



*Since April 1995*

SEPT/OCT 2025  
FREE

# Our Brown County

*Small Town Showdown Winner: Nashville!*

## Spears Gallery

*Responder Aid 2025*

*The House of the Singing Winds*  
*en homage • Art Gallery Collector's Showcase*

*Sampler: Range 46 Wine Co.*

*Musings: Armadillos*

*Field Notes: Corn Botany*

**Nashville General  
Store & Bakery**



It's amazing what a little drizzle of flavor can do!

# tastier tomato!



## wild & tasty TIP

Try drizzling one of our delicious olive oils into your bowl of soup this fall. Just a tablespoon of your favorite liquid gold can really take your soup to the next level and adds so much flavor and richness. With tomato soup we suggest our **Tuscan Herb**, **Parmesan Garlic**, or **Zesty Onion** extra virgin olive oils. Looking for even more flavor, try an additional drizzle of one of our balsamics. We have suggestions to match what you're cooking. Come on in, taste, and let's talk oil and balsamic!



We've been bringing great taste to you since 2012 from our inviting little shop in the heart of Brown County, Indiana.

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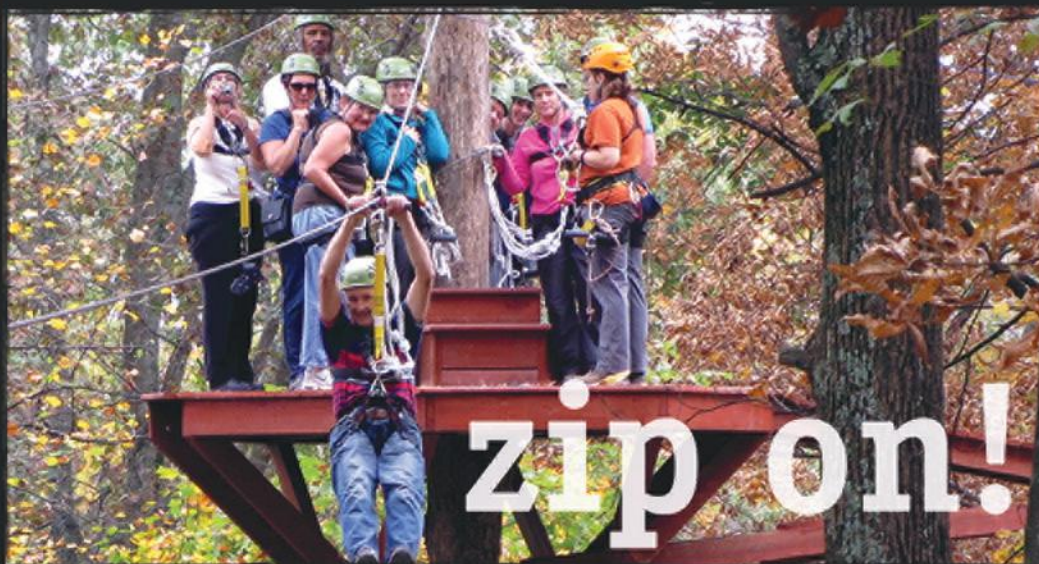


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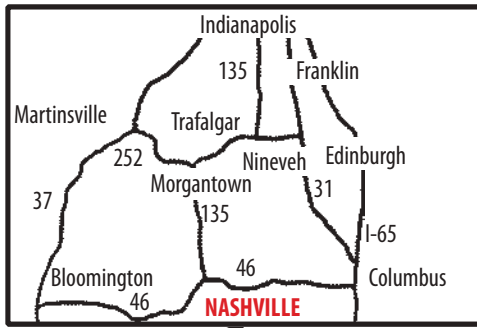
**eXploreBrownCounty.com**





# Brown County

NASHVILLE  
MAP ON  
PAGE 6



## MORGANTOWN

Antiques Co-op  
Grandpa Jeff's Trail Rides  
Paul's Supermarket  
The Tasty Plate Cafe



Sweetwater Lake

Cordry Lake

Doodles by Kara Barnard



Hoover Rd

GATESVILLE

- Dining
- Lodging/Camping
- Musical Entertainment
- Artist and/or Gallery
- Craftsman
- Recreation

Days of Old Antique Shoppe  
Range 46 Wine Co  
to COLUMBUS

GNAW BONE

Heartland Tattoo Friends O' Mine Campground

Away A Day RV Campground

Mt. Liberty Rd

Valley Branch Rd

Christiansburg Rd

Hamilton Ckt Rd

Poplar Grove

PIKES PEAK

STONE HEAD

CHRISTIANSBURG

STORY

ELKINSVILLE

Monroe Reservoir

T.C. Steele State Historic Site

Yellowwood State Forest

Belmont

46

to BLOOMINGTON

Yellowwood Rd

Green Valley Rd

Kelp Grove Rd

Amanda W. Mathis

Country Club Rd

Oak Grove Rd

Owl Creek Rd

Helmsburg Rd

to MORGANTOWN

135

to BLOOMINGTON

45

to BLOOMINGTON

South Shore Dr

Lake Lemon

South Shore Dr

45

to BLOOMINGTON

Helmsburg

Helmsburg General Store

Lightspinner Studio

to BLOOMINGTON

45

to BLOOMINGTON

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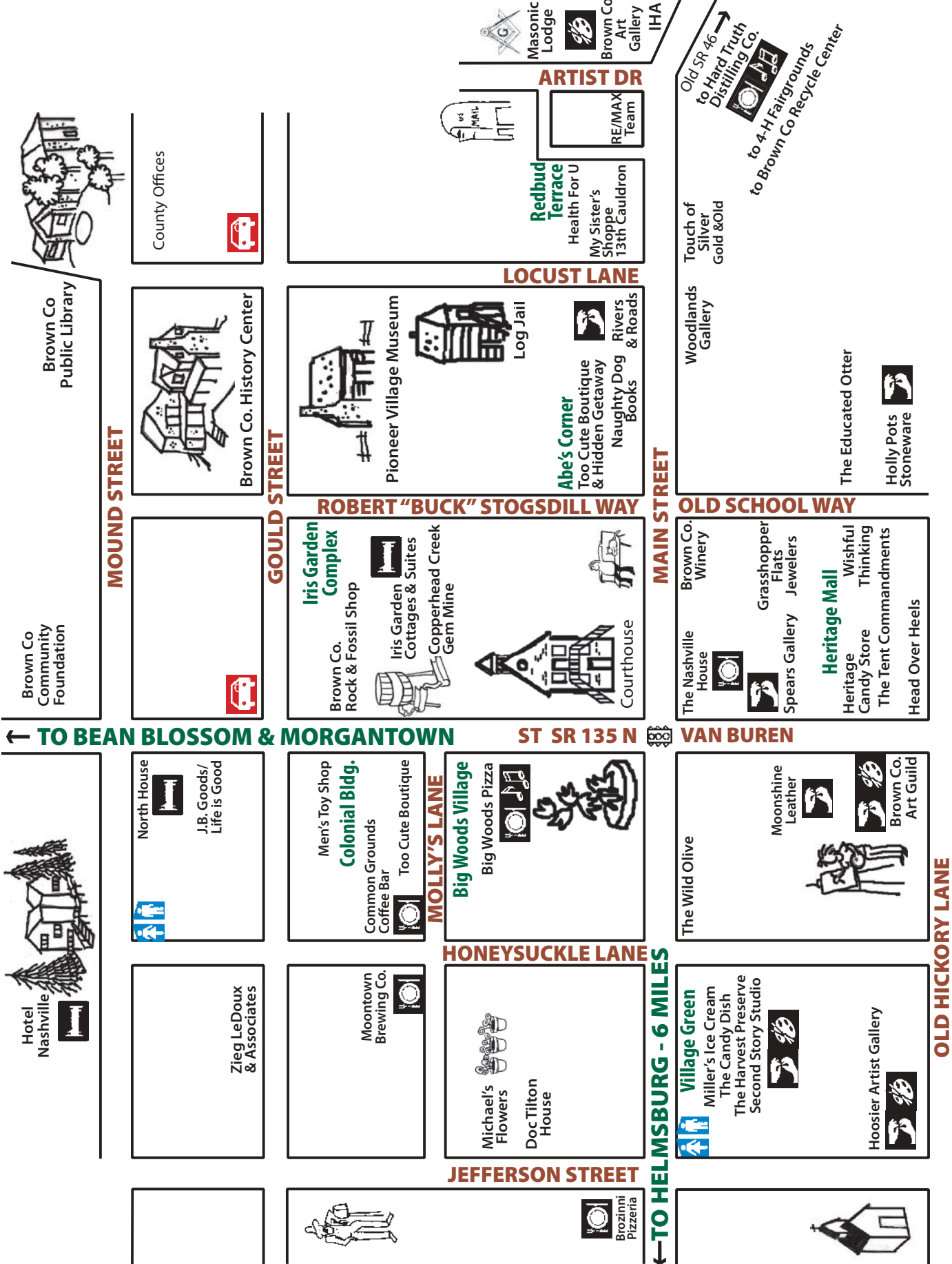
to BLOOMINGTON

45

to BLOOMINGTON

45









# Nashville

## Indiana

map not to scale

COUNTY MAP ON PAGE 5

Parking	Musical Entertainment
Rest Room	Artist and/or Gallery
Dining	Theatre
Lodging	Craftsman

Doodles by Kara Barnard



Nashville General Store & Bakery

Brown Co Craft Gallery

WASHINGTON STREET

Bone Appetit Bakery

Visitors Center



Nashville Spice Co.

Country Heritage Winery



Coachlight Square



Seasons Hotel & Event Center



Rafters

SR 46 TO COLUMBUS - 16 MILES →

Brown County IGA

Brown County Inn

Bear Hardware



Brown Co Community YMCA

Brown Co Health & Living



Salt Creek Park  
Brown Co Sugar Shack

IU Health Nashville



Brown Co Music Center

← SR 46 TO BLOOMINGTON - 16 MILES



OLD SCHOOL WAY

Out of the Ordinary and Hickory Bar



Nashville Express



Mossy Rock Pottery



Cornerstone Inn



Artists Colony Shops  
Kith & Kindred House of Jerky



VAN BUREN ST SR 135 N

Lakehouse Candle Co.

Possum Trot Square

Nashville Fudge Kitchen



Moondance Vacation Homes

PITTMAN HOUSE LANE



Brown Co Bikes



Nashville BP



The Chocolate Moose



PAT REILLY DR



Thrift Shop Community Closet



Brown Co Playhouse



The Totem Post



Olde Bartley House Coffee & Donuts

HONEYSUCKLE LANE

Brown Co Model Trains  
Old McDurbin Gold & Gifts  
Rustic Charm Permanent Jewelry

Antique Alley



Clay Purl



Brown Co Pottery



The Ferguson House  
Hat Co. Bistro & Bar



FRANKLIN STREET

Franklin Square

Life is Good  
JB Goods

New Leaf  
Amy Greely



The Toy Chest

Calvin Place



JEFFERSON STREET

Brown Co Massage

Precise Books & Payroll

The Salvation Army





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& Bailey Clown College, and a veteran circus performer.

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**Cindy Steele** is the publisher and editor of this magazine. She sells and designs ads, sometimes writes, takes photos, and creates the layout. For fun, she likes to play the guitar or banjo and sing.

**Mark A. Randall** is a freelance artist/illustrator specializing in paranormal-related artwork. He has published 14 books, designed over 30 book covers and provided nearly 300 illustrations for film. He has also produced art for trading cards, posters, games, t-shirts, web media and CD/DVD packaging, just to name a few. He lives with his wife in Indiana.

\***Seth Teeters** has had a passion for photography since high school. He later took it to another level when he studied digital art and design in college. As a photographer, designer, art director, and now primarily a marketer, he takes pride in the diversity of his work, and loves sharing what he is able to see and capture.



Thanks, Mom, for making it happen!  
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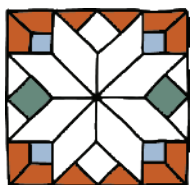
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Serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner 7 days a week  
8am to 9pm Sunday to Thursday 8am to 10pm Friday & Saturday

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# Coloring Contest **WIN \$30**



Publisher's choice. Send to this address by October 20.

**OUR BROWN COUNTY**  
P.O. Box 157 Helmsburg, IN 47435

Sept./Oct. 2025 • *Our* **Brown County** 13



@Sunnhunt

# Take the scenic route.

Grab your friends and drive through the beautiful back roads of Brown County! Engage with artists and their work as you visit the studios where the magic is made.

The **Brown County Studio Tour** is an annual fall tradition you won't want to miss!

*"Blissfully drive the scenic back roads."*

— Suzanne M.

*"This is an art tour like no other!"*

— Carrie R.



Learn more about the  
[Brown County Studio Tour.](#)



Let's be friends

 @ILoveBrownCounty  
 @ILoveBrownCounty  
 @ILuvBrownCounty

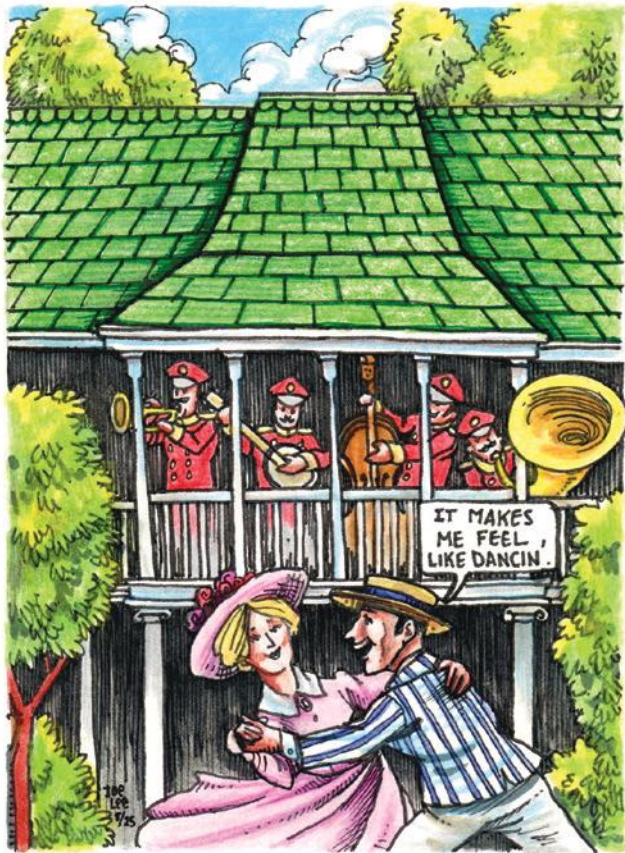
  
**BROWN COUNTY**  
—INDIANA—  
*Escape Comes Naturally®*

Brown County Visitors Center  
211 South Van Buren Street  
Downtown Nashville



# WIN \$30 History Mystery 812-988-8807

FIRST to leave a message with the answer along with your name and phone number WINS!



The artists that came to paint during the early 20th Century often stayed at a hotel in Nashville. The host's generous sense of hospitality and jovial disposition drew the painters there for meetings, discussion, and fellowship. Guests were sometimes greeted by the village band on the balcony.

Some of those famous early artists painted a portrait together of the owner (front and back view) on a door that served as the hotel's sign. The portrait now hangs in a local gallery.

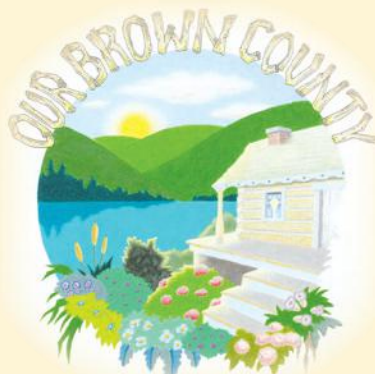
What was the name of the hotel?  
(Hint: it was *not* The Nashville House)

*The answer to last issue's mystery was Will Vawter.*

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*Makes a great gift.*



# *We are the Champions!*

## **GET INDIANA.** Small Town Showdown



*Nate Spangle at Moontown Brewery Co. during a summer visit. courtesy photos*

~by Boris Ladwig

**B**rown County this year got a marketing boost because Nashville won the Small Town Showdown against 63 other small Indiana cities.

The competition, organized by the Get Indiana Media Company, pitted the small towns against one another in brackets, modeled after and taking place at the same time as the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

The towns were seeded based on population, with Nashville being a 16<sup>th</sup> seed that survived a matchup with Jasper in the first round, said Nate Spangle, a native Hoosier and the company's founder.

Get Indiana got between 4,000 and 5,000 votes per matchup, and Nashville beat towns including Santa Claus, Rising Sun, Madison, Monticello and, in the final, Greensburg. Some of the matchups were tight, Spangle said, with the towns being separated by fewer than 10 votes.

He said the company aligned the timing of its matchups with the basketball tournament and



announced Nashville as the winner just days before the NCAA championship game.

It wasn't just people from Nashville who voted for their hometown. Spangle said the town got more than quadruple the amount of votes than it has residents.

He said, "People from all over the state voted for Nashville."

Spangle came up with the idea because it aligned with the company's vision, to highlight the best of Indiana, from road trips to drive-in theaters and ice cream.

"People love small towns across Indiana."

Get Indiana presents the state's highlights on



**“We will be  
back soon.  
Every Hoosier  
needs to go.”**

—Nate Spangle

**“For the Brown  
County Visitors  
and Convention  
Bureau, the  
campaign was  
a success. It  
helped amplify  
awareness of  
Brown County,  
supported small  
businesses,  
and deepened  
partnerships  
within our  
industry,”**

—Cristina Villani



*Spangle's visit included the "On the Rocks" music series at Hard Truth Distilling Co.*

its website, a newsletter, and a podcast. The company gets 97 percent of its revenue from sponsorships. The company's website recently highlighted the Solsberry general store as a "southern Indiana classic for food, history and small-town charm." The most recent podcast episodes featured an Indiana band, a farmer's market, and a conversation about the best pizza across the Hoosier state.

Spangle said the company wants to promote positive stories about the state, from business owners to athletes and other Hoosiers with inspiring stories.

He and Get Indiana staffers visited Brown County in July and, among other activities, enjoyed a stroll in the heart of Nashville.

"I was really impressed by the diversity of things to do," he said.

Spangle said he has visited 52 county seats across the state and lots more small towns, but from the restaurants to the shops, he said Nashville is "unique, in a good way."

Spangle also runs ultramarathons and said he and some fellow runners logged about 20 miles in Brown County State Park, gaining a total of about 2,000 feet in elevation.

Spangle said the Get Indiana crew had a great time when it visited Nashville, spending time at Moontown Brewing Co., Hard Truth Distilling Co., and Ooey Gooley Cinnamon Rolls and Cafe, among other locations.

**Continued on 18**





### **BEST SMALL TOWN continued from 17**

Spangle picked up the tab (totalling more than \$1,000) for patrons at one of the establishments in celebration of Nashville's Best Small Town title.

"We loved our time in Nashville," he said.  
"Everyone was so hospitable."

"Also, Ooey Gooley may be the best cinnamon roll in the state," Spangle said.

Tourism remains a big revenue generator in Brown County. According to Rockport Analytics, visitors spent nearly \$74 million in Brown County in 2023, including \$36 million on lodging, \$11.5 million on food and beverages and \$7 million on shopping.

The spending supported more than 1,000 jobs, according to the report, paying a total of \$21 million in wages. Tourism spending also generated nearly \$9 million in local taxes, including \$4.1 million in sales taxes.

Cristina Villani, marketing director for the Brown County Convention and Visitors Bureau, said Nashville's victory in the Small Town Showdown, along with the Get Indiana crew's visit, "offered meaningful exposure for Brown County and helped us tell our story to a wider audience."

"Winning the Small Town Showdown gave us a unique opportunity to collaborate with local businesses and highlight what makes Brown County a one-of-a-kind destination," Villani said via email.

"Tourism partners like Hard Truth Distilling Co., Moontown Brewing Co., Moondance Vacation Rentals, Brown County Shuttles, and Iris Garden Lodging helped facilitate a tailored experience that showcased our community's charm and hospitality," she said.

"For the Brown County Visitors and Convention Bureau, the campaign was a success. It helped amplify awareness of Brown County, supported small businesses, and deepened partnerships within our industry," Villani said. "The positive engagement we've seen—from visitors discovering us to locals seeing their town celebrated—speaks to the campaign's impact."

Spangle, who lives in Indianapolis, said he's already looking forward to a return visit to Nashville.

"We will be back soon. Every Hoosier needs to go."

You can follow Spangle on Instagram at @natespangle and visit [getindiana.com](https://getindiana.com) to learn more about what makes the Hoosier state great. ■

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*The Spears family: Kyle, Tyler, Larry, and Jan.*

### **~story and photos by Bob Gustin**



**J**an and Larry Spears, along with their sons Tyler and Kyle, are a powerful force on the Brown County arts scene.

Larry is a renowned potter who has served as an inspiration for his sons, now artists themselves, and Jan is the businesswoman who holds it all together.

After 51 years of marriage, Larry's work as a potter has a national following, and their home-based gallery has been replaced with one in the heart of the arts and crafts district in Nashville.

And lately, after producing thousands of pieces of pottery, Larry has expanded his offerings into jewelry, another of his longtime interests.

While handmade jewelry is his current passion, he has no plans to stop making his unique pots, mugs, dinnerware, and art pieces which have built his reputation.





# SPEARS GALLERY

"I'm married to pottery, but I'm having an affair with jewelry," is how he puts it.

Both Larry and Jan are natives of Columbus, Indiana, and got to know each other when she was working in a Columbus record store, The Music Box, and Larry kept coming in to hunt down the music he loved.

"He was a handsome man," Jan said. "But he was very interesting as well, and he had the same taste in music that I had." She said they both loved classic rock and folk-flavored songs, and Larry was a good guitarist.

At the time, Larry was working at a greenhouse in Columbus, but made weekend trips to Nashville for inspiration, especially from the late potter John Mills.

"I came over to watch John throw pottery," Larry said. "And Larry Pejeau was also an inspiration. He knew different techniques."

Both encouraged him.

Jan worked in advertising at *The Republic* newspaper in Columbus, had a knack for sales, and was a natural to take over the business.

Shortly after Larry and Jan were married, they decided to take a vacation to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, hoping to pay for the vacation by selling Larry's pots to galleries in the tourist town. Soon, a gallery there hired both Larry and Jan, and they lived there for 14 years.

But family members on both sides were still living in Indiana, and they returned to be closer

to relatives. Jan scouted locations and found a home in southern Brown County with a second unfinished house on the property. The Spears deemed it perfect for a studio, so Larry built a kiln, turned the second house into a studio and gallery, and continued practicing his art while showing his pieces in arts and crafts shows across the nation.

In 2011, they opened Spears Gallery at 15 S. Van Buren St. in Nashville, which grew into one of the anchors of the arts community. The original home-based gallery still serves as a working studio for Larry and the couple's two sons, who have been selling their art for more than a decade.

Tyler sculpts intricate ceramic figures, including dragons and imaginary animals, such as those found in Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland." They are formed in clay, then carefully glazed and fired. The fantasy characters sometime come from his childhood interests, such as the dragons in "The Lord of the Rings."

"Dad has taught me all kinds of stuff," Tyler said.

And it was Larry who got Kyle interested in photography when Kyle was a student at Indiana University and had not declared a major.

"He handed me a camera and said, 'study photography.'"

Since then, he has travelled across the U.S. and internationally taking fine art photos. Sometimes he researches a photo shoot beforehand, but often the best photos are one he stumbles onto, he said.

**Continued on 24**





*Tyler Spears at the gallery.*

from lapidary artists, other jewelers and elsewhere.

He has been selling jewelry at the gallery for about six years, and loves making rings.

"I'm still learning," he said. "That's the fun part of it, you never stop learning. And it's the same with pottery. I'm having fun with both; I'm doing shows with both."

At 72, Larry shows no signs of slowing down, and has no plans to retire.

Jan says the family plans to keep the gallery going in the foreseeable future.

"There will never be a day when Larry's not making something," she said.

"I wouldn't be doing this at all without Jan," Larry said. "She's the business lady, she's the juggler, she keeps the books, does the taxes. The shop is her gallery. I just work there to fill in when I'm needed."

Jan says it's actually a team effort.

"It takes the whole family to keep everything rocking and rolling," she said. "It takes the four of us, plus a couple of very good employees."

"We're grateful we actually reside in and make a living in this little county," she said. ■

*Spears Gallery is located at 15 S. Van Buren Street in Nashville. They are open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, but hours may vary depending on the season. For more information, call 812-988-1286 or visit [spearspottery.com](http://spearspottery.com).*

### **SPEARS continued from 23**

Kyle has his own business, but is part of the team at Spears Gallery, where he says all members of the family do whatever needs to be done.

He said his mother "taught me everything about running a business and how to be a salesman."

Spears Gallery is also home to other artists' works from Brown County and beyond, including works in wood, jewelry, basketry, metal, weaving, glass, paintings, and more.

Jan said the studio carries the work of about 20 Brown County artists, plus a few who live outside the county.

"People have an interest in locally crafted work, and it just seemed like a natural fit to invite others in," she said. Plus, it gives artists without a retail space a place to sell their wares.

"We're fortunate to have other artists allow us to represent them."

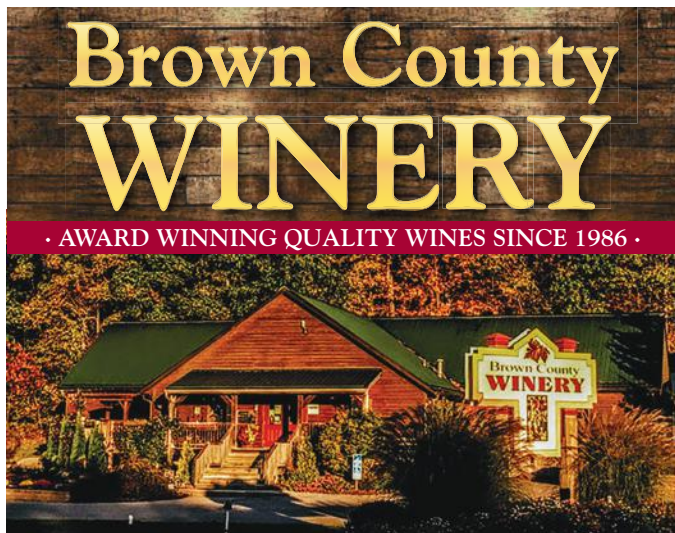
In Gatlinburg, the couple met many other artists, including jewelers, and Larry began collecting jewelry for Jan.

"I was intrigued by the process," Larry said. "I learned from other jewelers, from reading, and from just practicing." He uses mainly sterling silver, copper, and brass, and occasionally gold for accents. And he incorporates stones he picks up



*Kyle Spears at the gallery.*





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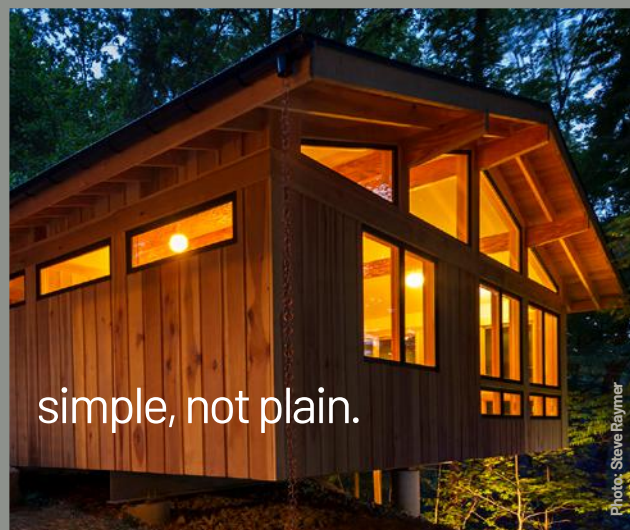
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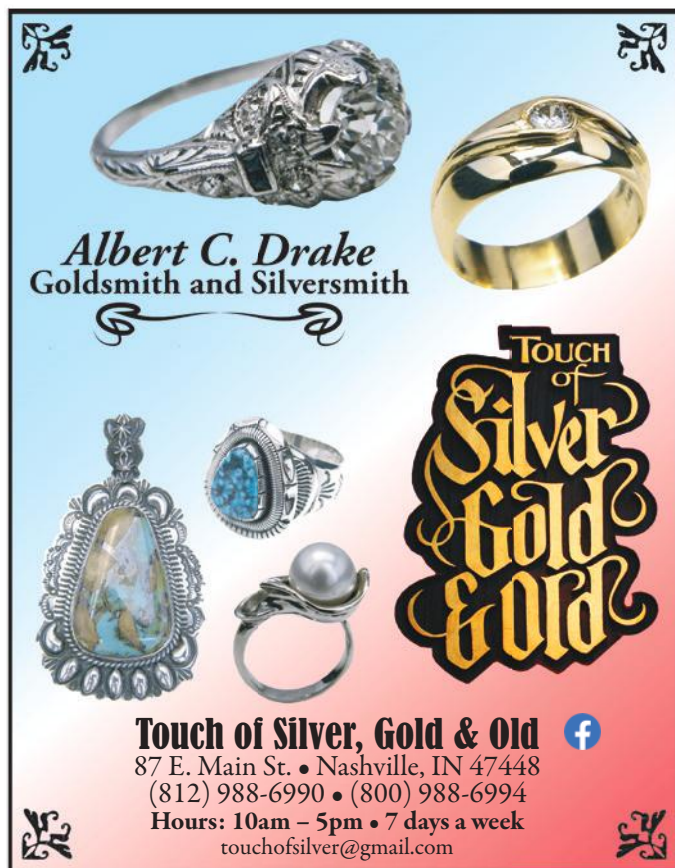
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# THE HOUSE OF THE SINGING WINDS: EN HOMAGE

## COLLECTOR'S SHOWCASE 2025

OCTOBER 4 – NOVEMBER 16



*Rita Spalding and C.W. Mundy.  
Actress Jill Trasker.*

~by **Julia Pearson**

**T**he 2026 centennial of the formation of the Brown County Art Gallery is being marked by the Collectors Showcase 2025 exhibit, *The House of the Singing Winds: en Homage*. It will take place October 4 through November 16 at the Gallery, One Artist Drive, Nashville.

A circle of Impressionist artists a century ago founded the Brown County Art Gallery shortly after the death of the painter Theodore Clement Steele. It is now the home of permanent collections and an exhibition space for 60 working artists.

Recognized as one of the most famous of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Hoosier Group of painters, Steele was born in Gosport, Indiana. A master with the brush, Steele received training at the Royal Academy in Munich, Germany. Upon returning to Indianapolis and throughout the 1890s, Steele devoted the winter months to painting formal oil portraits, and painted Indiana landscapes in the summer.

In 1907, Steele brought his young wife, Selma, to the Brown County woodlands between Nashville and Bloomington, near the tiny burg

of Belmont. Together they set up housekeeping and an art studio, while opening their lives to the schooled painters who followed them.

The Steeles' home, known as The House of the Singing Winds, was the nucleus of the Brown County Art Colony. The house was filled with music and art, local people, and artist friends.

Steele's reputation as an Impressionist grew during this chapter of his career. In 1913 he was elected as an associate artist to the National Academy of Design in New York and was Indiana University's first artist-in-residence in 1922.

The Brown County Art Gallery Foundation recently engaged contemporary Indiana artists C.W. Mundy and Rita Spalding to paint on location over a period of three years at the T.C. Steele State



Historic Site. Their mission was to capture the feel of the House of the Singing Winds as it was during the 1920s.

Mundy painted the gardens, landscapes, and historic buildings. During this time, still life and portrait painter, Spalding, captured the domestic life of the Steeles' home with her brush. Spalding is the first artist to paint within the walls of The House of the Singing Winds since the death of Steele.

Mundy and Spalding spent time researching archives, studying old photographs, and conversing with museum curators. The collection presents an authentic picture of life from a century ago. Works by T.C. Steele will also be on display for the showcase.

The artists' works will be offered for sale and with a portion of proceeds to benefit the Brown County Art Gallery Foundation.

T.C. Steele's passion for his artistic career is represented by his body of work in museums, libraries, public buildings, and personal collections. Due to the dedication of Selma Steele, her husband's legacy is preserved for generations at the T.C. Steele Historic Site, 4220 T.C. Steele Road, Nashville (Belmont).

Lyn Letsinger-Miller, Brown County Art Gallery Foundation President and author of *The Artists of Brown County*, gives Selma Steele a voice in the one-act play, "Selma and the Painter." The play's setting is the 1940s—coming out of the Great Depression, but with ominous clouds of war ahead. Selma is determined to preserve the legacy of her husband. Much of the dialogue was taken from Selma's memoir, *The House of the Singing Winds*. Selma is played by Broadway and television actress Jill Tasker.

Tickets for the October 4 opening night exhibit and performance are \$45 per person (includes food and wine). Doors open at 5 p.m. Performances are 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. and reservations are required.

On October 5, the performance will be at 2 p.m., and tickets are \$10. After opening night, group rates will be available.

For performance times the second weekend, call the Gallery at (812) 988-4609. The 2025 Collector's Showcase *The House of the Singing Winds: en Homage* is open daily to the public, with free admission and parking on non-play days. ■

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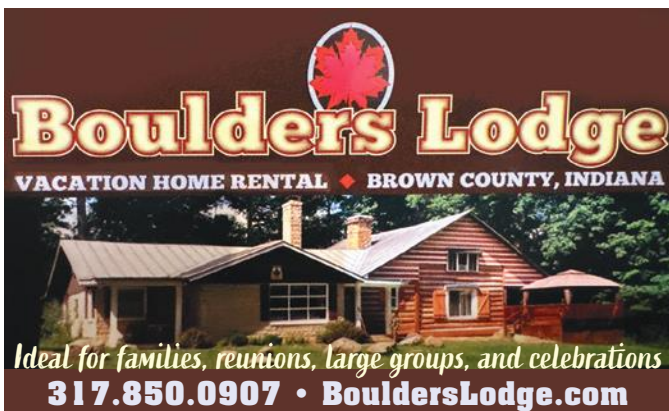
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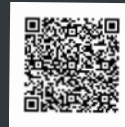
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# Musings



~by Mark Blackwell

**L**ate braking news for Brown County—as if we needed something more than deer, possums, raccoons, and turtles to brake for—*An Invasion of armored aliens has been detected by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.* This information is hot off the internet. Yup, you heard right, we are stealthily being taken over by invaders from the south. They are already establishing colonies here.

Who are they? Armadillos!

The name armadillo comes from the Spanish conquistadors, about 500 years ago, when they first encountered the critters while invading Mexico and battling the Aztecs. It means “little armored one.” But the Aztecs had their own name for them from their Nahuatl language translated as “turtle-rabbit.”

Now, turtle-rabbit has a pretty harmless ring to it, with some serious overtones of cuteness. Add the word “armored” and the equation changes. I mean, if you were to tell somebody that you got savagely attacked by a turtle-rabbit, you would likely get laughed into the next county. However, if you said you

# Armadillos



were savagely attacked by an armored-turtle-rabbit, they still might laugh, but you would get their attention.

You are probably wondering: What are these strange invaders? Where do they come from? What do they want?

There is a theory out there that armadillos are giant roly-poly bugs mutated by radioactive fallout from nuclear tests.

I read a study published somewhere or another, probably on the internet (maybe AI generated), that said scientists, after spending many years of study and a bunch of money, concluded that that theory was most likely a hoax perpetrated by a couple of Purdue University students who watched a late-night *creature-feature* while snacking on whacked-out brownies.



But where *did* these animals come from?

The south. In fact, Mexico originally. Apparently, some armadillos decided the south was not where they wanted to be anymore, so they just packed up and started heading north. As to the question of “What do they want?” my guess would be a change of scenery.

We do have scenery! Beautifully forested hills and hollers, lakes and streams, a magnificently colorful autumn, and a more temperate climate with friendly folks. So, who wouldn’t want to come to Brown County?

We know where they came from and we have a good guess as to what they are looking for but what are they, if they’re not giant, mutated roly-poly bugs?

For a long time I thought they were just southern hard-shelled possums. I was wrong. Turns out possums are marsupials and armadillos are not.

Marsupials are animals with pouches. That means that possums are like kangaroos, but a lot smaller and they don’t hop much. Possums give birth to an average of eight to nine babies called Joeys (just like kangaroos). The Joeys then spend about two and a half months growing in the mother possum’s pouch. When they get too big for the pouch they emerge and climb onto the mama’s back where they get to ride around until she gets tired of the little freeloaders.

Your armadillo mother digs a burrow and gives birth to just four babies, but they are identical and of the same sex. That means that they are quadruplets that developed from one ova. They are called pups. The pups are born with soft skin without shells, much to the relief of the mother armadillo. They develop shells over the next few weeks after birth. They are sort of late bloomers and take up to a year to mature.

Like possums, mature armadillos are generally non-aggressive, solitary creatures. When startled, they can jump four or five feet into the air and run off to the safety of brambles or a briar patch. If they sense that there is no escape, they will quickly scoop out a foxhole (or more probably an armadillo hole), scooch into it, and wait for the threat to pass.

Possums, on the other hand, will rear up on their hind legs when threatened, bare their nasty little needle-like teeth, and hiss at you. If that does not entice the threat to back off, they will just fall over and play dead, hoping that whatever is menacing them will get bored and go away.

It’s a good thing that both armadillos and possums rely on defensive strategies because if they ever decided to get aggressive and ganged up together it could make a walk in the woods a lot more hazardous.

According to my extensive research, armadillos are carriers of mycobacterium leprae, that is the bacteria that causes leprosy. So, if you come across one of these cute little “turtle-rabbits” resist the temptation to pet it or pick it up.

Possums and armadillos are edible—if you’re hungry enough. Back in the 1930s, when times were hard, armadillos were called poor man’s pork. And possum has been known to grace the tables of more than a few hill folk.

Like lemmings, who are inexplicably drawn to their demise by jumping off cliffs, both armadillos and possums seem compelled to migrate to highways where they sacrifice themselves under the wheels of American travelers.

Though small in number, so far, they are now here among us. Keep an eye out for ‘em. ■



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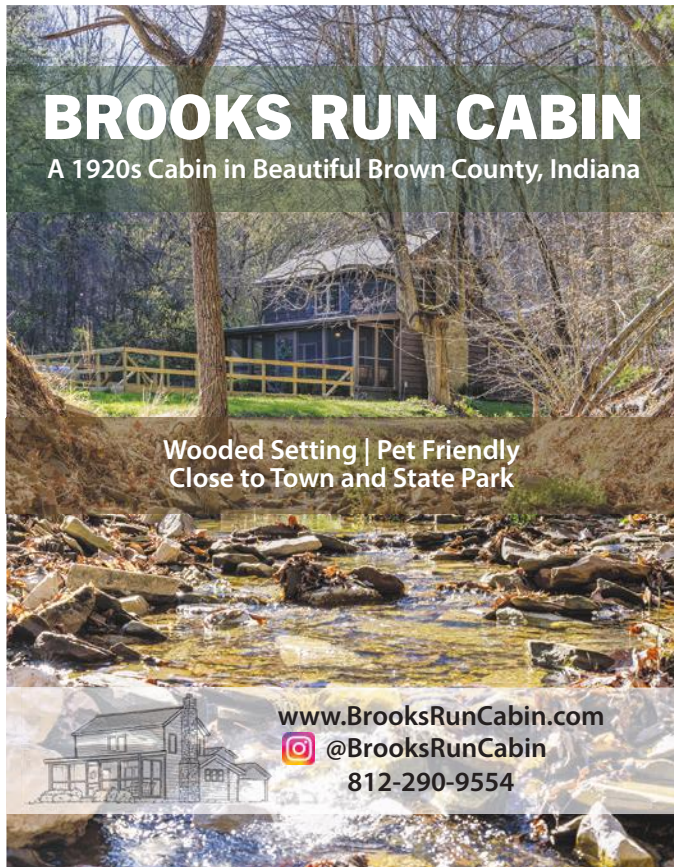
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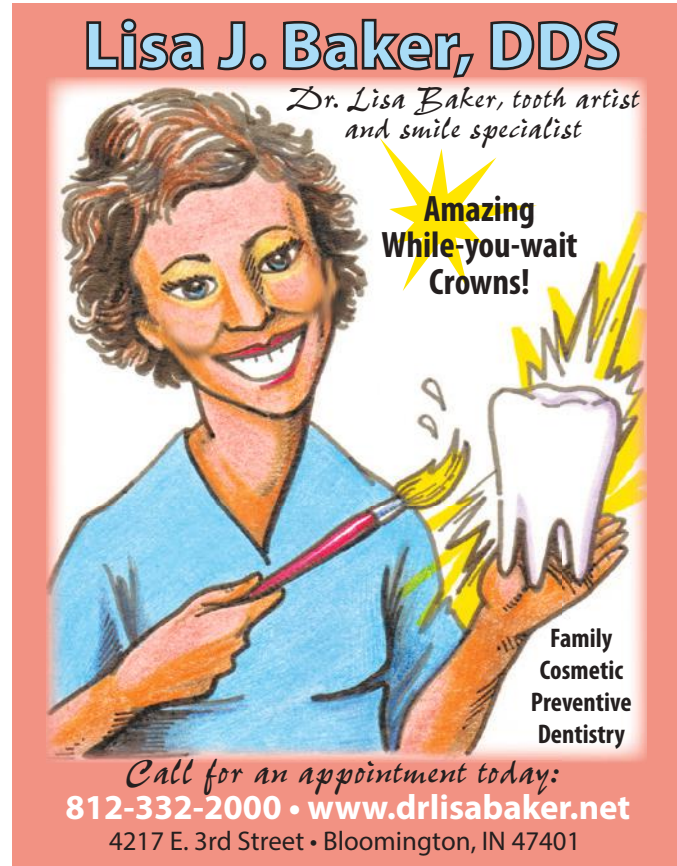
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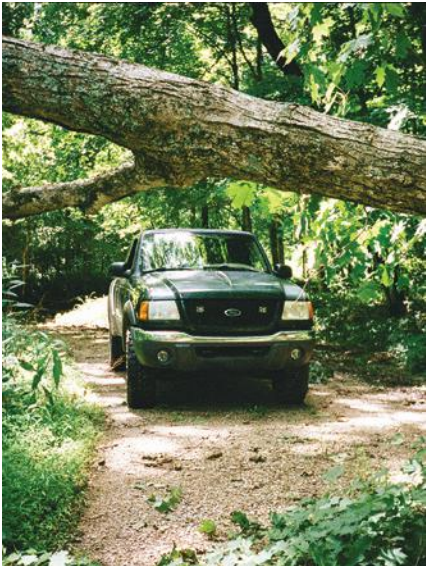
OPEN DAILY 11-5



photos by Seth Teeters









**The schedule can change. Please check before making a trip.**

# Calendar

## Brown County Playhouse

Sept. 4, 11, 18, & 25 Brown Co.  
Songwriter Showdown 2025  
Sept. 5 Vicki Peteron & John Cowsill  
Sept. 12 Johnny Folsom 4:  
Johnny Cash Tribute  
Sept. 13 The Side Cars Band:  
A Tribute to the Cars &  
Joyride 80s Mixtape Live  
Sept. 19 Madonna X: The Iconic Collection  
Sept. 20 Simply the Best:  
Tina Turner Tribute  
Sept. 25 SENIOR MOVIE SERIES:  
On Golden Pond  
Sept. 26 Fleetwood Mac Tribute  
Sept. 27 Meet Loaf: Tribute to Meatloaf  
Oct. 3 Midnight Blue:  
A Foreigner Experience  
Oct. 4 Sounds of Summer:  
The Music of the Beach Boys  
Oct. 17, 18, 19, 24, & 25  
LIVE THEATRE:  
Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors  
Oct. 17, 18 Melchior Slightly Haunted  
Puppet Show  
Oct. 30 SENIOR MOVIE SERIES:  
Knives Out  
Oct. 30 Mamma Mania!  
NYC's Ultimate ABBA Tribute  
Oct. 31 Halloween Concert!  
The Graveyard Stompers  
Most shows at 7:30  
70 S. Van Buren Street • 812-988-6555  
[www.browncountyplayhouse.org](http://www.browncountyplayhouse.org)

## Brown County Music Center

Sept. 5 The Red Hot Chili Pipers  
Sept. 11 Leonid & Friends  
Sept. 12 All-Star Vegas feat.  
Piff the Magic Dragon  
Sept. 13 Free Fallin' - Tom Petty  
Concert Experience  
Sept. 26 Blue Oyster Cult  
Oct. 2 Celtic Thunder  
Oct. 3 The Rocket Man Show  
Oct. 12 Marty Stuart &  
His Fabulous Superlatives

Oct. 17 Lou Gramm  
Oct. 18 CoComelon: Sing-A-Long LIVE  
Oct. 24 Joe Nichols  
Oct. 25 Hippies & Cowboys Festival  
Nov. 7 TUSK: The Fleetwood Mac Tribute  
Nov. 8 Lee Greenwood  
Nov. 9 The Doo Wop Project  
Nov. 13 Shaun Cassidy  
Nov. 14 Queensrÿche  
Nov. 16 Sevendust: Southside  
Double-Wide Tour  
Nov. 22 Hairball  
Nov. 28 Béla Fleck & The Flecktones  
Dec. 5 Chris Young  
Dec. 7 Blue October  
Dec. 9 Jane Lynch's  
A Swingin' Little Christmas  
Dec. 10 RAIN - Beatles Christmas Tribute  
Dec. 11 Ricky Skaggs &  
Kentucky Thunder Christmas  
Dec. 12 Three Dog Night  
Dec. 14 Allen Stone & Ripe  
Dec. 21 Olde English Christmas with  
Herman's Hermits Peter Noone  
812-988-5323  
[www.browncountymusiccenter.com](http://www.browncountymusiccenter.com)

## Brown County Inn

Open Mic Nights Wed. 6:00-9:00  
Hill Folk Music Series Thurs. 7:00-9:00  
Fri. & Sat. Live Music 8:00-11:00  
Sept. 3 Open Mic  
Sept. 4 Vaden Landers Band  
Sept. 5 Vuko Band  
Sept. 6 Homemade Jam  
Sept. 10 Open Mic  
Sept. 11 John Kogge & David Sharp  
Sept. 12 Circle City Deacons  
Sept. 13 The 1-4-5s  
Sept. 17 Open Mic  
Sept. 18 Derek Chastain  
Sept. 19 Steve Smith  
Sept. 20 Tim O'Malley Band  
Sept. 24 Open Mic  
Sept. 25 Roger Banister & Denise Kocur  
Sept. 27 Mojo Gumbo  
Oct. 1 Open Mic

Oct. 2 Paul Niehaus IV  
Oct. 3 Zion Crossroads  
Oct. 4 The Januarys  
Oct. 8 Open Mic  
Oct. 9 Nick Dittmeier  
Oct. 10 Paul Bertsch Band  
Oct. 11 Ben Brandt  
Oct. 15 Open Mic  
Oct. 16 The Hammer & The Hatchet  
Oct. 17 The SuperChief Band  
Oct. 18 JC Clements Band  
Oct. 22 Open Mic  
Oct. 23 Nick Ivanovich  
Oct. 24 Window Payne Band  
Oct. 25 Impasse Band  
Oct. 29 Open Mic  
Oct. 30 Steve Hickman  
Oct. 31 Tom Harold & The Fallin' Angels  
51 State Road 46 East • 812-988-2291  
[www.browncountyinn.com](http://www.browncountyinn.com)

## Country Heritage Winery

Music Fri. & Sat. 6:00-9:00  
Sept. 5 Karaoke  
Sept. 6 Slide & Harmony  
Sept. 12 Amanda & Brian Webb  
Sept. 13 Paul Bertsch Trio  
Sept. 19 Albert Nolting  
Sept. 20 Conner Berry  
Sept. 26 Gene Fugate  
Sept. 27 Carolyn Dutton & Tom Roznowski  
Oct. 3 Karaoke  
Oct. 4 TBD  
Oct. 10 Carolyn Dutton & Steve Houk  
Oct. 11 Amanda & Brian Webb  
Oct. 17 Ruben Guthrie  
Oct. 18 Two for the Show  
Oct. 24 The McGuires  
Oct. 25 Gene Fugate  
225 S. Van Buren Street • 812-988-8500  
[www.countryheritagewinery.com](http://www.countryheritagewinery.com)

## 19th Hole Sports Bar

Music Fri. 7:00-10:00 & Sat. 8:00-11:00  
Sept. 5 John Ryan  
Sept. 6 Three Beards Strummin'  
Sept. 12 Clearwater Band



## ***Submit calendar details to [ourbrowncounty@outlook.com](mailto:ourbrowncounty@outlook.com)***

Sept. 13 Past Tense  
Sept. 19 Gene Fugate  
Sept. 20 Coyote 5.0  
Sept. 26 Mike Staublin  
Sept. 27 Two for the Show  
Oct. 3 John Ryan  
Oct. 4 TBD  
Oct. 10 Gene Fugate  
Oct. 11 Jenna & Joel  
Oct. 17 Clearwater Band  
Oct. 18 Gene Fugate Band  
Oct. 24 Brett Denney  
Oct. 25 Lost Cause  
2359 East State Road 46  
812-988-4323 [www.saltcreekgolf.com](http://www.saltcreekgolf.com)

### **Nashville House**

Music Fri. & Sat. 6:00-9:00  
Sun. 1:00-4:00  
Sept. 5 Travers Marks 5:00-8:00  
Sept. 6 Sweet Pea  
Sept. 7 Doug Dillman  
Sept. 12 Gene Fugate  
Sept. 13 TBD  
Sept. 14 Taylor Hernly  
Sept. 19 The Hammer & The Hatchet  
Sept. 20 Austin James  
Sept. 21 Ruben Guthrie  
Sept. 26 Steve Hickman  
Sept. 27 Jaylen Martinez  
Sept. 28 Michael Staublin  
Oct. 3 Dave Sisson  
Oct. 4 Jan Bell  
Oct. 5 Travers Marks  
Oct. 10 Austin James  
Oct. 11 Jaylen Martinez  
Oct. 12 Ruben Guthrie  
Oct. 17 John B Collins  
Oct. 18 Sweet Pea  
Oct. 19 Doug Dillman  
Oct. 24 TBD  
Oct. 25 Gene Fugate  
Oct. 26 Taylor Hernly  
Oct. 31 Zach Bengé  
15 S. Van Buren Street 812-988-4554  
[www.nashvillehousebc.com](http://www.nashvillehousebc.com)

### **Ferguson House Beer Garden**

Music Fri. in 6:00-9:00 | Sat. 1:00-4:00  
AND 6:00-9:00 | Sun. 1:00-4:00  
Sept. 5 Ben Suson  
Sept. 6 Doug Dillman 1:00-4:00  
Jan Bell 6:00-9:00  
Sept. 7 Rich Hardesty  
Sept. 12 Aiden Blankenship  
Sept. 13 Carolyn Dutton 1:00-4:00  
John B Collins 6:00-9:00  
Sept. 14 Gene Fugate  
Sept. 19 Amanda Webb  
Sept. 20 Sweet Pea 1:00-4:00  
Hammer & Hatchet 6:00-9:00  
Sept. 21 Rusted Strings  
Sept. 26 Zach Bengé  
Sept. 27 Buck Knawe 1:00-4:00  
Austin James 6:00-9:00  
Sept. 28 Ruben Guthrie  
Oct. 3 Gene Fugate  
Oct. 4 Carolyn Dutton 1:00-4:00  
Sweet Pea 6:00-9:00  
Oct. 5 Corey Flick  
Oct. 10 JC Clements Band  
Oct. 11 Rich Hardesty 1:00-4:00  
Steve Hickman 6:00-9:00  
Oct. 12 Ruben Guthrie  
Oct. 17 Dave Sisson  
Oct. 18 Michael Staublin 1:00-4:00  
Jan Bell 6:00-9:00  
Oct. 19 Buck Knawe  
Oct. 24 Zach Bengé  
Oct. 25 Ross Benson 1:00-4:00  
Amanda Webb 6:00-9:00  
Oct. 26 The Hammer & The Hatchet  
Oct. 31 TBD  
Antique Alley 78 Franklin Street  
812-988-4042

### **Hard Truth Distilling Co.**

Live Music on the Rocks every Fri. & Sat.  
All shows 6:00-9:00 unless otherwise noted  
Sept. 5 Freight w/ Rainwater  
Sept. 6 Swing Rays w/ Sarah Flint  
Sept. 12 Black Cat & The Bones

Sept. 19 Hickman & The Hard Knocks  
Sept. 20 Tege Holt & The Lonesome Pines  
Sept. 26 Songwriter Showcase feat.  
Jason Blankenship  
Amanda Webb  
Anna May  
Sept. 27 Harvest Festival feat. The Creekers,  
Tailgate Revival, TBD  
Sept. 28 Harvest Festival feat.  
Indiana Boys, East Nash Grass  
Oct. 3 Rainwater  
Oct. 4 Concert Rumpke Mountain Boys  
and others TBD  
Oct. 10 Black Cat & The Bones  
Oct. 11 Brooks Ritter, Bastion Rose  
Oct. 17 Hickman & The Hard Knocks  
Oct. 18 Dog Named Floyd  
a Pink Floyd Tribute  
Oct. 24 Songwriter Showcase feat.  
Hunter Wainscott  
Brad Lemmons  
Pat Keller  
Oct. 25 Yellow Banks  
Oct. 31 Rainwater  
Nov. 1 Halloween Party feat.  
Black Water Revival  
a tribute to the Doobie Bros w/  
Les Masters Band  
Check website for additional info. & dates  
Hard Truth Distilling Co.  
418 Old State Road 46 • 812-720-4840  
[www.hardtruth.com](http://www.hardtruth.com)

### **Story Inn**

Activities at Story Still Tavern & Grill  
Tues. Industry Night | Wed. Bingo | Fri. Karaoke  
Sat. Music in the afternoon  
Sept. 27 Bourbon Festival  
Local Arts, Crafts, and Food Vendors  
Music feat. Vaden Landers, headlined by  
Sebastien Bordeaux  
\$35 Presale regular admission 1-5pm  
\$50 VIP Admission 12-5pm with access to  
special craft selection  
Check social media for more info.  
6404 State Road 135 • 812-988-2273  
[www.storyinn.com](http://www.storyinn.com)

**Continued on 42**



## **CALENDAR continued from 41**

### **Nashville Farmer's Market**

Sundays 11:00-2:00, Brown Co. Inn parking lot at State Road 135 & 46 intersection  
Local produce, meats, eggs, food, arts, plants, music.

### **Harmony Valley Music Festival**

Sept. 5 & 6 | eXplore Brown County  
35+ electrifying acts across 3 stages, artisan vendors, engaging arts & movement workshops, and mind-blowing lighting, sound, and visuals  
2620 Valley Branch Road, Nashville  
812-988-7750  
<https://explorebrowncounty.com>

### **Brown County Art Colony Weekend**

Sept. 12-14, Presented by the Brown County Art Guild and other partners to celebrate the county's rich art history. Includes the 36th Great Outdoor Art Contest at the T.C. State Historic Site.  
[browncountycastle.org](http://browncountycastle.org)

### **9.11 Memorial Run/Walk**

Sept. 13 | 7:00 am-8:30 registration  
Starts 9:11 am. | Jackson Twp Fire Dept.  
4831 Helmsburg Rd. in Helmsburg  
jacksontownshipfd@gmail.com  
812-327-9290

### **Uncle Pen Bluegrass Festival**

Sept. 18-20 | Bill Monroe's Music Park  
Bluegrass legends and favorites plus local bands. Music, food, vendors.  
Rhonda Vincent and Bill Clifton will be inducted in the Hall of Fame  
5163 N. SR 135 812-988-6422  
<https://billmonroemusicpark.com>

### **Brown County Rock and Mineral Show**

Sept. 20, 21, | Sat. 10:00-6:00 |  
Sun. 10:00-4:00 | 4-H Fairgrounds  
Rock crafts, jewelry, fossils, geodes, crystals, minerals, turquoise, agates.  
802 Memorial Dr. Nashville  
[www.browncorockandmineral.com](http://www.browncorockandmineral.com)

### **War in the Woods**

Sept. 19, 20 | Brown County Dragway  
Baddest, wildest no-prep race  
Small Tire, Big Tire, Hard Tire, Gangster 26s, and True Street options  
480 Gatesville Rd. in Bean Blossom  
[war-in-the-woods-no-prep.com](http://war-in-the-woods-no-prep.com)  
Camping available at Bill Monroe's Music Park & Campground  
5163 N. SR 135 812-988-6422  
<https://billmonroemusicpark.com>

### **Nature Daze**

Sept. 20 | 9:00am-3:00pm  
CYO Camp Rancho Framasa  
Brown County Native Woodlands Project (BCNWP) organized a day to help landowners better understand their native habitat. Speakers, a children's program, native plant sale, door prizes and free lunch (vegetarian/gluten-free options). Also demos and hikes.  
2230 Clay Lick Rd. Nashville  
Registration [www.bcnwp.org](http://www.bcnwp.org)  
Email [info@bcnwp.org](mailto:info@bcnwp.org)

### **2nd Annual Indiana Bigfoot Conference**

Sept. 26 & 27 | Seasons Event Center  
For enthusiasts, researchers, everyone curious about the creature known as Bigfoot. Speakers, vendors, prizes.  
560 State Rd 46, Nashville  
[www.indianabigfootconference.com](http://www.indianabigfootconference.com)

### **Brown County Studio Tour**

Month of October | Free self-guided tour.  
Works for sale and demonstrations  
[www.BCStudioTour.com](http://www.BCStudioTour.com)

### **Costume Contest**

Month of October | eXplore Brown Co.  
\$5 off any zip line tour for anyone dressed in costume. Online contest will decide on 2 winners for a free night stay in a vintage camper + free zip line tour.  
2620 Valley Branch Road, Nashville  
812-988-7750  
<https://explorebrowncounty.com>

### **53rd Fall Fare-Nashville United Methodist Church**

Oct. 4, 8:00am-3:00pm | Village Green  
Main and Jefferson streets in Nashville  
Features booths and cafe. Every FallFare dollar goes to someone in need.

### **Responder Aid 2025**

Oct. 4 | Bill Monroe's Music Park  
10:00am-10:00pm | Fund raiser for the six Brown Co. volunteer fire departments. Food trucks, craft vendors, games. Volunteer musical acts include:  
Steve Houk and Carolyn Dutton  
Ken Hayes, Breanna Faith,  
Sharla June and Christy Crandall,  
J.C. Clements with Jason Blankenship,  
Father Kentucky, Steve Hickman  
Dietrich Gosser, The Elkins Family  
Steve Smith, The M Squared Project  
Tickets \$10 each, with free admission for kids 10 and under. There is also a \$5 parking fee.  
Camping will be available.  
5163 N. SR 135 812-988-6422  
<https://billmonroemusicpark.com>

### **Slightly Haunted Puppet Show**

Oct. 17, 18 | 1:00 and 3:00 shows  
Brown County Playhouse  
Melchior Marionettes classic Halloween show. 70 S. Van Buren Street  
812-988-6555  
[www.browncountyplayhouse.org](http://www.browncountyplayhouse.org)

### **Brown Co. Antique Machinery Swap Meet**

Oct. 25 | Brown Co. 4-H Fairgrounds  
8:00am-1:00pm  
Breakfast and lunch served.  
To be a vendor contact  
Dakota Dinsmore 812-390-5709.  
\$20 set up fee.  
802 Memorial Dr. Nashville



# Brown County Music Center

Sept. 5	The Red Hot Chilli Pipers	Nov. 13	Shaun Cassidy
Sept. 11	Leonid & Friends	Nov. 14	Queensrÿche
Sept. 12	All-Star Vegas feat. Piff the Magic Dragon	Nov. 16	Sevendust: Southside Double-Wide Tour
Sept. 13	Free Fallin - Tom Petty Concert Experience	Nov. 22	Hairball
Sept. 26	Blue Oyster Cult	Nov. 28	Béla Fleck & The Flecktones
Oct. 2	Celtic Thunder	Dec. 5	Chris Young
Oct. 3	The Rocket Man Show	Dec. 7	Blue October
Oct. 12	Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives	Dec. 9	Jane Lynch's A Swingin' Little Christmas
Oct. 17	Lou Gramm	Dec. 10	RAIN - A Beatles Christmas Tribute
Oct. 18	CoComelon: Sing-A-Long LIVE	Dec. 11	Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder Christmas
Oct. 24	Joe Nichols	Dec. 12	Three Dog Night
Oct. 25	Hippies & Cowboys Music Festival	Dec. 14	Allen Stone & Ripe
Nov. 7	TUSK: The Classic Fleetwood Mac Tribute	Dec. 21	An Olde English Christmas with Herman's Hermits Starring Peter Noone
Nov. 8	Lee Greenwood		
Nov. 9	The Doo Wop Project		

For additional shows and tickets visit: [www.BrownCountyMusicCenter.com](http://www.BrownCountyMusicCenter.com)



## UPCOMING LIVE EVENTS!

- Sept 4, 11, 18, & 25** • Brown County Songwriter Showdown 2025
- Sept 5** • Vicki Peterson & John Cowsill
- Sept 12** • Johnny Folsom 4: Johnny Cash Tribute
- Sept 13** • The Side Cars Band: A Tribute to the Cars & Joyride 80's Mixtape Live
- Sept 19** • Madonna X: The Iconic Collection
- Sept 20** • Simply The Best: A Tribute to the Music of Tina Turner
- Sept 25** • **SENIOR MOVIE SERIES** On Golden Pond
- Sept 26** • Fleetwood Mac Tribute: The Premier Fleetwood Mac Experience
- Sept 27** • Meet Loaf: A Tribute to Meatloaf
- Oct 3** • Midnight Blue: A Foreigner Experience
- Oct 4** • Sounds of Summer: The Music of the Beach Boys
- Oct 17, 18, 19, 24, & 25** • **LIVE THEATRE** Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors
- Oct 17 & 18** • Melchior Slightly Haunted Puppet Show
- Oct 30** • **SENIOR MOVIE SERIES** Knives Out
- Oct 30** • Mamma Mania! NYC's Ultimate ABBA Tribute
- Oct 31** • **HALLOWEEN CONCERT!** The Graveyard Stompers



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812.988.6555 | [BrownCountyPlayhouse.org](http://BrownCountyPlayhouse.org)  
Showtimes, tickets & schedule online





# BROWN COUNTY ART COLONY WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 12-14



The Brown County Art Guild, along with other community partners, will present three days worth of activities celebrating Brown County's art history and continued presence.

• **A Founders Exhibition – Painting Partners – Exhibition Opening**

Music, art, refreshments, at the Brown County Art Guild. Friday, 11am-7pm

• **Gallery Hop**

The Art Guild will showcase members' work. The Brown County Craft Gallery, Hoosier Artist Gallery, Spears Gallery, and Second Story Gallery will also be offering items for sale.

Friday, Saturday 4pm-7pm

• **37th Great Outdoor Art Contest**

T.C. Steele State Historic Site  
Saturday. Gates open at 7am.

Judging at 2pm. Awards at 3:30pm.

• **Community Paint Together**

Hosted by Artist Associates of Brown Co.

Saturday 12pm-4pm

Main and Jefferson Streets, Nashville

• **Auction Tips & Painting Care by Bryan P. Jackson CAI/CES**

Saturday 1-2:30pm

Brown County History Center

• **Founder's Party**

Drinks and hors d'oeuvres  
music by Sustayn.

Saturday 6-9pm | \$40 per person

Brown County Art Guild

• **Art Colony Auction**

Preview Saturday 12- 4pm and

Sunday 11am-1pm

Auction Sunday 1pm

Brown County History Center and

online <jacksons-auction.com>

For more 812-988-6185,

[browncountyartguild.org](http://browncountyartguild.org).



SEPTEMBER 18-20

Uncle Pen Fest is a 3-day celebration of various bluegrass performers, workshops, and jams plus the Bluegrass Hall of Fame Induction of Rhonda Vincent and Bill Clifton.

Founded in 1974, Uncle Pen Days began as a tribute to Bill Monroe's maternal uncle, James Pendleton Vandiver. "Uncle Pen," who played the fiddle at local square dances and social events, taught bill how to play.

For tickets and info 812-988-6422,

[BillMonroeMusicPark.com](http://BillMonroeMusicPark.com).



OCTOBER 4

Nashville United Methodist Church will host its 53rd FallFare on the Village Green at the corner of Main and Jefferson Street in downtown Nashville, Indiana, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, rain or shine.

This year's event features new booths and old favorites, each selling items that were baked, knitted, painted, sanded, picked, collected, and donated by church members

Scout Troop 190, Cub Scout Pack 190, Girl Scouts, and Sunshine Friends sell breakfast, lunch, popcorn, and homemade treats to raise funds to support youth activities at the church.

In 1972, church members sold crafts to replace dilapidated pews and called it FallFare. The church gives donations to 25-30 non-profit organizations with the pledge, "Every FallFare dollar goes to someone in need."

Past recipients of FallFare dollars include Mother's Cupboard, Habitat for Humanity, Access Brown County, Scouts, God's Grace, the Weekend Backpack Program, and Turning Point Domestic Violence Services.



Once a year the Brown County Rock and Mineral Club has a show at the end of summer. People come from all around to sell, swap, admire, and buy the next specimen that they need for their collection. You can also find items that have something to do with rocks, like jewelry, and watch as some pieces are being made. Geodes are cracked open to

display the beautiful crystals inside. Experts on site can help identify mystery rocks or fossils. Children can play in the sand to see what mystery fossil they can pull out.

The Brown County Rock and Mineral Show occurs in September (usually the third or fourth weekend) at the Brown County 4-H Fairgrounds, east of downtown Nashville. This year it will be held Saturday, September 20, and Sunday, September 21. Saturday's hours are 10am to 6pm and Sunday's hours are 10am to 4pm. For more information visit [brownrockandmineral.com](http://brownrockandmineral.com) or email: [bcrmc2010@gmail.com](mailto:bcrmc2010@gmail.com).



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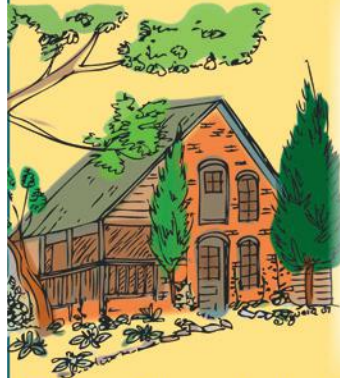
  
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# RESPONDER AID 2025

Saturday, October 4

*At Bill Monroe's Music Park & Campground*



~by Jeff Tryon

*courtesy photos*

**W**ho comes to help when your house is burning, or when there are floods, bad accidents, or you're snowed in with serious medical needs? Who comes when you need help and you don't know where to turn?

Most likely, someone from the volunteer fire departments will be the first responders to your most dire life emergencies.

Now you will have the opportunity to give back or pay it forward at "Responder Aid 2025" a *Fun Raiser* to benefit all six volunteer fire departments in Brown County.

The Saturday, October 4 event will run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Bill Monroe's Music Park and Campground in Bean Blossom. Tickets are \$10 each, with free admission for kids 10 and under. There is also a \$5 parking fee. Camping will be available.

Food trucks, craft vendors, and games will be on hand, along with a solid musical line-up on the main stage featuring a county-fair-style showcase of locally-known talent ranging from country to songwriter, to cover band to jam band, to folk/Americana and "hillbilly soul."

Local music maven Will Scott, who wrangled the musical acts for the event said it will be, "a solid lineup ranging from the hippie side of Brown County to the twangy side."

The all-volunteer musicians will play throughout the day.

Acoustic blues from Steve Houk and Carolyn

Dutton will kick things off at 11 a.m. Other musical acts will include Ken Hayes, country covers from Breanna Faith, folk/Americana duo Sharla June and Christy Crandall, J.C. Clements with Jason Blankenship, soulful banjo player Father Kentucky, Steve Hickman, singer/songwriter Dietrich Gosser, the Elkins Family, one-man jam band Steve Smith, and the M Squared Project (with drums).

Kids can enjoy the fire boot bean bag toss, hose rolling, corn hole, duck pond, or maybe the digital photo booth, or face painting, while adults go for the 50/50 raffle.

There will be plenty of food trucks on hand, including Sugar Creek BBQ, Brownie's Bean Blossom Restaurant, Smalltown Pizza, Whip It, Baker's Lemon Shake Ups, Chocolate Moose, Adventurer's Pit Stop BBQ, and Davis Concessions.

Several local crafts people will be offering their wares, including Blessing Bracelets by Katrina Poling, 3D Printing by Sheri Reed, and Wooden Decor by Jessica Newby.

The fire departments benefiting from the event include Fruitdale, Southern Brown, Hamblen, Sweetwater, Brown County, and Jackson.

"Every department has different needs," said organizer Carrie Gaskins. "Some will use the funds for equipment, some for training or other needs."

Bill Monroe's Music Park and Campground is located at 5163 N. SR 135. Reserve a campsite by calling 812-988-6422 or visit [billmonroemusicpark.com](http://billmonroemusicpark.com) . ■



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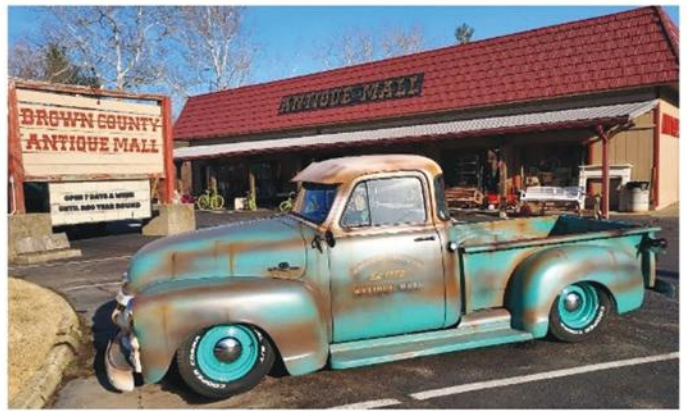
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# NASHVILLE GENERAL STORE & BAKERY

~story and photos by Brian Blair



Owner Ronna Harrison.

**M**ore than anything, Ronna Harrison wants visitors to the Nashville General Store and Bakery to feel right at home.

She and husband Jason feel so comfortable at the bright yellow downtown Nashville establishment that they sleep upstairs there several nights per week. Such are the lengthy, unscripted and unstructured hours of new ownership of a business that reopened in June 2024 after being closed for more than a year.

"I wanted to save this place," she said on a recent afternoon in the sunlit cafe area within the shop at 118 E. Washington St. "This was my favorite store in Brown County.... I shopped here every visit. I bought home decor here. I even had a Nashville room in my house."



Some of those items, such as an antique cedar ladder, are situated on a shelf above the cash register. Her store selection includes candles and candies, preserves and popcorn, birdhouses, maple syrups, children's toys—you name it.

She and her spouse are working to restore the shop to its previous glory, which is why they immediately began procuring some of the old, brand-name product signage it previously featured, and items such as an old stoplight hanging near the entrance.

"We're like Nashville's version of Cracker Barrel," she said with a chuckle.

Partly with that in mind, she extolls the store's full breakfast and lunch menu that includes signature offerings such as biscuits and gravy, chicken salad sandwiches, tenderloins, apple dumplings, homemade sweet breads, and ham and bean soup.

All specialties are made with a care and a hope that customers feel loved amid the meals. In fact, Ronna sees part of her current life's calling as extending love—what she feels is a sense of God's love—for the general store's customers. Besides, she is a Christian minister who has preached all over the country and even worldwide.

She has privately prayed for a number of people who come into the store, including one store supplier who told her he was ill with throat cancer. Another man with a serious medical diagnosis arrived to tell her that he felt God directed him there for her to pray for his restoration.

"But I'm (mostly) a Trojan horse here," she added, acknowledging that few customers readily know of her Harrison Ministries International or her 2024 semi-autobiography *Welcome to the Move*, though it is sold at the shop.

The business is a family affair, with Jason in the kitchen, Ronna wherever she is needed, mom Sibyl Pruitt often behind the counter, and the Harrisons' teen daughter pitching in, too.

The family faced substantial challenges with their new endeavor. Just after opening, a walk-in freezer had to be replaced at a cost of \$34,000.

Word of the place is gradually spreading. One customer told the Harrisons that she drove three hours just for their chicken salad sandwiches.

Cristina Villani, marketing director of the Brown County Convention and Visitors Bureau, sees the store's charm.

"The Nashville General Store and Bakery is a cherished part of what makes Brown County so special and welcoming," Villani said. "Ronna and her team have worked tirelessly to preserve the original vision and the nostalgia this business

holds for both locals and visitors. From the friendly [ceramic] pig that greets guests outside to the irresistible aroma of fresh-baked desserts, it's an experience you won't soon forget."

Julie Clemens frequently grabs lunch there from her job in nearby Graw Bone.

"For me, it has everything," Clemens said. "It has nice, outdoor seating by the creek. And there's shade. When you walk through the door, it just smells wonderful. And they really treat you like family."

"Miss Ronna and everyone is so kind. The overall atmosphere is so cozy."

Ronna sees all of Brown County that way, often directing customers to a host of other nearby restaurants and shops. With little prodding, she rapidly reels off the names of at least 10 local businesses and their owners as if she handles their promotion personally.

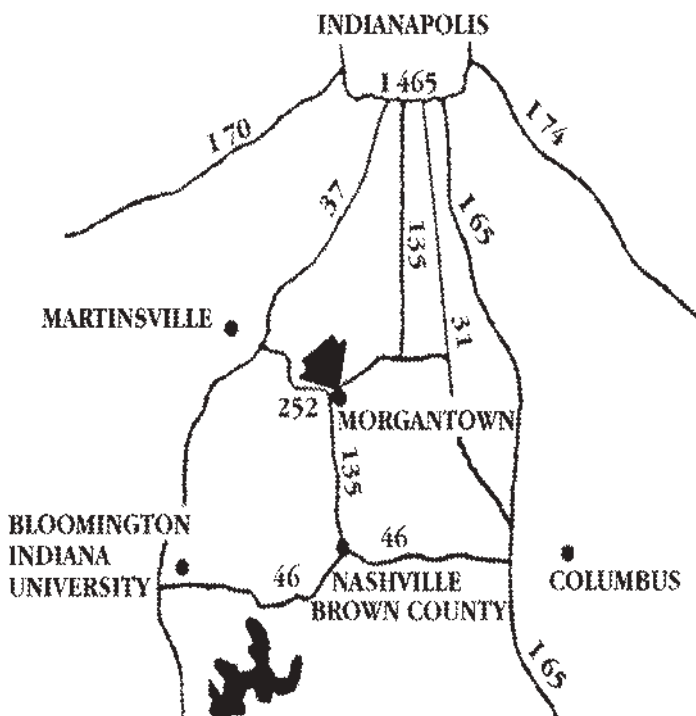
"Some people," she said, "jokingly call me the Brown County tour guide," guiding people into yesteryear to satisfy their oral appetite—and their appetite for a rural reawakening. ■



*Chicken salad sandwiches. courtesy photo*



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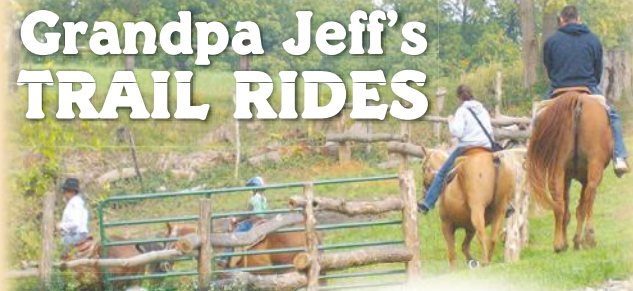
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~by Mark A. Randall

**F**rom 1946 to 1948, there was a constant stream of articles from *The Indianapolis Times* regarding mysterious monsters in Indiana and the grizzled 66-year-old hunter who chased after them. The paper chronicled Harry McClain's various exploits, which included tracking an 80-pound black panther in Lebanon, Indiana, to roaming the hills and hollers of Brown County in search of a possible mountain lion. With over 20 years of hunting experience, Mr. McClain was certain he could track down any critter he set his sights on.

On August 6, 1947, *The Times* reported that citizens of New Bellsville, Indiana (situated near Brown County State Park), were organizing a lion hunt after several sightings in the area. This caught the attention of McClain, who immediately told the paper, "I'll be back later this week to track the critter down and stuff it for posterity."

For the next year and four months, McClain tracked the beast from one end of the county to the other. He equipped himself with every manner of hunting paraphernalia, including his 30-30 rifle, a telescope, double spring steel trap, wrist flashlight, bottle of trail scent, mountain lion caller,

and even a specialized hound that only tracked big cats. This last addition was based on sightings and footprints; he believed he was dealing with a family of mountain lions.

On December 25, 1948, the truth about the "Terror of Brown County" was finally revealed when Mrs. Alice Weaver of Nashville, came forward with an incredible claim: she disclosed the sightings and tracks were made by her pack of seven Great Danes. Mrs. Weaver stated to *The Times*, "I always exercise my dogs at twilight. Every time the monsters have been seen, it is in such half-light. She continued, "I watched newspaper accounts from Mr. McClain's hunts very carefully. Every place he reported hunting, I had been the night before with the dogs. I exercise the dogs all over the county."

*The Times* said that was the end of the story. So, what about Harry McClain? What was his reaction to the incredible claim? Unfortunately, after much research, no further newspaper articles could be found after December 1948. It seems that Mr. McClain's monster-hunting career quite literally had gone to the dogs. ■

*Mark is a freelancer specializing in paranormal-related work. He has published 14 books and this story will be included in the next volume of his Indiana Criptids series, due to be released some time in 2026. You can purchase his books on Amazon.*



**COMING DECEMBER 6, 7 2025**



The 5th Annual Christkindl Market is back in Nashville for a two-day experience of festive cheer and holiday magic, December 6 and 7, 2025.

Vendors will showcase unique art, food, curated gifts, and local treasures.

Coachlight Square's stage and the Village Green Pavilion will present musical performances as a soundtrack for your shopping and celebration experience.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be making appearances throughout the event.

Food and libations will warm you up.

Some of Brown County's community organizations will have booths with information on how you can support their missions.

Hours: Saturday, 10 am–6 pm and Sunday, 10 am–4 pm.

Market and music at Coachlight Square, and more music at the Village Green Pavilion, in Nashville.

For more visit [browncountychristkindlmarket.com](http://browncountychristkindlmarket.com) or contact Lisa Hall at [lhall@glorygirlproduction.com](mailto:lhall@glorygirlproduction.com).

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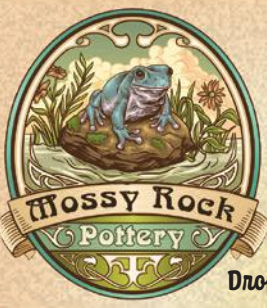


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# BROWN COUNTY STUDIO TOUR

**Month of October**  
**17 Studios and 19 Artists**

**W**orking artists will welcome visitors throughout the month of October as part of the 27th annual Brown County Studio Tour.

The tour is a free, self-guided event designed to showcase the arts and crafts created in and around Brown County. Juried artists will open their personal studios to the public from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, with some select studios also open on Sundays.

Guests will be able to watch artists creating their work, talk with artists and explore the spaces that inspire them. Some studios will also offer prepared activities so that guests can take part in art creation.



*Martha Sechler's work at Lightspinner Studio.*

*DeMaris Glazier at her studio Mud Horse Art.*



This event is a unique opportunity for art collectors to purchase artwork directly from those who made it. Many artists create items especially for this event.

This year's tour includes 17 studios and 19 artists who specialize in jewelry, repurposed metal art, stained glass, acrylic, water and oil paintings, pottery, fiber art and weaving, pastel, blacksmithing pieces, calligraphy, artisan foods and soaps, and much more.

The Brown County Studio Tour began in 1999 when a group of local artists wanted to create an event to showcase the artwork and natural beauty of the place they called home. They thought the Nashville gallery visitors would be interested in seeing the working spaces of artists and learning about how the artwork is made.

**What:** Free self-guided tour showcasing Brown County artists and their personal studios.

**When:** During the month of October studios are open Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with select studios also open on Sundays. Check the map or on the website for studios open on Sundays.

**Number of studios:** 17 **Number of artists:** 19

**Information:** To see the list of participating artists and download a map of the studio destinations, visit [bcstudiotour.com](http://bcstudiotour.com). You can also pick up a map at the Brown County Visitors Center, or at the many businesses sponsoring the event. ■



# *Field Notes* **Corn Botany**



~by Jim Eagleman

**T**o a gardener, or any plant lover, the profusion of flowers, produce, and greenery everywhere at this time of year is astounding. Frequent rains have helped add to the leafy explosion. Recalling past Augusts with no rain and the ground being a dried, cracked patchwork of dust, this year's lush herbal layer is a welcomed change. And we'll enter into fall with little or no fire danger.

Not much of a gardener, but loving the production of one, I look to roadside produce stands to provide me with the luscious taste of homegrown tomatoes, peas and beans right off the vine, and sweet corn.

Is there anything better than fresh sweet corn?

When my wife and I saw a sign along the highway advertising garden veggies, with large letters SWEET CORN, we were drawn to pull over and buy at least a dozen ears. We had been looking for an indoor project, out of the summer's heat, and thought canning some corn would be a good idea. "Let's buy several dozen,"



my wife said. Then she heard, "We have a special today if you buy 10 dozen." So, we loaded 10 bags of a dozen ears each into the back of the car.

Pulling down handfuls of husks off each ear, with the pile on a drop cloth in front of me, my mind drifted back to a long-ago botany class on the topic of corn. This usually happens to me: flashbacks of a lecture, terms to learn, slides on the screen. Note taking was not a skill of mine. I'd sit there and say to myself, I'll never learn this stuff. Yet I must have. My botany classes help me appreciate the wonderful world around me.

Each ear I exposed was the fantastic result of fertilization, and not much different than other plants—but there's all that silk. Each strand of silk is a hollow pollen tube attached at the base to a minute kernel. The tassel at the top, usually dark brown as it dries, is at the top of the tube.

Botanists refer to the female part of a plant as the pistil, and it is made up of a stigma on top, a long



hollow tube, the style, and the ovary at the base. At the time of fertilization, a pollen grain from the tassel at the top of the ear lands on top of the stigma. It is a sticky platform, and if a pollen grain lands there, it will "grow" down the hollow tube to the kernel. When you pull off all the silk from an ear of corn, each strand is attached to its own kernel.

The production of corn has a long history. Corn was used in very early cultures, first domesticated by native people in Mexico over 10,000 years ago.

Our sons took a job one summer when they were in high school detasseling corn. It was a hot, sticky job and they left early each morning to avoid the midday heat. With their buddies, lots of watermelon, insect spray, and a big lunch they brought with them, they got through the days. The tassel was stuffed into a plastic bag and twisted tight so no pollen would fall down onto the ear. This technique is a form of pollination control done to crossbreed or hybridize two varieties of corn. The reason to detassel may have escaped them. They were there to earn a few bucks and probably could care less if the farmer arrived at a different type of corn.

The big business of corn production in this country is a serious endeavor and much research, time, and money are spent on growing the most disease-resistant crop in as little time as possible. Depleting less soil nutrients and improving harvest is also important. Field corn is a big, year-round business, and much different in scope and size than the homegrown sweet we consume each summer.

A friend now promotes a promising business. Her family grows produce each week, and while no sweet corn is in the plans, they offer a variety of ripe vegetables.

When our labor-intensive canning job was finished, the remains were not wasted. The coons and possums that visited our compost pile that night appreciated the leftovers from

our efforts, and friends fed their chickens some of the husks and cobs.

Now there's a freezer full of sweet corn we'll enjoy this winter. We'll later recall the hot days of a Brown County summer, when the corn grew straight and moved gently with the wind. ■

*To inquire about this or other articles, contact the author at:  
jpeagleman@gmail.com*

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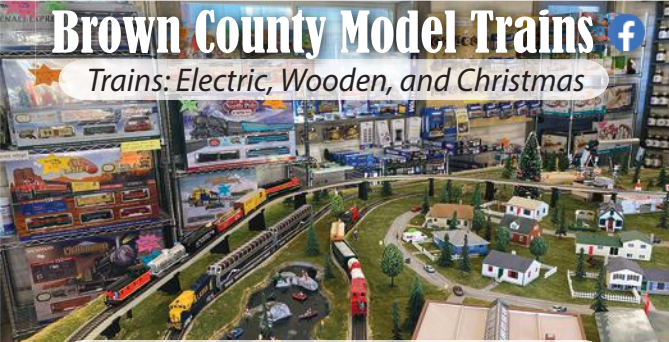
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# Range 46 Wine Co.



**Y**ou might expect a wine tasting room to remind you of the California wine country, or the old European wineries. But what would a Brown County born-and-bred winery look like?

The Sampler found the answer just outside Gnaw Bone at the Range 46 Wine Company.

I had been wondering about this place since I noticed the modest white building, unceremoniously plunked down in the middle of a cornfield next to the Camp Moneto Road.

Range 46 is the brainchild of Jerrica Shrader and husband Brian, who took up wine making

during the Covid 19 lockdown and then decided to turn that into a business.

"We started making it at home, and it turned out pretty good," Jerrica said. "Friends were asking if they could have a bottle."

She left a job in the prosecutor's office and turned her attention to building a winery business.

The Shrader's were able to build a small building on their farm for the winery.

"I always knew I wanted to own some kind of business," she said. "With three kids at home, it seemed like a good idea."

"We thought, 'We'll just see how it goes. If it goes belly up, we'll just have to think of something else to do with the building.'"

"But it took off," she said. "It's been fun."

Although some folks were surprised by the setting, the business, as they say in the wine parlance, "had legs."

Range 46 captures the Brown County vibe: a family friendly, pet friendly, farm winery with a laid-back atmosphere. It's the kind of place where wine newbies and wine connoisseurs can both find something they love and have a great time.







*Jerrica Shrader served up our wine samples.*

There's a nice outdoor area with a fire pit where you can hang out outside, mostly in the fall and spring. Occasionally Range 46 offers live music and food trucks.

If you think a wine bar in a corn field is a crazy idea, consider this: the one-year anniversary celebration drew about 700 people.

"It was chaotic, but it was good," Jerrica said.

"Last week, we had the Jeep riders come through," she said. "We had about 200 Jeeps."

Although fall is the peak time for the business, Range 46 stays open year-round.

"We still have plenty of business all winter long," Jerrica said.

They decorate for Christmas and stay open in January and February.

Range 46 uses grape juice imported from California, New York, and Michigan to create their wines on site in small batches. They employ five 130-gallon tanks with, generally, three tanks in use at any one time for different vintages.

Bottles are filled the old-fashioned way: by hand, one at a time.

Like the winery itself, the wines are straightforward and palette pleasing.

There are traditional vintages like Sauvignon blanc, Chardonnay, or a Muscato with blended citrus orange blossoms, peach, and nectarine.

There's "Homestead White," a crisp mix of fruit and citrus flavors; "Catawba," featuring grapefruit and mango; and spicy "Holy Jalapeno," sip at your own risk!

Other wine choices include "Sweet Peach Strawberry Margarita"; "Not Your Mama's Bahama," with pineapple, orange, and coconut; and "Berry Got Back," a tart mixture of raspberries and blueberries.

There are also some just-for-fun choices like "Cotton Candy," "Pumpkin Spice," and "Peanut Butter and Jelly."

You can enjoy a six-ounce glass, a "wine tasting"—six one-ounce pours of your choice, or a "wine flight"—four three-ounce pours of your choice

Mrs. Sampler and I enjoyed a bottle of the Cabernet Sauvignon.

Range 46 also offers charcuterie boxes and non-alcoholic drinks.

The farm has been in Jerrica's family since 1867. Still a working farm, during years when the corn is in the front field, the winery is virtually hidden by the tall green stalks.

I feel a professional obligation to tell you about the Corn Maze.

In the cornfield out back of this establishment, a fiendishly conceived corn maze beckons. For \$10, they'll let you go in there. I'm not sure how much they would charge to get you back out.

Late September will bring the "Wine your Way Through" event, with a half dozen wine tasting stations scattered throughout the maze to help further confuse you.

"I'm a big dreamer," Jerrica said. "I feel like if you dream something up you can do it if you set your mind to it."

Range 46 Winery, located at 200 Camp Moneto Road, just off State Road 46 East, is open Wednesday and Thursday from noon to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon until 9 p.m., and Sunday from noon until 6 p.m. ■



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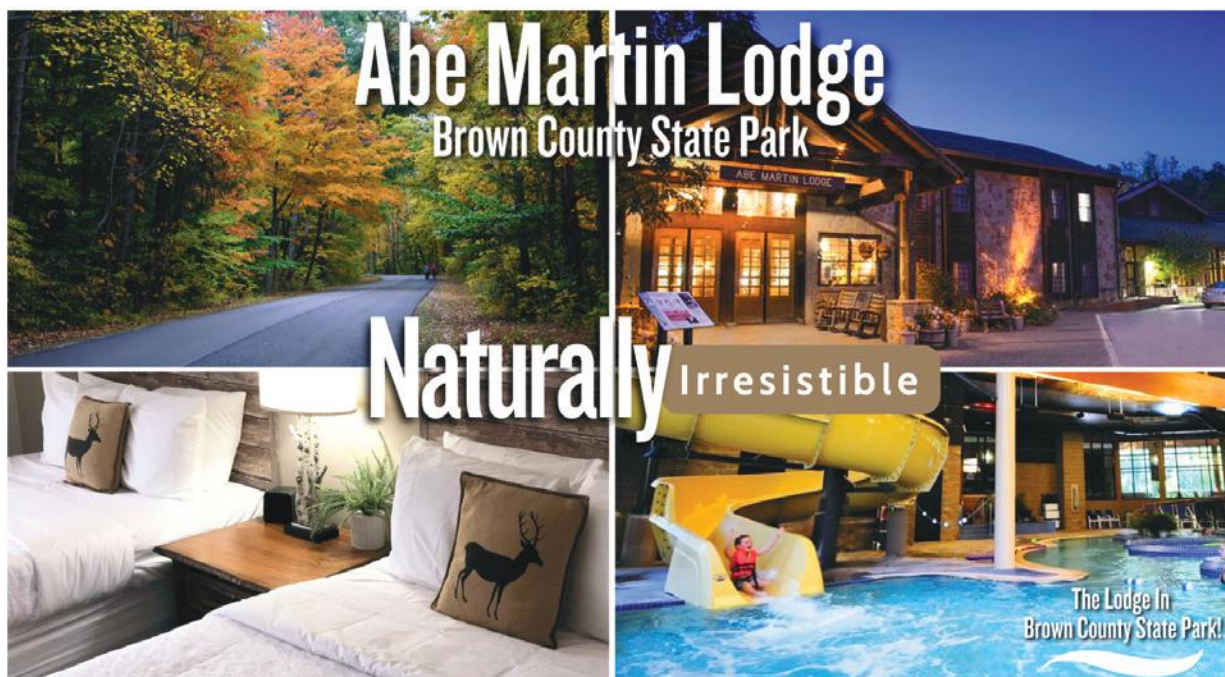
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