

Riverfront

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Exhibits readied for Owens park

By **Clyde L. Stancil**
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OAKVILLE — The designers of the exhibits for the Jesse Owens Memorial Park Museum will begin delivering them in about nine days.

James Pinion, a member of the park's board, said Design Display Inc. of Birmingham should have installation of the exhibits completed in time for a May 16 dedication of the museum that will coincide with the annual Jesse Owens Memorial Run.

Board members will conduct a private tour of the museum for the Owens family May 15. Contributors who donate a minimum of \$100 will be able to tour the museum with the family.

"It's really going to be an outstanding museum," said Pinion.

"We've got two hours of video. We'll have a main theater, and it will show the 1936 Olympics. Part of it is narrated by Jesse Owens."

Other exhibits include two interactive video stations with laser printers for obtaining information on Owens, six display cases filled with Jesse Owens' personal items that were donated by the family, and life-size graphics and photographs along the museum walls and dividers.

Owens' oldest surviving sibling, Sylvester Owens, has narrated a video for the replica home adjacent to the museum. It will describe Owens' early life in Oakville.

"I haven't seen it put together yet, but I've seen pieces of it," Pinion said. "I think it will make us all proud of Lawrence County and will bring people here from all over the world."

The opening of the museum has been delayed because of problems with leaks in the roof, but county officials said earlier that they have been repaired.

Minor work on the museum needs to be completed, but, Pinion said, it won't interfere with installation of the exhibits.

He said the work includes rerouting a ditch near the road leading to the museum and installing more restroom facilities inside the museum.

At a Monday morning Lawrence County Commission meeting, Pinion told commissioners that security measures at the museum have been improved by reinforcing the ceiling near the entrance of the museum and by installing sturdier doors. There also will be an alarm system installed before the exhibits are completed.

Pinion said the Traveller online service will put the museum on the Internet at no cost to the county.