter has never come forward or been identified by police, and it's believed the shot may have come from the direction of the Bluegrass Park-

See **TOMMY**, page A4

Crash claims life of Louisville man on U.S. 31E

STAFF REPORT
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A Louisville man, Charles E. Couch, 64, died Thursday night as a result of a two-vehicle crash on a bridge on U.S. 31E at the Bullitt County line.

Two other people were injured in the accident, a man and a boy.

Nelson County Coroner Field Houghlin said the cause of Couch's death was blunt force trauma.

According to the Nelson County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to the 6:13 p.m. dispatch call about a collision involving a vehicle fire and entrapment.

Deputy Dalton Pinkston arrived to find Couch had been removed from the burning SUV and someone had started administering CPR.

Deputy Jarren Culver also responded, along with EMS, Nelson County Fire and Rescue and the Mount Washington Fire Department.

The sheriff's report said Couch was going north on Louisville Road (U.S. 31E) when he met a pickup truck driven by Daniel Johnson of Bardstown, who was driving south. Johnson lost control on the icy bridge, and his truck crossed into the path of Couch's SUV and hit it head-on.

Others on the scene were able to remove Couch from the burning vehi-

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Shelburne
to fill Fiscal
Court
vacancy
**>> NEWS,
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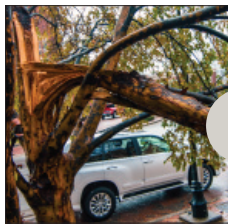
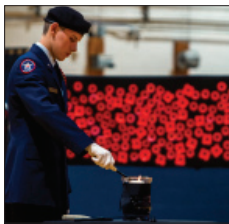


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by what he claims was
a 70-foot shark, Jonas
Taylor must save those
trapped in a sunken
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>>Owl

From Page A1

stown’s Cedar Creek Quarry into the home of one of the hardest-to-find bourbons on the market.

“When we started this, we didn’t have a six-month plan. We didn’t have a two-year plan,” said Dixon Dedman, Kentucky Owl’s master blender and the great-great-grandson of C.M. Dedman. “If you had told me when we got started doing this that I’d be looking at what we saw today, I’d have told you you were out of your mind.”

The Dedman family sold their historic label to the Stoli Group in January 2017, and since then, the Luxembourg-based company best known for the Russian vodka Stolichnaya has gone all-in with a project that will cost about \$150 million for development over the course of its construction phases.

Local businessman Bill Conway, who is also a member of the Nelson County Economic Development Agency, which was involved in bringing Kentucky Owl to Bardstown, said the unveiling he saw on Thursday seemed almost over-the-top based on what local folks are used to in Bardstown.

“I think the first word is ‘awesome,’” he said. “It’s kind of like if you’re walking through New York City, looking at the buildings with your jaw open.”

Conway wasn’t the only one awestruck.

“I’m as wowed as anybody,” said Dedman, who will remain with Stoli Group as master blender. “I’ve seen some of it on paper, but what it means most to me is the commitment they’re willing to make to what we’ve started and what we’re creating. And the future, that we have a home. That we don’t just have a regular home — (that) we have something that we’re really investing (in), to create a visual experience. And really, something that is unique to the industry. I’d like to think that what we started was unique to the industry and the process, and to take it a step further with this unbelievable facility. It’s just really exciting.”



Courtesy of Kentucky Owl

ABOVE — The Kentucky Owl Park plans would transform the old rock quarry into a campus that includes recreational areas, a train station, convention center, distillery and rickhouses among other attractions. **BELOW —** An artist’s rendering depicts the interior of one of the planned buildings at the future Kentucky Owl Park, a distillery by The Stoli Group set to transform the rock quarry along John Rowan Boulevard. The plan by a world-renowned architectural firm calls for three pyramids on the complex.

Dmitry Efimov, president and CEO of The Stoli Group, said Ban’s plans, which incorporate renewable and recyclable materials in its construction, was the clear winner when his company opened the bidding process for what will be known as Kentucky Owl Park.

“We didn’t want to do just another distillery,” he said. “We wanted this to be a kind of bourbon jewel of Kentucky, a bourbon jewel of the world.”

In his presentation Thursday, Ban laid out what Kentucky’s next big bourbon destination will look like.

“This is really one of the most important commissions we have received,” said Ban, who has taught architecture classes at Ivy League schools, and has a reputation for using environmentally friendly processes in his creations since the 1980s, such as a seven-story timber construction for the Swiss Tamedia company, as well as for the Cardboard Cathedral in Christchurch, New Zealand, a replacement for the original, which was destroyed by an earthquake and tsunami.

Ban is known for using heavy-duty paper tubing for pillars in his designs, not unlike the heavy cardboard used for mailing poster tubes. Timber is also in his wheelhouse, and he’s also been known to use old shipping containers as well, all with an eye toward those materials being reused. Copper and steel will also be a big part of the distillery’s construction, giving a nod to how those materials, along with wood, are used in barrel-making.

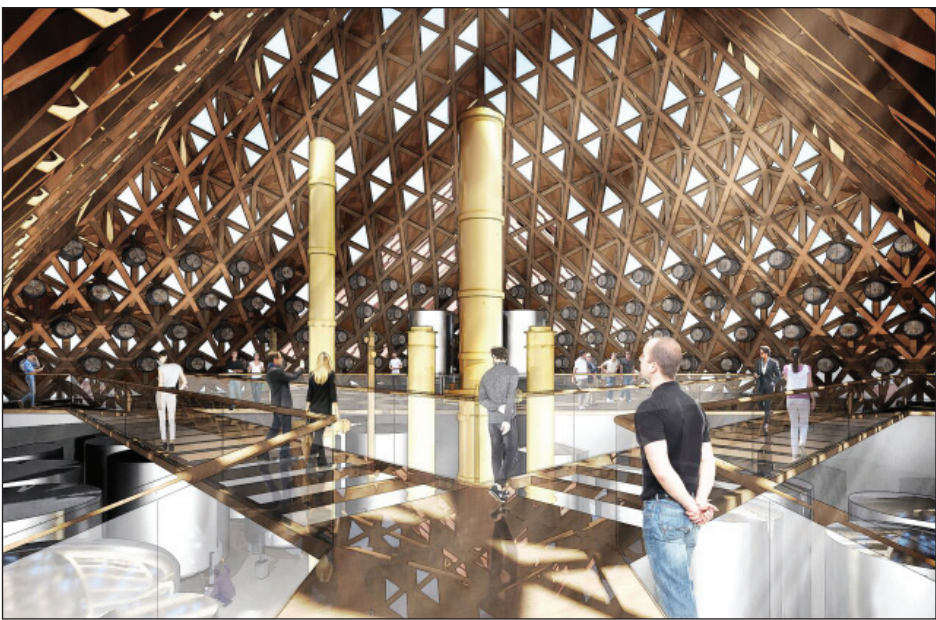
In addition, the repurposing of Haydon Materials’ quarry will transform the site into something unrecognizable for those who are familiar with the site, allowing old to become new.

“We really loved the idea that this is an old quarry, a heavy industrial site, digging through the limestone, and reconverting it into something absolutely envi-

ronmentally great,” Efimov said.

The planning phase will take a year, with groundbreaking and the start of construction scheduled for the spring of 2020.

The first phase will include the distillery, the first rickhouse (which will also serve as the tasting room), and the train station at the end of the R.J. Corman rail



line that serves My Old Kentucky Dinner Train.

“It will take about a couple years” after groundbreaking, Efimov said. “And then we’ll move to other phases. It’s going to be a multi-phase project. Altogether, it will take about six, eight years. There’s no rush. We want to get it right.”

Eventually, the site will also feature a convention center, and potentially a hotel, as well as opportunities for visitors to enjoy outdoor activities, such as walking around or even kayaking in the lakes that will eventually fill the quarry holes.

“When it’s all up and running, we will be inviting people to come check it out,” Efimov said.

>> Fatal

From Page A1

cle and gave him aid, but emergency medical personnel found that he had succumbed.

He was pronounced dead at the scene by the coroner, and his body was taken to a medical examiner’s office for an autopsy.

Johnson and a young male juvenile were taken by ambulance to Flaget Memorial Hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

There were no signs of alcohol consumption being a factor in the accident, but Dalton is still investigating the circumstances.

According to the Sheriff’s Office, the main causes appeared to be a wet and slippery surface and freezing temperatures.



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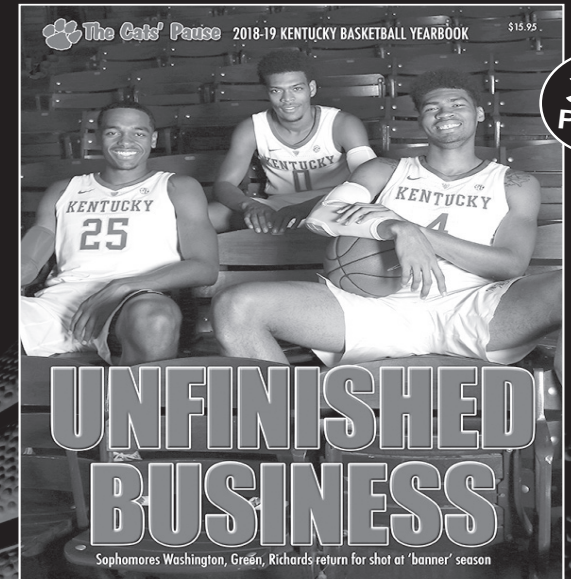
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