

BROWN COUNTY ALMANACK

WINTER 2021 VISITORS GUIDE



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COVER PHOTO BY

Norberto Nunes

<https://norberto-nunes.pixels.com>

Story Inn

Brown County Almanack VISITORS GUIDE

A quarterly publication featuring local
merchants and events from Nashville
and Brown County, Indiana.

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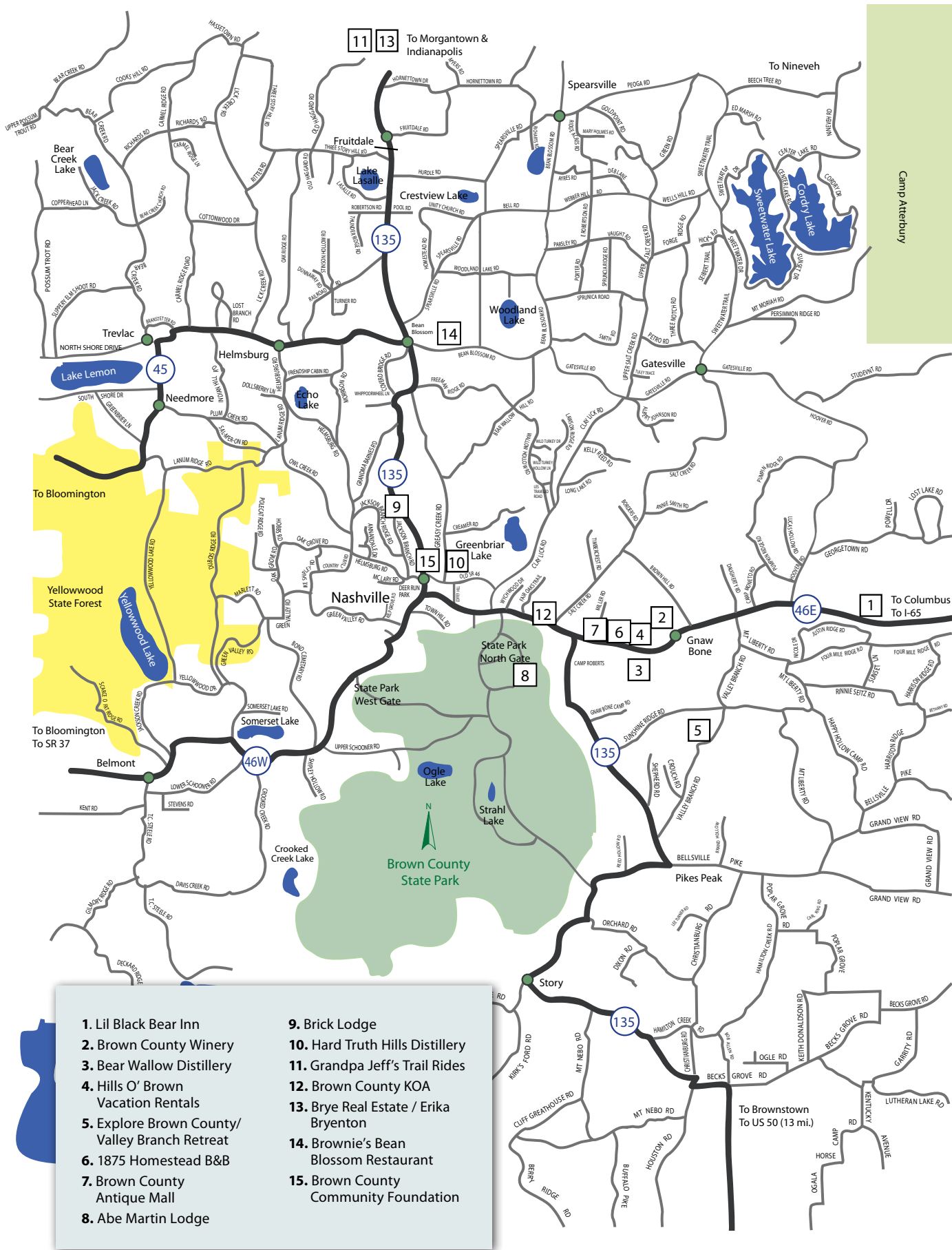
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Discover Brown County's hidden treasures!

Sign up for our free Brown County email newsletter and learn about unique attractions, fun things to do and where the locals go for entertainment.

Plus, enjoy 10% off any item at the Brown County Visitors Center (211 South Van Buren Street in downtown Nashville).



Visit [BrownCounty.com/Email](https://www.browncounty.com/Email)
for everything you need to know
about Brown County.



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THE CAUSE BEHIND THE RACE

STAFF REPORTS



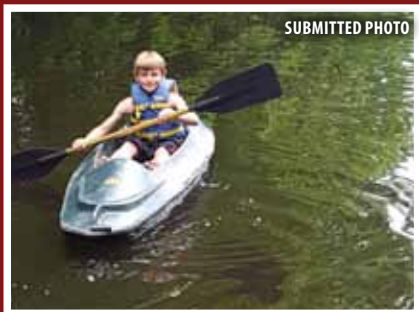
SUZANNAH CROUCH

Mel Hoefling, right, and Teed Howard take a break from their workouts to chat in the gymnasium at the Brown County YMCA. Hoefling and Howard have been working out together three times a week at the YMCA since 2011 when Hoefling retired. But the two have known each other for decades. They first met when Howard was Hoefling's Boy Scout troop leader in the 1950s. They both say having a workout buddy helps them stay dedicated to a healthy lifestyle. The two also participate in Native American signing and dancing together, traveling all around the country to do so.



BEN SKIRVIN

Instructor Lydia Miller and assistant Jenny Sue Whetstone lead the Silver Sneakers group at the Brown County YMCA.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Joshua Woodard kayaks at CYO Camp Rancho Framasa as part of the Brown County YMCA's summer enrichment program, Outdoor Discovery and Outdoor Challenge. Participants also experienced other activities, such as rock climbing, archery and shelter building.

The Brown County YMCA opened in 2000 after the community came together to raise \$3.8 million. It was virtually unheard of for such a small community to have a Y.

The 34,000-square-foot building houses a pool and sauna; fitness equipment and indoor walking track; a gymnasium; and activity rooms for fitness classes, child care, day camps and community events. It's also home to a popular Silver Sneakers wellness program, senior citizen activities, the BETA after-school teen program, and even some art classes.



KIM ROBINSON
YMCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since COVID-19 hit Indiana, the local Y also has been a key player in Brown County COAD (Community Organizations Active in a Disaster), a convener of local groups to help their neighbors in extreme times of need. By partnering with other local organizations and using volunteers 150,000 pounds of food was distributed in 2020 to residents affected by the pandemic.

In the past 20 years, time, traffic — and at least once, lightning — have taken their toll on the YMCA building. Four years ago, the YMCA board successfully raised about \$250,000 to replace the air handler system that serves the pool area. But additional support is needed to carry on the important work the YMCA is doing in the community and plans to continue doing, said Executive Director

Kim Robinson.

The roof will need to be redone in the next few years; five heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units and three hot water heaters need to be replaced; and fitness equipment needs to be replaced or updated.

The Hilly Half is one such fundraiser. Money raised through this event and others is going into the YMCA's ongoing capital campaign and to its endowment at the Brown County Community Foundation.

"This year especially has been tough on us — and everyone — financially," Robinson said. "But we are here to serve the community in any way we can, if it's financial aid for membership, free swim lessons, subsidizing BETA on their rent, organizing the food alliance, and Brown County COAD. We are doing our best to reach and serve those in need."

Board members and staff are thankful for the support the community, the race participants and other contributors, such as major corporations and people who haven't even been to this particular Y, have made to the cause so far.

WANT TO HELP THE YMCA?

CONTRIBUTE to the Brown County YMCA's capital campaign. Go to browncountyyymca.org/give-to-the-y, or call 812-988-9622.

GROW the YMCA's endowment. Contact the Brown County Community Foundation at browncountygives.org or 812-988-0299.



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NOON-8PM EACH DAY**



Visit www.browncountychristkindlmarket.com to sign up for updates!

HESITATION POINTS

Things to see along the race route

BY SUZANNAH COUCH | BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

The two-story **Lower Shelter House**, just south of the race starting area, and the **Saddle Barn**, to the north, were both constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression.

The race course starts with about two miles of uphill climbs, though there are a few level breaks along the way. Racers in the 5K will get their relief on the way back. For those in the 10K and Hilly Half, about 1.7 miles in they will have the first payoff to their efforts, as a **broad, beautiful vista** opens to their right.

The hardest of the early climbs finishes about 2 miles into the course, and runners can keep an eye out for the Aynes House as a sign they are almost there. The Indiana governor's vacation home was originally home to the property manager of the game preserve that preceded the park. It is named after the Aynes family, whose log cabin stood on the site before the state purchased the land in 1916. You'll have covered about 11.2 miles when you see **Aynes House** the second time, and it's (almost) all downhill from there.

Not far past the Aynes House, about 2.1 miles into the course, runners will reach more of the park's spectacular views as the forest on either side opens into **deep vistas** of the famous hills o' Brown.

Around 2.7 miles in, runners will come across the park office, where

they will catch a glimpse of the 90-foot **fire tower** built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression. The tower is still open for visitors to climb and get a bird's eye view of the park. Runners will pass this point again about 10.5 miles into the course.

Just past and across from the park office and fire tower, runners will pass the **Hoosier's Nest**. Now a shelter house available to be reserved by park guests, the log cabin was reconstructed from an original home that was on the property.

Past the Hoosier's Nest, runners may find more flat, open ground than they expected. **Weed Patch Hill** is on the ridge top and host to a DNR wildflower field. It is also famed for its views, and runners will pass multiple vistas looking east.

After passing through the park's campgrounds and coming back out, runners will climb a rise in the road. That's the location of the **Civilian Conservation Corps camp** used by workers during the Depression. None of the original structures remain, though a flagpole marks the spot where Civilian Conservation Corps workers raised the flag each morning and looks out over a vista of wooded hills.

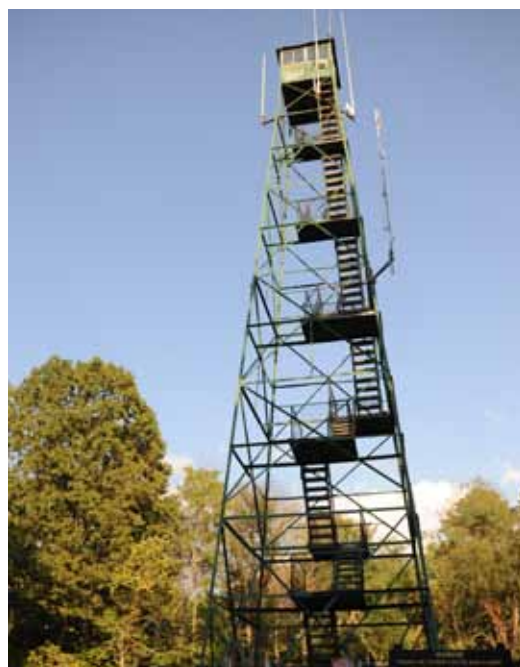
Runners will be about 8 miles into the course when they reach the final turnaround at **Hohen Point**. The race route allows runners to see the wide-open view. From here on, it's a winding 5.1 miles back to the finish.



Lower Shelter: From the start of the race, runners will encounter history at Brown County State Park. The two-story Lower Shelter House, located just south of the race starting area, and the Saddle Barn, located to the north, were both constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression.



Not far past the Aynes House, around 2.1 miles into the course, runners will reach more of the park's spectacular views as the forest on either side opens into deep vistas of the famous hills o' Brown.



Around 2.7 miles in, runners will come across the park office, where they will catch a glimpse of the 90-foot fire tower — no longer in use — built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. The tower is still open for visitors to climb and get a bird's eye view of the park. Runners will pass this point again about 10.5 miles into the course.

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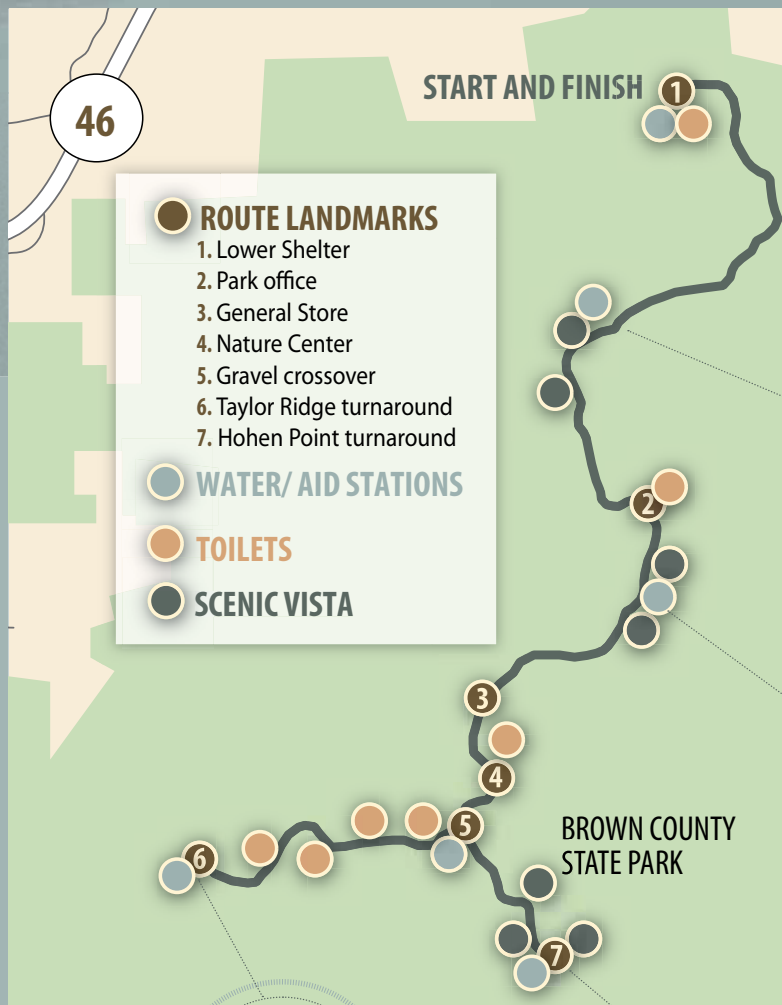
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MAPPING THE ROUTE



5K
TURNAROUND

10K
TURNAROUND

13.1
TURNAROUND
NO. 1

13.1
TURNAROUND
NO. 2



Brown County Democrat



13.1 | 10k | 5k
**What's
YOUR Social
Distance?**



ON HILL VEE BROWN COUNTY STATE PARK / NOVEMBER 30, 2020



RACE SCHEDULE

Friday, Nov. 19

4 to 7 p.m.: Early packet pickup, Hard Truth Hills, 418 Old State Road 46, Nashville. Restaurant will be offering a special pasta dish so that runners can “carb up.”

Saturday, Nov. 20

7 to 9:00 a.m.: Packet pickup and late registration, Brown County State Park Lower Shelter parking area, 1801 State Road 46 East.

8:55 a.m.: Final instructions and national anthem at the starting line

9 a.m.: Start of the half-marathon

9:30 a.m.: Start of the 10K

9:45 a.m.: Start of the 5K

11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: Post-race party by Big Woods/Quaff ON! Brewing Co. at the Lower Shelter with a roaring fire, free pint glass, free first pint of beer (bring your ID), lunch, snacks, fruit, etc.

11:30 a.m.: 5K awards

11:30 a.m.: 10K awards

12:30 p.m.: Half-marathon awards

1 p.m.: Half-marathon timing ends



Hilly Half half-marathon runners take off from the starting line Nov. 11, 2017.



BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO



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AND TO THE WINNERS

STAFF REPORTS

Glass, fiber, paper, metal — winners of each Hilly Half race have received awards made from natural elements.

This year, local artist Martha Sechler is making the awards out of gourds.

The overall male and female winners of each distance category will receive these, plus 50 percent off the registration cost of the 2022 race.

Participants in all live events receive a Hilly Half finisher medal, custom pint glass, T-shirt, hot soup, bread sticks and snack.

Any virtual participants will not be eligible for the top awards, but they will be mailed their shirt and medal once they submit their times to the Hilly Half organizers.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Martha Sechler began about 50 years ago as a watercolorist, and took up decorative gourd art about 25 years ago. Sechler is making this year's Hilly Half awards out of gourds.

An advertisement for Rafter's Food & Spirits. The top part features the logo "Rafter's" in a large, white, cursive font, with "FOOD & SPIRITS" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. Below the logo, the text "NOW OPEN" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath "NOW OPEN", it says "Serving food until 30 minutes before closing" in a smaller, yellow font. To the right, the operating hours are listed: "Thursday 11 a.m.- 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.- Midnight, Sunday 11 a.m.- 10 p.m." in a yellow font. At the bottom left, the text "The SEASONS Lodge" is written in a white, serif font, followed by "Located in the Hotel & Event Center across from the entrance of the Brown County Music Center" in a white, sans-serif font. Below this, the website "www.seasonslodge.com" and the phone number "812-988-2284" are listed in a white, sans-serif font. On the right side, there is a photograph of a large, multi-layered burger with various toppings, a small bowl of sauce, and two glasses of beer. The background of the advertisement is a dark, textured surface.

BACK TO RUNNING IN-PERSON

Hilly Half returns to in-person races this year after doing pandemic shift to virtual last year

STORY BY SUZANNAH COUCH | BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The first finishers of the virtual Hilly Half-Marathon last year in the Brown County State Park. Last year's race was virtual, but participants still had the option to run the marked race course in the park.

Last year runners took off for the hills of the Brown County State Park in the Hill Half-Marathon, but unlike years before there were no spectators along the route cheering them on or fellow runners to compete against.

Like many events since COVID-19 hit home in Brown County, the annual marathon did the pandemic shift to a virtual format last year.

This year the race returns to a bit more normalcy as participants will take their spot at the starting line once again next to others to run, or walk, the half marathon, 10K or 5K.

"Most runners would agree that in-person racing is much more fun than a virtual race. Runners enjoy the

head-to-head competition and the extra push to run faster than that provides," said Brown County YMCA Executive Director Kim Robinson.

"Virtual races are usually run on the participant's training course and so they don't have the same intensity or exciting atmosphere that a race venue provides."

Robinson continued that the Hilly Half course is "one of the most beautiful half marathon courses in the nation and for runners who couldn't run at our venue they missed that experience."

Last year's post-race party was canceled due to COVID-19 and the race going virtual.

That returns this year, too.

"Our post-race party is a highlight for

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Runners were all smiles the morning of the Brown County YMCA Hilly Half Marathon in November 2016 in the Brown County State Park.

“Our post-race party is a highlight for our participants, and I know they really missed that last year too.”

– *Kim Robinson*

our participants, and I know they really missed that last year too,” Robinson said.

The party will begin at 11 a.m. at the Lower Level Shelter and is sponsored by Big Woods/Quaff ON! Brewing Co.

Runners and walkers will be treated to a roaring fire, a free pint glass, free first pint of beer with ID, lunch, snacks, fruit and more once they complete their journey through the park.

The Hilly Half is a fundraiser for the YMCA. Money raised through this event and others is going into the YMCA’s ongoing capital campaign and to its endowment at the Brown County Community Foundation.

Unlike other virtual races, Hilly Half Marathon participants had the option last year to complete their walk or run on a marked course in the state park at

any time that worked for them. Some participants started as early as 6:30 a.m.

“We did have several ‘virtual’ runners comment last year that they liked that we had marked the actual course for the virtual race,” Robinson said.

“That allowed them to do the actual course but on their schedule and at their convenience while safely social distanced. Most virtual races aren’t

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BROWN COUNTY YMCA HILLY HALF

NOVEMBER 20, 2021



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Strike a pose! Some runners were camera ready during the Brown County YMCA Hilly Half Marathon in November 2016 in the Brown County State Park.



able to do that because they don't have access to their usual course."

In 2020, 623 people registered for the Hilly Half. Of those, 296 chose to run virtually with 210 posting results. Robinson said that 197 participants opted to defer their race entry to this year.

Ahead of the race this year Robinson has tips for new runners:

- **Don't do anything different on race day:** No brand new shoes or new clothes. You want to know that everything fits well without chafing and is comfortable.
- **Be well-fueled and well-hydrated for race day.** Test what foods works well for you before race day.

• **Make sure your shoes are not too small.** The race has a significant down hill portion that can cause black toe nails if your shoes are too short or aren't tied well.

• **Share the experience with a friend.** Training and racing with friends keep you more accountable and makes it more fun too.

• **Enjoy the beautiful scenery and the experience.**

For all runners, Robinson suggests running the court before the race if possible.

"You'll become familiar with the terrain and that will help you pace yourself on race day," she said.

"Appreciate how great it feels to be racing in live races and how lucky you are to be healthy and fit."

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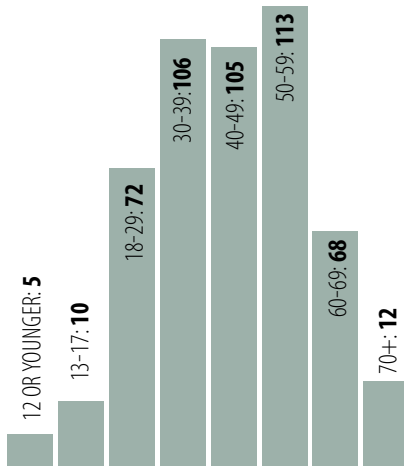
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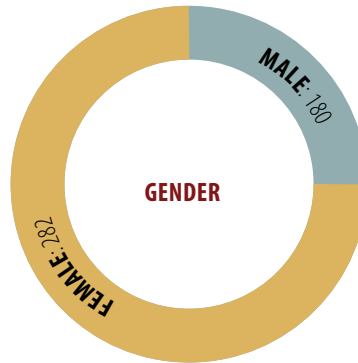
STATS

AS OF OCT. 12

AGE GROUPS



OLDEST REGISTERED: 84
YOUNGEST REGISTERED: 5



TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

479 (AS OF OCT. 12), UP
60 PERCENT FROM
 2020

RACE TYPE

HALF-MARATHON RUN: 239
HALF-MARATHON WALK: 22
10K RUN: 97
10K WALK: 21
5K RUN: 45
5K WALK: 54

TOP 5 CITIES

COLUMBUS: 67
INDIANAPOLIS: 63
BLOOMINGTON: 37
NASHVILLE: 23
NOBLESVILLE & FISHERS: 12

STATES REPRESENTED

INDIANA: 417
OHIO: 26
KENTUCKY: 13
ILLINOIS: 9
MARYLAND: 2
WYOMING: 2
TENNESSEE: 1
ARIZONA: 1
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ART, MUSIC AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

First annual Christkindl Market coming to downtown Nashville

STORY BY SUZANNAH COUCH | BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

All are invited the first weekend of December to kick off the holiday season at Coachlight Square when it is transformed into a traditional European-style holiday market.

The first annual Christkindl Market will be open from noon to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3 and Saturday, Dec. 4. The market will include artisan booths decorated for the season, live music, a tree lighting, and Santa and Mrs. Claus. A Christkindl Market Angel will also be on display.

Brown County resident Lisa Hall has been working to bring the market to Nashville with a team that includes Nashville Spice owners Greg Fox and Mark Schmidt.

"We're working very, very hard at bringing a first annual Christkindl Market to Brown County, given that we look like the set of a Hallmark movie," Hall said.

"I really wanted to see Christmas elevated and some event that would also highlight all the other amazing traditions that go on in this

community."

The weekend of the market already includes many other holiday events.

Friday, Dec. 3 will be the annual Children's Christmas Benefit Auction at the Brown County Inn. "Believe: The Magic of Christmas" takes center stage at the Brown County Playhouse that night. The Santa Train will make a stop at the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Department in Helmsburg.

The next day will be the Stuff a Stocking event in Nashville and the Reindeer Romp 5K and 8K at the Brown County State Park. When the sun goes down Saturday, the Holiday Light Parade and Toy Drive will take off in Nashville with "Believe" having another performance at the Playhouse, too.

"We just have so many fun things going on, so after each of those events, what do you do? We're hoping people will then enjoy a really neat market," Hall said.

The market will serve German gluhwein provided by Country Heritage,



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which is a mulled spiced wine. German foods also will be served. Other distilleries and a brewery will be represented at the market.

A Santa Shop will be set up in the Brown County Visitors Center for kids to buy presents for their families.

On Friday, Indy Polkamotion will perform polka music to kick off the weekend and a tree lighting will happen later that evening.

On Saturday, more music will fill the air as area bands perform, including Brown County's own the Hammer and the Hatchet.

"We started small this year so we can do it well — kind of put our toe in the water to see if the community responds," Hall said.

Artisans are the reason Hall wanted this

market to happen — "to give artists a chance to earn back some income that's been lost over the last 18 months through a cancellation of festivals and their livelihood," Hall said.

"That was kind of the emphasis."



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RAFTERS RESTAURANT OPENS WITH NEW LOOK, MENU

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL YUMANS | BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT



Seasons Lodge and Conference Center owner Kevin Ault stands behind the bar in Rafter's Food & Spirits.

A mural in Rafter's featuring Brown County icons like The Brown County Playhouse, Stonehead and falls at Strahl Lake.



Up on a hill near State Road 46 East, overlooking rolling farmlands, stands a beloved Brown County hotel and restaurant.

The location has stayed the same, but now when visitors walk through the restaurant doors they will find themselves in a new and modern atmosphere.

Rafter's Food and Spirits opened at the Seasons Lodge and Conference Center in September, complete with a new menu, a new look and a new concept.

Owner Kevin Ault and his partners started talking about renovations in February of 2020, then the world virtually stopped due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite that stop, however, plans truly started coming together for Ault and his team in May of 2020.

Completing renovations in the middle of the pandemic allotted time, Ault said. With the Brown County Music Center closed, no conferences or banquets, no holiday buffets, the timing was "really perfect," Ault said.

They had originally hoped to be open May 1, but there were delays with receiving materials and supplies for the new space, like furniture, equipment and dishware.

They did demolitions themselves, using staff from the kitchen and bar to keep them employed in a time when restaurants were closed.

They tore out block walls, windows, carpeting, doing everything they possibly could before the contractor started, Ault said.

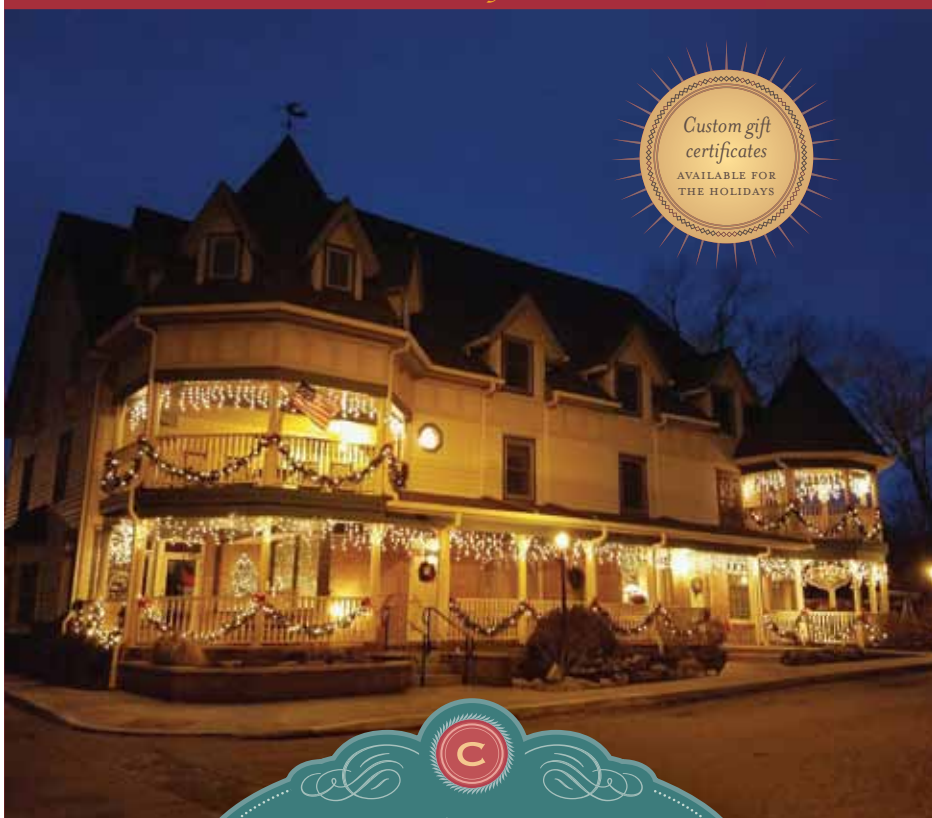
Despite having a contractor, Ault said it was difficult to get onto a schedule, with many taking advantage of building projects during pandemic shutdowns. Official renovations started on Nov. 30, 2020.

The original rustic feel remains as the old wood from the former restaurant is used as a focal point in the spaces.

Tables, chairs, barstools and decorations mix the use of wood and metal, adding a deep contrast and rich atmosphere. They changed the old plywood-type siding on the building to board and batten and added new windows, which Ault said make "a big difference."

A large round table in one corner of the bar is steel and weighs about 750 pounds. Iron railing in the space is made by local artist Brad Cox.

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The redone lobby at the Seasons Lodge and Conference Center welcomes guests into its industrial yet rustic atmosphere, with leather sofas and local art.



The Rafters dining room has been outfitted with new seating, fans, paint and floors. Some totems of the past are paid tribute to, like the iron fixtures in the middle of the room.



Images by Frank Hohenberger have been constant fixtures at the Seasons and are now in an overflow seating room overlooking Snyder Farm and State Road 46 East.

With all new lighting, new windows and doors, Ault said their goal was to bring it into a more modern time.

The new menu is very diverse and it includes an apple butter burger, a tenderloin, fish tacos, flatbreads, special cocktails and desserts -- and fried biscuits, of course.

Outdoor dining will be available right outside the restaurant, and a 10,000-square-foot patio replaced the original pool and its overhead structure. The patio will be available for events, seating and more once it's complete.

Being across from the Brown County Music Center played into what the owners chose to do, drawing attention to the front of the building as people exit Maple Leaf Boulevard. The steel and concrete deck overlook State Road 46 East and invite visitors for food and drinks.

In addition to lobby spaces and the restaurant, the 20 original rooms got patio door replacements, new TVs, bathroom vanities and the hallways are being redone. Plans for the whole west end of the hotel are in the works, Ault said, as well as the conference center.

The name for the restaurant was inspired by the beams in the space, towering above the dining room. The logo, a diamond divided into four parts with changing seasons, plays on the different times of the year.

The restaurant has been busy, and Ault said what we're hearing is that the Seasons has "the wow factor."

"People are walking through the front door like 'Wow, what a change,'" he said. "Having the new menu, all the new beverages, the new staff, gives it a whole new appeal. People who came occasionally are starting to come a lot."

The hotel first opened in April of 1970 as a Ramada Inn and has been a landmark in Brown County ever since then.

Ault's first job was in Nashville at 13 years old, working for Larry Hawkins at That Sandwich Place. At 15, he was working at the Brown County Inn. Now he owns two hotels of his own, working with business partners to operate The Seasons Lodge and Conference Center and Hotel Nashville.

Ault went to Hotel Nashville from the Brown County Inn, then Andy Rogers called Ault in October of 2016, with an opportunity for Ault to purchase the Seasons.

After closing the deal on the Seasons, Ault and his business partners Don Galbreath and Darlene Jaehnke knew they wanted to do renovations on the building. To what extent, they weren't sure at the time.

In 1984, it became the Seasons. Despite the cosmetic changes inside and the rebranding of the restaurant, Ault said the hotel's name will be a constant.

"People ask us why we didn't change the name, but we like it. It's a Brown County icon," he said. "People know the seasons, we're just making it 'the new Seasons,' bringing it into modern times."



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Moon Acres is open for business in Bean Blossom, just north of Brownie's Family Restaurant on State Road 135 North.

'NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO FIND'

Mother, daughter open eclectic shop in Bean Blossom

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL YOUNG | BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT



A blueberry candle was lit at Moon Acres, filling the space with the unique scent.



Chris Blevins, left, and her mother Helen Ellis opened Moon Acres Candle Company in April, just north of Brownie's Family Restaurant on State Road 135 North

BEAN BLOSSOM — A gas station, a bed and breakfast, a storage building and now a stop on State Road 135 North to find something unique and eccentric.

Mother-daughter duo Helen Ellis and Chris Blevins opened Moon Acres Candle Company in April, next to Blevins' home on 135 North.

It had been a dream of Blevins to move to Brown County and also have a workspace that she could walk to each day.

Then two years ago, it all started to fall into place. She and her husband purchased a home just north of Brownie's Family Restaurant and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

On the property was a building that had been a gas station in the 1940s. The home had been a bed and breakfast. What is now Moon Acres was the storage. The duo also believe it was a furniture shop at some point.

"We've heard all kinds of stories. We don't know what's what," Blevins said. "It's been used quite a bit."

Now its purpose is a place for the team to sell their handcrafted candles as well as unique finds from estate sales, yard sales and more. After crafting a product they said they thought was worthy of putting on shelves, they were ready to open the doors.

Blevins had always done craft shows and had merchandise in stores belonging to others, but never her own space. Both Ellis and Blevins were born in New Jersey, but have always been drawn to Brown County.

Blevins' own distant relatives are Brown County artist Will Vawter and Colonel John Vawter, a founder of Morgantown.

"I've got a little bit of roots down here," she said.

They started working on Moon Acres candles during the COVID-19 pandemic and "grew with it," Ellis said. They now sell 42 different scents, including a candle collection inspired by wines, like cabernet, merlot and sangria. There is also a Harry Potter themed set with butterbeer, pumpkin juice and chocolate frog scents.

They add charms to the candles as well with each one reflecting the "theme" of the candle it decorates. There's a bee charm on a honeysuckle candle, a "Namaste" pose on their "Zen" candle and more. They're also working on wax melts to add to their shop.

Antiques, crafts, vintage items, up-cycled furniture and more are what often strikes Blevins and Ellis, so that is the merchandise they aim to find and sell.

Moon Acres has opened a second location in Nashville at 36 E. Franklin Street next to Lawrence Family Glass Blowers. The Nashville location is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the Bean Blossom location is open Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Blevins said that shoppers can expect to find an "eclectic mix," seeing something different with each visit to their shops.

"It'll always be something new," she said. "You just never know what you're going to find."



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Dec. 5	Kenny G
Dec. 6	Lindsey Stirling: Christmas Program
Dec. 8	Mystery Science Theater 3000 Live: Time Bubble Tour
Dec. 9	38 Special (with Special Guests The Dane Clark Band)
Dec. 11	Bloomington Symphony Orchestra: Celebrate the Season
Dec. 14	LeAnn Rimes: Home for the Holidays Tour
Dec. 19	The Beach Boys: Holiday Harmonies Tour
Dec. 22	Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's Wild & Swingin Holiday Party
Dec. 31	Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band
Jan. 22, 2022	The Mavericks: 'En Español' World Tour
Mar. 12, 2022	The British Invasion
Mar. 13, 2022	Little Feat
Mar. 27, 2022	Graham Nash: An Evening of Songs & Stories
Apr. 25, 2022	Willie Nelson & Family
May 20, 2022	Gordon Lightfoot



Cows come out to say hello from one of the barns on Junior Parsley's farm. The Parsley farm was awarded the Centennial Hoosier Homestead award for 100 years of commitment to Indiana agriculture. For the last 93 years, Parsley has called this 118 acre farm home. To receive the state recognition, farms must be owned by the same family for more than 100 consecutive years and be made up of 20 acres or more.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN THE MAKING

Local families recognized for operating farm for 100 and 150 years

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SUZANNAH COUCH | BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

F

Farming is a way of life for many in the hills of Brown County and this year two local families were recognized for a commitment to this lifestyle for 100 years or more.

Near the intersection of Ford Ridge and Upper Salt Creek roads stands the Parsley family farm. Up on a nearby hill is Junior Parsley's home.

Parsley can look out his living room window down into the pasture to see where he and his wife were married in the late 1950s.

From his kitchen sink window, Parsley can see down into the valley where multiple barns stand, including one barn that was on the property when his parents bought it 100 years ago. It was built with wooden pegs, he adds.

Parsley was born and raised in a farmhouse on the farm that no longer stands.

"Along the creek down there," Parsley said as he looks out his window.

He had to have the farmhouse torn down eventually because it was not livable, he explained.

For the last 93 years, Parsley has called this 118 acre farm home. In August the Parsley family farm received the Centennial Hoosier Homestead award for 100 years of commitment to Indiana agriculture.

Over in the Gnaw Bone area there is the Pittman family farm. For 150 years, the Pittman family owned and operated their farm with no plans to stop.

In March, the Pittman family received the Sesquicentennial Hoosier Homestead award for 150 years of commitment to Indiana agriculture.

To receive the state recognition, farms must be owned by the same family for more than 100 consecutive years and be made up of 20 acres or more. The farm must also produce more than \$1,000 in agricultural products each year.

Jerry Pittman is the fifth generation to farm the land his family has called home since 1867. He plants about 150 acres of corn and soybeans each year on that farm and a couple of other tracts of land. He also has about 50 acres of hay that feeds 10 cattle.

"I am still doing it as long as I can," he said.

"I am not one to blow my own horn or anything, but I am proud of the fact we have stayed here this long and God has blessed us with this piece of land. It's been good to five generations now."

Earning this award for his family's farm has been Junior Parsley's dream.

"The doctors are like 'You're not going to make it for another six months.' He's like 'No, I want to make it until I get this award.' It's really important to us. It's a cool acknowledgement that were still

on the farm, we're still farming," his daughter Robin said.

"I was getting close," Junior said.

"I was wanting to live long enough to make it 100 years (for the award)."

The family rents the fields to grow corn and soybeans along with raising beef cows. Soy beans grew this summer and the yellowed tops of the crop were beginning to peak as Junior looked out his window.

Junior's father, Elmer Parsley Sr., bought the farm in 1920 with his father William F. Parsley. William never did live on the farm, but Junior's parents lived there until they passed in the 1970s, leaving the farm to Elmer "Junior" Parsley Jr., Robin said.

The property went through three different deed transfers while remaining in the family. Robin's great-grandfather's name was on the original deed.

Junior was active in soil and water conservation and the agricultural community overall, including at the state level, so he had known about this

"I was wanting to live long enough to make it 100 years (for the award)."
- Junior Parsley



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Junior Parsley looks out his living room window down into one of his farm's pastures. His daughter Robin said this is the prettiest view in Brown County.



A view of the barns on the Parsley family farm from Junior Parsley's yard.

"We are here and plan to stay indefinitely."

- Jerry Pittman



97-year-old Wilma Pittman poses for a photo with her son Jerry at the home she has lived in for nearly 80 years. Pittman was born and raised in Brown County. She grew up on Old State Road 46 before marrying William "Bill" Pittman and moving. The couple raised four children on farmland that has been in the Pittman family since the 1800s. The Pittman family received state recognition in 2021 for their dedication to farming on the land.

award and made it a goal to get it one day for his own family's farm.

"Dad has been very, very knowledgeable about this award and he really wanted it," Robin said.

Junior married Francis Parsley, who passed away in 2007. She was a well-known substitute teacher in Brown County Schools.

"There are generations of people who will know her name," Robin said.

When the two married, Junior's parents gave the couple an acre halfway up the hill where Junior's house still stands.

Robin is the couple's only child. She has fond memories growing up on the Parsley family farm.

"I think Brown County is gorgeous, but I will stake a claim that the views out my parents' front living room window is about the prettiest view in Brown County," she said.

"It was fun growing up on a farm. I always had dogs. It was a pretty place. We have 118 acres, so the neighbors were close, but not too close."

Artists used to come and paint the farm's landscape.

"One told me at the top of the hill is the most beautiful place in Brown County," Junior said.

Robin will eventually inherit the farm and with the help of her cousins, who are farmers, she will continue to operate it.

This was not the first time the Pittman family farm has been recognized by the state with a Hoosier Homestead award.

The family first received the Centennial award in 1976. There's a sign in the yard of the home on the farm where Jerry and his mother Wilma currently live.

The Pittmans first arrived in Brown County in 1850 when Jerry's great-great-grandfather Thomas Pittman moved here from Ohio with his wife and seven children. He settled down the road from the current farm near Gnaw Bone.

One of Thomas Pittman's sons served in the Civil War and when he returned to Brown County in 1867 he bought the land where the farm stands now. One of the original structures from the 1867 farm still stands on the property that Jerry said he uses to this day.

When Jerry's great-grandfather passed away, he left the farm to Jerry's grandfather. His grandmother then left the farm to Jerry's dad. Jerry is now half owner of the farm with his mother Wilma.

"We plan to keep this farm in the family," Pittman said.

His daughters Jerrica and Leigh Ann both said they are interested in continuing the family farm. His daughter Jerrica recently built a home on the farm land where she lives with her family.

"We are here and plan to stay indefinitely," Jerry said.

"I tell people it's the best place in the world to live right here in Brown County, in Gnaw Bone, Indiana. I would never move. I will die here and probably my children feel the same way."



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REBUILT LIKE BEFORE

State bank building reopens following car crash, one year of repairs

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL YOUMANS | BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT



The historic Old State Bank building on Main Street reopened in 2021 after a driver crashed into it in April 2020, destroying the door and part of the building's foundation.

And now visitors are invited to check out the new business inside: Naughty Dog Books, which was previously located in the Heritage Mall. The bookstore moved to the Main Street location after repairs were completed.

Property owner Linda Hoff said that the reconstruction of the front relied on 300 custom-made blocks. The process started in May of 2020 and was completed in May of this year.

"It took so long because the block was custom-made for five months," Hoff said. "But I was able to have it rebuilt like before."

Inside, plaster was redone, the rewiring of the front wall was completed, new paint was put on the walls, floors were cleaned and more.

"It was just a process, you know," she said.

Hoff said she was meticulous in the process of interviewing tenants. When she met Naughty Dog Book owners Tarin Paradise and Shelby Roth, a mother-daughter duo, Hoff said that it seemed the building was custom designed for them to move in.

Hoff has owned the Old State Bank and surrounding properties since September of 1991. There are three other businesses in the complex: State Bank Arts Affair behind Naughty Dog Books and Our Little World behind Sweet Meraki Designs. There is also a classroom behind Our Little World, which will be home to do-it-yourself art classes for the businesses.

The exterior of the repaired old state bank building, now home to Naughty Dog Books.






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The interior of Naughty Dog Books, in the old state bank building on Main Street.

The children's section at Naughty Dog Books



The vault at Naughty Dog Books is a room dedicated to the true crime and mystery genre, as well as the home for some naughty dogs on the wall.

When the crash happened, a driver told police she was driving west on East Main Street when the sun prevented her from seeing and she drove the vehicle into the building.

A witness to the crash said he was on the corner of Van Buren and East Main streets when he heard the vehicle “squeal on the curb” and watched it “slam into the building,” an accident report from the Nashville Police Department states.

The building housed Joyfoli Plant Shop at the time, which opened in July 2018. They then transitioned into a mobile shop.

The building was built in 1906, according to the 1995 Brown County Interim Report. Over the years, it also had housed the Nashville Post Office; a realty office; a candy and gift shop; an antique store; the State Bank Arts Affair; Touch of Silver, Gold and Old; and a scooter and wheelchair rental store.

Naughty Dog Books opened in the Heritage Mall on Memorial Day weekend of 2020.

When Shelby Roth was driving home one night, she saw that the Old State Bank building’s repairs were complete, a chandelier hung from the ceiling and a “For Rent” sign sat in the window.

“I called my mom and we pounced on it,” Roth said. “We love it.”

They’ve expanded their merchandise, having a larger, more open location with more floor space.

Customers enter into the large open entryway filled with books and literary gifts. They can circle around through the entire building with connecting doorways that make the building an open square.

In the middle of the space is the vault, which is now home to Naughty Dog’s true crime genre.

With wood beams, high ceilings, the trim and chandelier, Roth said the “upscale, classy Brown County” aesthetic of the space is a “perfect fit” for their shop.



The faith and family genre section at Naughty Dog Books.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nicholas and Rachelle Cannon-Mason, owners of the Wise Woman Shoppe.

Wise Woman Shoppe co-owner Nicholas Cannon-Mason stands on the porch of the business he and his wife, Rachelle, run, in the old location of the Sweetwater Gallery on Van Buren Street.

Light and love for sale

The Wise Woman Shoppe opens on Van Buren Street

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL YOUMANS | BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT



D

During pandemic shutdowns, many people found themselves taking up new hobbies and pastimes, like baking, crafting, music and more.

One Whiteland couple turned what began as a pandemic pastime into a business in Nashville.

Nicholas Cannon-Mason was notified by the NextDoor neighborhood app of someone selling candle-making supplies. He thought that he'd surprise his wife, Rachele, with the equipment. That evolved from giving and selling candles to friends then to a Facebook group, the Wise Woman Shoppe, where they built an online community.

Initially, Rachele said she wondered "why in the world" her husband would go buy a startup kit for candle making. She was intrigued, though, and made a few scents for fun. Then she tried to sell some to family and friends.

"Before I knew it, the Wise Woman Shoppe was born," she said.

Now, they have a storefront on South Van Buren Street, in the building that once housed Sweetwater Gallery.

"This is all my wife's love project," Nicholas said. "We were not expecting it to turn into this."

The couple is from Whiteland, but Nicholas said their hearts have always been in Brown County and plan to build a home here one day. They honeymooned in Brown County after marrying on family property near Lake Lemon on July 4, 2014.

Nicholas owns his own insurance agency, Cannon-Mason Agency, in Whiteland. He said his family has always been entrepreneurs, but this is Rachele's first experience.

Rachele does custom orders, especially loving the nostalgic side of creating a candle.

"Lilac candles with lilac petals that remind them of childhood summers at grandma's house," she said. "Things like that started making me believe there was a higher purpose for candles."

While they can smell nice and make a home or office fragrant, Rachele said her own purpose for making candles became different. "It became memories and healing," she said.

Rachele's grandmother has played a role in inspiring what the Wise Woman Shoppe is all about. Rachele said her grandmother herself is a "wise woman."

"I grew up, because of her, with empathy and acceptance of all paths in life and a universal truth," she said.

History is her second inspiration for this shop. When it came to reading about the history and



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The shelves at the Wise Woman Shoppe are stacked with handmade items — candles, tea blends, jams and jellies, and local artwork are available for purchase



Crystals and a zodiac pendulum board available at the Wise Woman Shoppe



Paintings and drawings by artist Delaram Moghaddam don the walls of the old Sweetwater Gallery building.



lore of healers and wise women, Rachelle said she found their purpose was always love and light.

"To help those heal; to teach protection and acceptance; to show grace; most importantly to share their hearth," she said.

A hearth is "the heart of the home and the memory keeper," Rachelle continued.

While not everyone in the modern world has a hearth, a candle can act as a smaller version, Rachelle said.

"A portable memory when it smells like grandma's lilac bush blowing on a warm, soft summer breeze. A talking piece because it's unique," she said. "So for me, being a wise woman is offering your hearth, which is a symbol for love, light and grace. The hearth I offer is a candle."

The store does offer affordable, museum grade crystals to help people "find their path," Rachelle said.

She also has intention vials, smudge sticks and more.

The store also has an inventory of soy, paraffin-free candles, homemade jams and jellies, goats milk soaps, hand-blended teas, jewelry, crystals, decor, books, art and more.

Most every handmade item is made in the Cannon-Mason home. They were operating online for more than a year before getting the storefront location. They started making jams and jellies in spring 2021 with the banana jam being Nicholas' own creation.

"The Nashville House has their apple butter, we have our banana jam," Nicholas said.

"We hope it becomes a part of Nashville's fame," Rachelle said.

They also aim to be eco-friendly, offering a jar buy-back program where people can bring in clean mason jars with lids and receive \$1 off of their purchase.

Not only does the Wise Woman Shoppe feature the owners' own creations, but they also aim to feature local artists and artisans.

The Wise Woman Shoppe will offer promotions and special sales. They also plan on having evening events such as a "Wine and Candle" workshop where participants can leave with two or three candles they make themselves.

Although candles were the beginning of the store, Rachelle said there is so much more.

"Even if you stop in to just say 'Hi' or sit on the settee while listening to the fountain bubble, to people watch, or browse the used books selection, or just want to enjoy the Celtic music in the air, we hope to see you soon," she said.

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Sandstone cut from the Brown County Stone quarry, ready to be placed on the new sandstone steps and wall of Trail 2 at the Brown County State Park.

Harden said some of the steps are ten feet wide, which doesn't seem like much until it's laid.



THE FAMILY STONE

State park steps carved by grandson of original stonemason

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL YOUMANS | BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Even with snow on the ground, hiking on trails and checking out the different vistas is what draws visitors to the Brown County State Park year after year.

Visitors to the park this year may not know the history of the steps at Trail 2 in the state park and how they received much needed repairs thanks to the grandson of the man who originally did the work on the trail in the 1930s.

Over the years, the steps have deteriorated from natural erosion and wear-and-tear from the nearly 1.3 million annual visitors to the park. The steps were to be rebuilt much the way they were.

The stone trail steps and massive retaining wall, just east of the lower shelter house not far from the Saddle Barn, were put in by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the early 20th century.

The CCC — a New Deal program formed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression — enlisted men ages 18 to 25 for six-month renewable terms. They were paid \$30 per month, \$22 to \$25 of which would be sent home to their families. They were given room and board in camps.

Indiana's state parks were built by the hands of 64,000 CCC enlistees. The U.S. Army organized and transported thousands of

people to the work camps, with approximately 300,000 men at work by July 1933, explained Julia Pearson, former director of the Brown County Historical Society, in *Our Brown County* magazine. CCC crews also fought forest fires, planted trees, cleared and maintained access roads and did anti-erosion work.

In the Brown County State Park, CCC members built many of the buildings, shelters, tables, ovens, roads, trails and two lookout towers that still stand today, as well as Ogle Lake.

Brown County resident Thurman Harden was a CCC stonemason on these projects. Stone pieces were mined in the park, cut by hand and dry stacked. He worked on the sandstone steps from the lower shelter house to Abe Martin Lodge, as well as other structures in the park, Pearson reported.

Thurman's son, Jack Harden, started Brown County Stone in 1971. Jack built the business with his son, Kevin Harden, and Kevin has been cutting the stone to restore the wall and steps that his grandfather built nearly 90 years ago.

"In the '30s, they were just trying to get it built," Harden said. "Now they're taking the time to make it look original and also put in different drainage to preserve it for a lot



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Trail 2 will be closed for another month while Broady-Campbell Inc. restores the steps.

longer.”

Stone was laid by Broady-Campbell Inc., a masonry company with expertise in historic preservation. The Indianapolis company has been family-owned since 1921.

Brown County Stone has salvaged what original materials they can and has modeled new rocks in the same fashion, a hand-hewn style.

Before Harden’s father, Jack, was born, Thurman worked in the CCC camps, living at the state park during the week, then walking home or traveling by horse to Jackson Branch Ridge for the weekends, Kevin said.

Kevin remembers a time when he was young, sitting on the edge of the wall with his grandfather at the upper shelter in the state park. They were there for a family picnic, and his grandfather told him about the construction he did there years before.

“It’s kinda neat, this many years later to be reusing (the same stone),” he said. “There’s my rock that I’m cutting, next to a rock that my grandpa cut 85 years ago.”

The park had contacted Kevin about four years

ago to cut the stone, but for three years, he didn’t get a follow-up call. The final year, Kevin thought maybe he would quit waiting and retire.

However, “I wanted to hang in there and do the same stone my grandpa did,” he said.

Construction on this project finally began November 2020.

Jack had done stonework before, when Kevin was young. He said many local buildings were built with stone that his father would cut in the creek in the early 1960s, a decade before he started his own business in the field.

Brown County Stone began when Kevin and his father decided to transition from home construction to rock cutting and quarrying. The bridge on State Road 46 West (between Brown County Inn and the CVS Pharmacy) was about to be built, and the builders asked Jack about buying dirt off the hillside.

When the builders excavated the dirt, piles of rock were uncovered and laying everywhere, Kevin said. “My dad looked at me and asked if I’d rather build houses or break rocks,” he said. “I said, ‘Looks to me like I’m gonna break rocks.’”

“It’s kinda neat, this many years later to be reusing (the same stone.) There’s my rock that I’m cutting, next to a rock that my grandpa cut 85 years ago.” – Kevin Harden



Stonemasons with Broady-Campbell Inc. at work on the Trail 2 steps at Brown County State Park.



They started Brown County Stone the next year, on Harden Holler Road.

“He showed me everything there was,” Kevin said about his father. Since then, they’ve done stonework on a range of projects, including a six-foot-tall, four-foot-wide cross for Brown County Community Church’s fireplace.

“Stuff like that is neat, to work on something that’s going to stick out,” he said.

The family business has carried on through the years, with Kevin taking over for his father; his cousin, Keith Woods, working for Kevin since he was 14; and Kevin’s youngest daughter’s boyfriend also joining the team.

In the future, Brown County Stone will cut stone for other areas in the state park, but their focus for 2021 was on the restoration of this Harden history.

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THE HEART OF BROWN COUNTY

Brown County Community Foundation recognizes YMCA executive director for service to community during pandemic

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL YOUMANS | BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

V

Visitors to Brown County this year trying to get their best time running the Hilly-Half Marathon may not know that one of the marathon's organizers was honored for her commitment to the community.

Brown County YMCA Executive Director Kim Robinson was recognized for making sure her community's needs are met and was named the Brown County Community Foundation's 2021 John D. Rudd Community Service Award winner for her efforts to "take on challenges and go beyond the requirements of her position," said 2020 John D. Rudd recipient Teed Howard.

The Hilly Half-Marathon is one of the YMCA's major fundraisers.

The community service award is the highest award given to a Brown County volunteer. It's named for its first recipient, a revered public servant whose name now graces the ball diamonds at Deer Run Park. Robinson received the surprise award at a pop-up food pantry, which could not have been more appropriate, Howard said.

Robinson has been the director and CEO of the Brown County YMCA since 2005. Along with her work at the YMCA and organizing the annual marathon in the state park, she's an active Rotarian, serves on the board of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, is active

with Leadership Brown County (LEAP) and handles the day-to-day administration for Access Brown County.

Her community service does not stop there. She also serves as co-chair of the iconic Howard Hughes Morel mushroom sale, is a part of Leadership Brown County, Systems of Care and the newly formed Interfaith Alliance.

"And this list is not exhaustive," Howard said.

"Serving in a leadership role is the norm for Kim. Her contributions far exceed the direct responsibilities of her position as executive director at the YMCA. This means 10 to 12 hour days and meals eaten on the run."

Howard said that Robinson goes "the extra mile" in the community, especially in times of need when Robinson has not hesitated to step into a leadership role.

"Preparing meals, knocking on doors of vulnerable households to check on their welfare, helping families who need transportation services, providing coats to children and youth in need, opening the YMCA for extended hours so individuals could get respite from the heat or take showers, or sitting with a widow who just lost her husband until family members could arrive," Howard said.



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Kim Robinson is the 2021 winner of the Brown County Community Foundation's John D. Rudd Community Service Award. She received the award for her service to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The community service award is the highest award given to a Brown County volunteer. It's named for its first recipient, a revered public servant whose name now graces the ball diamonds at Deer Run Park.



DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO

From left, Kim Robinson, Jeff O'Bryan, Clint Hammes and Warren Schade unload one of two trucks full of food donated from Midwest Food Pantry to be placed in the Hard Truth Hills cooler on April 3, 2020. Robinson is the 2021 winner of the Brown County Community Foundation's John D. Rudd Community Service Award. She received the work for her service to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"People trust her, know her and rely on her authentic and sincere intent."
- Teed Howard



SUBMITTED PHOTO

TRIAD, COAD and YMCA volunteers and the Brown County Sheriff's Department helped at the latest Pop Up Food Pantry on June 29, 2020 at Hard Truth Hills. Kim Robinson, third from right, recently received the 2021 John D. Rudd Community Service Award for her work in the pandemic.



Going the extra mile has never been truer for Robinson than during the COVID-19 pandemic where she stepped up as one of the key leaders with Brown County COAD (Community Organizations Active in a Disaster).

She has been the dispatcher, the problem solver and the point person for Brown County over the last year and a half. She answers the COAD phone as well as the YMCA phone and her email, communicating at all times of the day.

She's also been the "face and backbone" of food distribution sites throughout the pandemic, Howard said.

Robinson helped to write a grant to the community foundation's Rapid Response Fund for a walk-in cooler and freezer at Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Brown County.

She worked with Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Brown County's director Shirley Boardman to secure a refrigerated truck to handle the pallets of food that were available for the pop-up pantries, but needed to be picked up from food banks.

Robinson has kept the records of each pop-up pantry and the more than 100 tons of food distributed. She is also in attendance at each pantry, doing whatever job needs to be done.

"Whatever the project or need, Kim's involvement and reputation are core ingredients," Howard said. "People trust her, know her and rely on her authentic and sincere intent."

Boardman described Robinson as "resilient" and as a "gift" to Brown County.

"(Robinson) has the heart of Brown County in everything she does, inspires others to be leaders, knows how to involve others and how to evolve a project, and remain positive," Boardman said.

"Her personality wears well no matter the situation. Her ego never overshadows her heart and authentic concern. She is willing to do the smallest of tasks and the big ones. Sacrificing herself, her personal time, her own need for food and water, even her family time is never an issue. She is so deep in my heart and in my gratitude. What a gift she is to Brown County."

Robinson was almost speechless when receiving the award.

"I don't know what to say, that brought tears to my eyes," Robinson said. "This whole past year has been a true act of love. I plan my vacations around pop-ups."

Robinson repeatedly expressed that the work she does is a part of a team effort.

"I work with a great group of people as you can see," she said, motioning to volunteers at the pantry.

"I have the support of my family, my friends, volunteers and the community. We have made some huge end-roads in bringing people together in all of this. That has been the biggest blessing of COVID-19 is the community involvement and the pulling together of Brown County. This is a great group to serve with and to serve to."

Robinson said she was honored "beyond belief" to receive the John D. Rudd award.

"I'm just kind of the cog," she said. "(The volunteers) are out on the street, driving food everywhere — I just keep things moving."

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THE BROWN COUNTY INN is just three blocks south of downtown Nashville. The beautifully remodeled restaurant and bar serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily as well as a brunch menu on Saturdays and Sundays. Enjoy a house cocktail or local craft beer by the fireplace in the lounge or treat the family to dinner on the large deck that overlooks the beautiful hills of Brown County. Brown County Inn serves a local, homemade, all-natural cuisine that will accommodate and satisfy any diet. Try our Midwest Cheese Board or Fischer Farms Peach & Bourbon Pork Chops and finish off your meal with homemade dessert. Please call (812) 988-2291 for hours and reservations. 51 State Road 46 East, Nashville, www.browncountyinn.com.

Producing award-winning wines for more than 30 years, **BROWN COUNTY WINERY** offers locally made wine, wine accessories and gifts for wine people, along with local jams, salsa and jelly. The tasting room is at the corner of Main Street and Old School Way. Stop by the winery and tasting room in Gnaw Bone, 4520 State Road 46 East. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, year-round. (812) 988-6144 or (888) 298-2984, www.browncountywinery.com.

THE CANDY DISH, 61 W. Main St., offers fine chocolates, fudge made right in the store, nostalgic candy and much more. Check out the Mr. Peanut collectibles display. (812) 988-7606.

One of the charms of **CARMEL CORN COTTAGE**, 82 N. Van Buren St., is the size and how many products can fit inside. It serves everything from popcorn to candies to caramel apples and drinks. Even the signs on the walls are for sale. Samples are always free. (812) 988-6011, www.carmelcorncottage.com.

CASA DEL SOL, 101 Washington St., offers authentic Mexican cuisine in the heart of Nashville. Open daily with a kids menu and a full bar. (812) 988-4535.

CEDAR CREEK WINERY & BREW CO., 38 E. Franklin St., features free tasting of locally made wines. The selection varies from bold dry reds to refreshing whites and sweet fruit wines. Open seven days a week from noon to 5 p.m.

COUNTRY HERITAGE WINERY, 225 S. Van Buren St., Coachlight Square, offers award-winning vinifera wines, plus well-known musicians — local and otherwise — performing all styles of music from 7 to 10 p.m. every Friday and Saturday. You'll find gourmet foods, cheese plates and gift items. Step upstairs to the loft and enjoy wine amid the Native American art in the John Elmore Gallery. Weather-permitting, grab a spot on the covered patio. Group tastings can be arranged in advance. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, noon to 7 p.m. Sunday. (812) 988-8500, www.countryheritagewinery.com.

THE CHOCOLATE MOOSE, 278 S. Van Buren St., has been making delicious, premium homemade ice cream since 1933. Whether you're craving a shake, malt, banana split, sundae or a blizz, any of the 16-plus homemade flavors will hit the spot. Don't have a sweet tooth or need a little boost? it also serves coffee and espresso-based drinks all made with locally roasted beans from Brown County Coffee Company. Hungry too? You'll find everything from fresh-baked cinnamon rolls to coney dogs with homemade coney sauce on the menu. In a hurry? Don't settle for a chain. This is the only drive-thru in Nashville that doesn't rhyme with Ronald's. 278 S. Van Buren St., (812) 200-3101, www.moosebtown.com.



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FOOD, SNACKS & SPIRITS

Enjoy live music every Friday and Saturday night at **CORN CRIB LOUNGE** at the Brown County Inn, junction of state roads 46 and 135. Local musicians, as well as artists from surrounding areas and states, provide the live entertainment. (812) 988-2291.

THE DAILY GRIND, established in 1977, offers gourmet coffees and teas along with a delicious food menu. Breakfast features include Belgian waffles, yummy egg dishes, old-fashioned biscuits and gravy and a wide variety of Shapiro's of Indianapolis bagels. Lunch choices include jumbo deli-style sandwiches, snacks, pastries and other goodies. Four coffees are brewing at all times. The restaurant also offers smoothies, iced coffees, old-fashioned root beer floats, fresh iced teas and ice-cold sodas. Come by and let the staff take care of your coffee needs, hunger pangs and sweet tooth. Open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. "Not just a coffee shop; a destination!" (812) 988-4808.

THE FARMHOUSE CAFE (seasonal), 5171 N. Upper Bean Blossom Road, offers healthy, fresh homemade meals and refreshing drinks served in an 1830s brick farmhouse. Enjoy homemade soups, salads, sandwiches, desserts, iced teas and fruit frizzes. Stroll through two acres of herb and perennial gardens before or after your meal. Lunch hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, and dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. Call for seasonal hours. (812) 988-2004.

HARVEST PRESERVE, 61 W. Main St., makes its own apple butter, plus sauces, mixes and spices. (812) 988-7606.

Enjoy assorted fresh roasted nuts, fudge, chocolates and more at **JACK AND JILL NUT SHOP**, beside the Playhouse on South Van Buren Street. Mail order is available. (812) 988-7480.

With its rustic charm and quaint elegance, the **LITTLE GEM RESTAURANT**, at the Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park, is the perfect place to sit back, relax and enjoy a Hoosier classic from the menu or a plate of offerings from one of the unique buffets. The outdoor patio seating offers spectacular views of the woods and park. The Little Gem Restaurant is open daily for breakfast from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and dinner from 5 to 9 p.m.

MCDONALD'S, Salt Creek Plaza, offers fast food, including burgers and fries, fish sandwiches, chicken sandwiches and assorted salads, plus breakfast favorites. Open daily. (812) 988-4452.

MILLER'S ICE CREAM HOUSE, 61 W. Main St., has been making real homemade ice cream, the old-fashioned way with rock salt and ice, since 1977. Enjoy all the basic flavors (and then some) served in dishes, cake or homemade waffle cones, as shakes, malts, sodas or floats or on warm homemade cobbler or a sundae. Hours vary by season. (812) 988-0815, www.millericecream.com.

At **NASHVILLE FUDGE KITCHEN**, 60 S. Van Buren St., the creamy fudges are made the old-fashioned way, cooked in a copper kettle and hand-paddled on thick marble tables. The gourmet candy-coated popcorns are made from original recipes, and the hand-dipped candy, caramel apples, creamy fudge, gelato and ice cream are all favorites. Nashville Fudge Kitchen ships everywhere. (812) 988-0709, www.nashvillefudgekitchen.com.

At the **NASHVILLE GENERAL STORE & BAKERY**, 118 E. Washington St., enjoy chicken salad with grapes and pecans served with pumpkin bread, fresh soups or other sandwiches on fresh-baked bread or Kaiser rolls, plus fried biscuits with apple butter and fresh-baked desserts. (812) 988-6362.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY SUPPER CLUB and **HICKORY SPORTS BAR**, 61 S. Van Buren St., is a full-service restaurant and bar serving lunch and dinner daily. Now nightlife has a new address with live entertainment, dancing and sports. Come hang out for major sporting events viewed on the gigantic-screen TV. It's centrally located at the corner of Van Buren and Main streets in the heart of Nashville. Reservations recommended. (812) 778-9730, www.goldenticketproductions.com and on Facebook.

Specializing in looseleaf teas, **SWEETEA'S TEA SHOP**, 225 S. Van Buren St., Suite C, in Coachlight Square, also offers coffee and lemonade and a variety of cakes, cupcakes and cookies. Stop in for a relaxing getaway where you can unwind by the fireplace with a nice cup of tea, read a book, surf the Web with free Wi-Fi or chat with friends. Sweetea's can be a destination for a bridal shower, baby shower, birthday party or a gathering place for a book club or Bible study. (812) 988-6515.

TROLLY'S (seasonal), at the corner of Van Buren and Gould streets, offers its own hickory-smoked pork barbecue, homemade sloppy Joes, Italian sausage and hot dogs with all the trimmings. Ask about the daily specials. Call for seasonal hours. (812) 988-4273.

HANDMADE IN BROWN COUNTY

B3 GALLERY is at 61 W. Main St., on the second floor of the Village Green Building. It sells fine art and crafts made by local artists. Stop in to see the selection of jewelry, photography, glass, pottery, wood, painting, lithophanes, fiber arts and more. The gallery is open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CATHY'S CORNER, 39 E. Franklin St., offers a unique mix of antiques, jewelry, art and hard-to-find items. Take a look at the wide variety of items and paintings. Painting classes are available by appointment. (812) 988-4091 or email cathyscornerbc@gmail.com.

THE CHEEKY OWL, 71 W. Franklin St. in downtown Nashville, sells a little bit of everything, from Peace Frog clothing and stickers, essential oils, skincare and fragrances by Indigo Wild (ZUM), and Bridgewater soy candles infused with organic and natural scents. Owners Shelly and Ross Benson moved from the Chicago suburbs to Brown County in September 2017 and decided to open their shop in 2018. They strive to find fun and original products not offered elsewhere in other Nashville shops. Handcrafted straw and wool hats from Conner Hats give the men something to shop for while their wives shop the ladies jewelry and handcrafted bags and purses made from re-purposed military tents. CBD products from Medterra, Extract Labs and Green Roads can be purchased, and The Cheeky Owl prides itself in quality of these products and knowledge of their benefits.

JOHANNA LEE BATHOLOGY allows you to transform your home into a spa. It offers all-natural cold press and glycerin soaps, luxury bath salts, bath bombs, candles, lotion bars, sugar scrubs, gift baskets and more, all handmade in the shop. Find it at 58 W. Main St. (812) 988-6898, bathologyjohannalee.com.

Since 1992, **MOONSHINE LEATHER CO.** has offered high-quality handmade leather goods. All products are made in the U.S.A. by staff. Solid leather belts, work aprons, cellphone cases, wallets, handbags and briefcases are but a few of the items. They use only luxurious, high-quality beautiful leathers for their goods and guarantee the workmanship. Moonshine Leather Co., 38 S. Van Buren St., is open daily, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Winter hours are 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. (812) 988-1326.

THE TOTEM POST, 78 S. Van Buren St., was opened in 1952 by Bill and Marielle Jockey. At the time, they did custom leatherwork and carried handmade American Indian jewelry and foreign crafts. Today, their merchandise has expanded, but the atmosphere is much the same. Many people bring their grandchildren to visit the shop they remember from childhood. Open daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. (812) 988-2511, www.thetotempost.com.

Albert Drake Jr. creates contemporary jewelry and buys and sells estate, antique silver and gold jewelry at **TOUCH OF SILVER, GOLD & OLD**, 87 E. Main St., (812) 988-6990.

TULIP TREE JEWELRY is inside B3 Gallery on the second floor of the Village Green Building. Local jeweler Heather Bussert creates and sells her beaded pieces on site. Stop in and treat yourself to a local souvenir, or commission something special. Open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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ABE MARTIN LODGE, in Brown County State Park, has a 12,000-square-foot indoor water park, available to hotel guests first and to the public as space allows. (812) 988-4418.

BILL MONROE MEMORIAL MUSIC PARK & CAMPGROUND, 5163 State Road 135 North, is home to the oldest, continuous running bluegrass festival in the world. Visit the Bluegrass Hall of Fame & Country Star Museum and, on weekends, shop at the Bean Blossom Flea Market.

BROWN COUNTY PLAYHOUSE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 70 S. Van Buren St., is a 426-seat venue committed to bringing the best in a variety of local and national entertainment offerings. You'll find the latest news on upcoming performances by visiting www.BrownCountyPlayhouse.org which frequently lists special offers. Join the chat about what is happening behind the scenes by liking the venue on Facebook. (812) 988-6555.

BROWN COUNTY MUSIC CENTER, 200 Maple Leaf Blvd., is a 2,000-seat music venue featuring regional and national acts performing every month. To learn more about the music center, see their schedule of shows and purchase tickets visit www.browncountymusiccenter.com. Find the music center on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. (812) 988-5323.

BROWN COUNTY STATE PARK, Indiana's largest state park, offers camping, hiking trails, mountain bike trails, horse trails, a saddle barn and nature center, picnicking, a swimming pool, fishing, tennis and playgrounds. Open year-round. (812) 988-6406, www.IN.gov/dnr/parklake.

BROWN COUNTY WINERY has been making award-winning wines for more than 30 years. The tasting room is at the corner of Main Street and Old School Way. Don't forget to stop by the winery and tasting room in downtown Gnaw Bone, 4520 State Road 46 East. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, year-round. (812) 988-6144 or (888) 298-2984, www.browncountywinery.com.

CEDAR CREEK WINERY & BREW CO., 38 E. Franklin St., features free tasting of locally made wines. The selection varies from bold dry reds to refreshing whites and sweet fruit wines. Open seven days a week from noon to 5 p.m.

COUNTRY HERITAGE WINERY, 225 S. Van Buren St. in Coachlight Square, provides award-winning vinifera wines, and well-known musicians — local and otherwise — perform all styles of music from 7 to 10 p.m. every Friday and Saturday night. Visitors will find gourmet foods, cheese plates and gift items, as well as a friendly, knowledgeable staff. Step upstairs to the loft and enjoy wine amid the Native American art in the John Elmore Gallery or, weather-permitting, grab a spot on the covered patio near the fireplace. Group tastings can be arranged in advance. (812) 988-8500, toll free at (888)-761-9463, www.countryheritagewinery.com.

EXPLORE BROWN COUNTY at Valley Branch Retreat is voted the No. 1 activity in Brown County by TripAdvisor. It offers 15 zip lines over 1 mile long; a treetop canopy adventure suspended 90 feet with speeds up to 45 mph; and the tallest, fastest and longest zips in Brown County. Visitors also can experience Night Flight zip lines with tiki torches and headlamps. Enjoy 30 miles of ATV, mountain biking and hiking trails, bike rentals, as well as paintball games and Arrow Tag archery games. The events hall accommodates 250 with a stage. Camping cabins accommodate 80. The property also offers camping, a fishing lake, canoes and paddle boats. Two-seater, four-wheel-drive hill buggy rides and an ATV training challenge tour are available, too. 2620 Valley Branch Road, (812) 988-7750, www.explorebrowncounty.com.

GRANDPA JEFF'S TRAIL RIDES. Relax on a journey with Grandpa Jeff at Grandpa Jeff's Trail Rides, 5889 S. Skinner Road, Morgantown. Take in the scenery and wildlife. No two rides are ever the same: sunny summer days, fall colors, winter snowfalls, spring blossoms, trail rides, pony rides, hayrides, cattle drives, custom excursions. Please give at least one hour notice. Reservations can be made using any of the following: 812-597-4630, cell 812-272-0702, www.GrandpaJeffsTrailRides.com, info@GrandpaJeffsTrailRides.com.

KIDSCOMMONS, a children's museum in downtown Columbus, 309 Washington St., offers families with toddlers to early teens a vibrant, safe setting where they can explore three floors of hands-on learning and fun. Spend time in the Childhood Garden, scamper up the 17-foot-tall climbing wall or hang out in the bubble room, where you can stand inside a body bubble. Don't miss museum favorites ExploraHouse, home of the world-famous giant toilet, and Kids on the Move, a healthy lifestyles exhibit. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Open Mondays mid-June through mid-August. (812) 378-3046, www.kidsccommons.org.

MIKE'S MUSIC & DANCE BARN (seasonal), 2277 State Road 46 West, offers country music and dancing. Beer, wine and food are available in this non-smoking facility. Friday and Saturday shows are from 7 to 11 p.m. (812) 988-8636, www.thedancebarn.com.

SCHOONER VALLEY STABLES (seasonal), 2282 State Road 46 West, offers more than the usual horseback ride, with the option to walk, trot or canter. With no age limit, the whole family is welcome. Hear some brief history of Brown County while meandering through the hills and hollers of Yellowwood State Forest. Reservations are appreciated. (812) 988-2859, www.schoonervalleystables.com.

WONDERLAB MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY, 308 W. Fourth St., Bloomington, puts visitors in touch with the wonder and excitement of science through popular experiences like the two-story grapevine maze, the kinetic contraption, the Bubble-Airium and close encounters with live animals. A special area provides science adventures for very young children. WonderLab is on the B-Line Trail in the downtown arts district. It's open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. (812) 337-1337, www.wonderlab.org.

YELLOWWOOD STATE FOREST, 772 Yellowwood Lake Road, has a 133-acre lake, primitive campgrounds, rowboat rental, hiking, hunting, fishing and bridle trails. (812) 988-7945, www.in.gov/dnr/forestry.



ART COLONY OF THE MIDWEST

ANNE RYAN MILLER GLASS STUDIO, 425 N. Johnson St., features handmade stained glass and metal overlay, lamps and sculpture. Specializing in custom-designed stained glass for the home or office since 1976, Anne Ryan Miller Glass Studio is a member of Hoosier Artist Gallery, 45 S. Jefferson St., and is also represented at Ferrer Gallery, 61 W. Main St., on the second floor of the Village Green Building. Open most days from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for directions. (812) 988-9766, www.AnneRyanMillerGlassStudio.com.

BROWN COUNTY ART GALLERY, three blocks east of the courthouse on Main Street, Brown County's original art gallery established in 1926, offers works for sale by Gallery Association members, plus consigned old Indiana art. The remodeled exhibition space now includes the Indiana Heritage Arts Gallery, featuring many of Indiana's professional artists. Browse the museum and enjoy works by the early art colony masters. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. There's ample parking and free admission. (812) 988-4609, www.browncountyartgallery.org, brncagal@att.net.

BROWN COUNTY ART GUILD, 48 S. Van Buren St., showcases fine art and the Marie Goth collection. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday; January and February, weekends only; closed Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. (812) 988-6185, www.browncounty.org.

BROWN COUNTY CRAFT GALLERY, a unique, cooperative gallery featuring the work of more than 30 local and area artisans, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except major holidays. It can be found at 62 E. Washington St. (812) 988-7058, www.browncountycraftgallery.com.

BROWN COUNTY POTTERY, 58 W. Franklin St., in the historic Antique Alley complex, is the working studio of Beth Mills. Pottery is made right on the premises and only sold here.

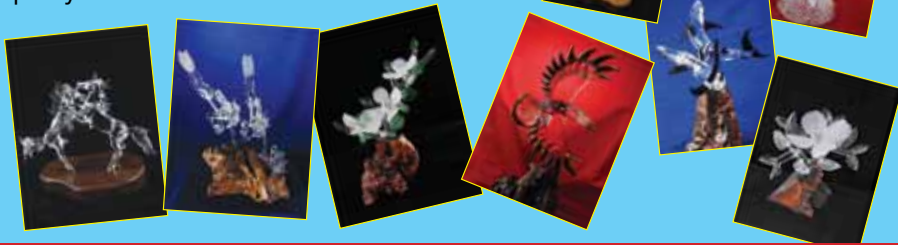
BUSSERT IMAGES is on the second floor of the Village Green Building.

CATHY HAGGERTY at Franklin Shoppes, 39 E. Franklin St., offers a unique mix of antiques, jewelry, art and hard-to-find items. Painting classes are offered. (812) 988-4091.

CHRIS GUSTIN — HOMESTEAD WEAVING STUDIO, 6285 Hamilton Creek Road, is two miles south of Crouch's Market near Hilltop Christian Camp. Gustin, an Indiana Artisan, offers hand-woven "recycled rugs," shawls, throws, clothing and scarves. Also, find equipment and supplies for weaving, knitting and spinning. Commissions are accepted. Visitors

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are welcome, and “day weaving” classes are available. Homestead Weaving Studio is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. most days from March through December and other times by appointment. www.homesteadweaver.com, (812) 988-8622, chris@homesteadweaver.com.

CHARLENE MARSH STUDIO & GALLERY, 4013 Lanam Ridge Road, features beautiful, plein air and studio oil paintings of the Brown County landscape by Charlene Marsh. The artist hikes deep into the forest to create the paintings using palette knives. Her award-winning paintings in collections throughout the United States and Europe are exhibited in the studio and gallery at the northern edge of Yellowwood State Forest, just five miles from town. Visitors are welcome. Open daily, but call first. (812) 988-4497, www.CharleneMarsh.com, Char@CharleneMarsh.com.

DIXIE FERRER, Ferrer Studio on Yellowwood Road, is the fine art gallery and studio of Dixie Ferrer. Dixie creates her paintings using a variety of techniques including mixed media collage and oil paints combined with cold wax. Her traditional and ethereal paintings are inspired by the nature that surrounds her. Open by appointment or special events. (812) 988-1245, ddferrer@att.net, www.dixieferrer.com.

HOOSIER ARTIST GALLERY, 45 S. Jefferson St., features the work of more than 25 local and Indiana artists. Visit for contemporary fine art, fine crafts and gifts. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (812) 988-6888, www.HoosierArtist.net.

The work of Patricia Rhoden Bartels can be seen at the **RHODEN GALLERY** at eXplore Brown County, 2620 Valley Branch Road. Rhoden Bartels captures the beauty of nature in oil and acrylic paintings. Her work hangs in major corporations, private collections and museums across the country.

SPEARS GALLERY, 5110 State Road 135 South, 10 miles from downtown Nashville, is the working studio of Larry Spears. Here, find traditional pottery, finely crafted, and displays of decorative and functional pottery. Spears Gallery also has opened a downtown location: 15 S. Van Buren next to the Nashville House. There, find pottery by Larry Spears, fine art photography by Kyle Spears and jewelry by Tyler Spears. Studio gallery (812) 988-1287, downtown gallery (812) 988-1286, www.spearspottery.com.

T. C. STEELE STATE HISTORIC SITE, 4220 T.C. Steele Road off State Road 46 West, is open from early spring to late fall. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday; closed Mondays and most holidays but open July 4 and Labor Day. (812) 988-2785.

LODGING

1875 HOMESTEAD BED & BREAKFAST, 3766 State Road 46 East, is a charming country Victorian home built in the late 1800s. It invites you to step back in time and relax from the hustle-bustle and crowds of the village. Enjoy a scrumptious home-cooked country breakfast with richly brewed coffee or select teas. Complimentary soft drinks and homemade cookies are available each afternoon and evening. (812) 988-0853, homestead1875@aol.com.

ABE MARTIN LODGE & CABINS, Brown County State Park, offer 160 rooms/cabins, a 12,000-square-foot indoor aquatic center, a full-service restaurant, game room, cable, hiking trails and beautiful vistas. The lodge was built in 1932 of hand-hewn native stone and oak timbers cut in the park. The main lodge has two spacious and comfortable lobbies with two fireplaces. (812) 988-4418, abemartinlodge@dnr.state.in.us.

THE ALLISON HOUSE INN, South Jefferson Street, is a charming whole-house rental in downtown Nashville featuring seven guest rooms with private baths. (812) 365-0690, theallisonhouseinn.com.

THE BRICK LODGE is just a mile north of Nashville on State Road 135. Enjoy two bedrooms with two baths, a game room with a pool table, cable TV, gas fireplace, outdoor hot tub, gas grill and a fully equipped kitchen. The lodge accommodates eight people. (812) 988-6429, www.bricklodge.com.

The newly remodeled **BROWN COUNTY INN** is just three blocks south of downtown Nashville on the corner of state roads 135 and 46. The inn has 99 guest rooms with two suites, a restaurant and bar serving three meals daily, conference and meeting spaces, and a large year-round pool. Enjoy the beautifully landscaped grounds, including a new walkable edible garden, miniature golf, volleyball court and children's play area. The Salt Creek Trail runs along the back of property for easy walks into town. Each guest room features a walk-out covered porch or balcony, coffee maker, hair dryer, phone, flat-screen TV and complimentary high-speed WiFi. Call for availability and rates. 51 State Road 46 East, Nashville, (812) 988-2291, www.browncountyinn.com.

CAMP PALAWOPEC LODGE & RETREAT AREA, 3497 Clay Lick Road, offers a lodge that sleeps 30 guests and outdoor cabins that can accommodate 70 guests. Enjoy 300 acres of woods, trails, a 4-acre lake, canoes, kayaks, beach, campfire areas, basketball court, ultimate frisbee, soccer field, horseshoes, volleyball area, mountain bike trails, and an indoor meeting and dining area. Kitchen facilities are available. Open year-round. (812) 988-2689, www.camppalawopec.com.

QUALITY INN, 75 W. Chestnut St., is a quarter-mile from downtown Nashville. A Platinum and Gold Award winner, the hotel has spacious, clean, comfortable rooms with HD flat screens in every room, complimentary hot and cold breakfast, an indoor pool, fitness room and high-speed Internet. Zip line and trail ride packages are available as well as other special package rates. (812) 988-6118, www.choicehotels.com.

CORNERSTONE INN AND THE LODGE, downtown Nashville at 54 E. Franklin St., has proudly served from a “Foundation of Excellence” since 1993. The downtown campus includes 23 exemplary guest rooms, 12 cottage suites, a three-bedroom cottage, a lofty studio apartment and their newest addition, a three-bedroom two-story lodge. Some accommodations feature balconies, whirlpool tubs and fireplaces. Enjoy beautiful gardens, front porch rocking chairs, firepit, porch swings and community balcony, free on-site parking, and WiFi. Great for couples, girlfriend getaways, corporate meetings, church groups, craft and writing retreats and more! Cornerstone Inn is more than just quaint and cozy, it's a place for relaxation and rejuvenation. www.cornerstoneinn.com or 812-988-0300.

COZY BEAR LOG CABIN, State Road 46 West, can accommodate six guests with three bedrooms in queen beds. The upper level of this cabin has two bedrooms, a full bath with whirlpool tub and a pool table. The living room has a gas log fireplace. The television has a full satellite package and VCR/DVD player. The screened porch offers a relaxing hot tub. (765) 532-7454, www.browncountygetaways.com.

EXPLORE BROWN COUNTY provides affordable yet comfortable, rustic camping cabins grouped to accommodate 80 guests. Cabins have air-conditioning and heat and are equipped with a microwave and refrigerator. Some have cold-water sinks. Fire rings and picnic tables are provided outside each cabin. A public restroom with shower facilities is open year-round. After a full day of rigorous, exciting zip line, paintball and ATV activities, gather around the campfire to share adventure stories. Free WiFi available on front porch of cabins and front porch of Harvest Hall. 2620 Valley Branch Road, (812) 988-7750, www.explorebrowncounty.com.

FONDULAC FARM CABIN RENTALS, 5 miles west of Nashville on Lanam Ridge Road, offers three unique, fully-equipped cabins on 47 scenic acres with views, ponds, fishing, canoeing, hiking, fireplaces, outdoor fire pits, a hot tub and Internet. Cabins accommodate up to six people. (812) 988-4796, www.fondulacfarm.com.

GREEN VALLEY LODGE, 692 State Road 46 West, offers individually appointed rooms and grounds in a safe, quiet setting. The lodge offers king-size beds in the Royal Spa Hot Tub Suites and two double beds or one queen in the cozy overnight rooms. Ask about weeknight discounts. Wireless Internet is available. (812) 988-0231, www.greenvalleylodge.com.

HILLS O' BROWN VACATION RENTALS, 4118 State Road 46 East near Gnaw Bone, is one of the largest full-service rental management companies in southern Indiana, managing more than 100 vacation homes, log cabins, guest suites and cottages in Brown, Bartholomew and Monroe counties. All vacation homes are fully furnished; most offer hot tubs, seasonal fireplaces and game rooms. They can accommodate from two to 24 guests, ideal for a romantic retreat, family gathering or celebrating a special occasion. The homes are located in various areas throughout the county: on private, wooded acreage, in the heart of Nashville, near Indiana University or with a scenic view. Reservations and information about all homes are available online at www.browncountylogcabins.com. Office hours are Mondays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (812) 988-6429.

HIDDEN VALLEY INN, 201 N. Van Buren St., is a charming hotel just a short walk to shops, restaurants, theaters, galleries and activities. Each suite features a kitchen, dining area and living room. (812) 988-9000, (877) 988-9099, www.hiddenvalleyinn.net.

HILLTOP CABIN & LUXURY SUITES, 3.5 miles from downtown Nashville, offers a range of options, from a one-bedroom cabin with fireplace to suites with full kitchens, seasonal gas log fireplaces, whirlpool tubs, pool table, big screen TV and private decks. Every suite and cabin has a VCR and DVD player, as well as VHS movies. Charcoal grills, a picnic table and fire pit are available for use by all guests. (812) 988-0984, www.browncountycabins.com.

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LODGING

HOTEL NASHVILLE, 245 N. Jefferson St., offers 45 rooms with an indoor pool, hot tub, restaurant and lounge. The hotel features one- and two-bed suites with kitchenettes, dining/living room, two baths, balcony, cable TV and WiFi. Whirlpool suites and hot tub rooms available. Great for weddings, banquets and off-site catering. (812) 988-8400, www.hotelnashville.com.

The **IRIS GARDEN COTTAGES & SUITES** are quaint, cute and comfortable. The Iris Garden rests in the heart of the village of Nashville across the street from Big Woods restaurant and brewery. Our wonderful location allows you to walk out of your door and begin exploring the shops, restaurants, wineries and breweries without having to drive anywhere. A two-minute stroll will take you to six different restaurants (and four more within a five-minute walk from us). We offer comfortable accommodations of varying sizes that sleep from two to eight guests, some with kitchens, but all with a coffee maker, microwave and refrigerator. All have wonderful decks to sit on in the evenings and take in the fresh Brown County air. Open year-round. 812-988-2422, VisitBrownCounty.com.

LIL BLACK BEAR INN, 8072 State Road 46 East, is a six-room bed and breakfast serving a delicious homemade breakfast every morning. All rooms have private bathrooms, flat-screen TVs, satellite, mini refrigerators and free WIFI. Three rooms have two-person spa tubs and two have single-person spa tubs. Enjoy three acres of land which include a pond, grill, firepit and large patio. Pets and children are allowed. Lil Black Bear is close enough to downtown to enjoy all Nashville has to offer while still enjoying beautiful Brown County. (812) 988-2233, www.lilblackbearinn.com

THE NORTH HOUSE, 194 N. Van Buren St., offers three bedrooms featuring two king-sized beds, one queen-sized bed and a queen sleeper sofa, as well as private parking, a privacy fence around the rear deck, a grill and hot tub. (812) 988-6429, www.northhousegetaway.com.

OLD MAGNOLIA HOUSE INN, 213 S. Jefferson St. (behind the BP gas station, above 4th Sister Vintage) has overnight rooms filled with antique and vintage chairs, dressers and tables. Each room includes the modern amenities of Smart Cable TVs, pod coffee makers and wireless Internet. Three large, private rooms offer big comfy beds, lots of blankets, quilts, pillows, books and board games. The porch and common areas are great places for conversation in the overstuffed chairs or an old-fashioned game at the table. The inn accommodates up to 10 guests. Online reservations are available via the Old Magnolia House Facebook page.

RUSTIC ELEGANCE, State Road 46 West, is a newly-constructed four-bedroom log home on four acres with a panoramic view to the south and beautiful wooded views in every other direction. Decks and/or porches surround the cabin. It comes with a fully-equipped kitchen, a master bedroom with a king bed and master bath with a Jacuzzi tub large enough for two. The cabin also has a half-bath for guests, a sunroom overlooking the woods and two bedrooms with king beds upstairs. (765) 783-3003, www.browncountygetaways.com.

THE SEASONS LODGE AND CONFERENCE CENTER, 560 State Road 46 East, is perched on top of one of Brown County's softly rolling hills. This full-service hotel features recently remodeled guest rooms, restaurant and lobby area. (812) 988-2284, (800) 365-7327, www.seasonsllodge.com.

THE ANTIQUE CABIN, THE GARDEN CABIN, THE KELLY REED CABIN AND THE PINES CABIN, on Clay Lick Road, are individual, fully-furnished log cabins that sleep two to eight guests each. They have complete kitchens, vintage claw-foot tubs and antique décor on the inside; and secluded, woodsy settings outside. Some cabins feature fireplaces, lofts or decks. They all include access to a 4-acre lake, hiking trails, canoes and kayaks, and are 10 minutes from Nashville. (812) 988-2689, www.logcabinsfobrowncounty.com.

CONFERENCES, WEDDINGS & RETREATS

ABE MARTIN LODGE, Brown County State Park, offers meeting rooms, conference facilities and private dining areas for conferences, meetings, weddings or retreats. Seating capacity ranges from 10 to 400. The banquet department caters private meals, snacks and breaks and can also prepare a barbecue or meal function at one of the park shelter houses for groups of 50 or more. For smaller picnic groups, the lodge can prepare box lunches. (812) 988-4418, www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/inna/abe/index.html.

ARTISTS COLONY INN, corner of Franklin and Van Buren streets, is a romantic, 19th-century-style inn offering an elegant banquet room for bridal showers, rehearsal dinners or wedding receptions with 20 charming guest rooms and three executive whirlpool suites. Special menu selections are served plated or buffet-style. The inn also offers meeting space for up to 80 people. The Artists Colony specializes in small meetings with two meeting rooms that accommodate 10 to 50 people. Complete audiovisual equipment and high-speed Internet access are available. (812) 988-0600, www.artistscolonyinn.com.

THE BROWN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER, 90 E. Gould St., is a centrally located venue in Nashville for receptions, reunions or meetings. It features a spacious Grand Hall, small rooms and a catering kitchen. 812-988-2899, browncountyhistorycenter.org.

THE BROWN COUNTY INN is conveniently located just three blocks south of beautiful downtown Nashville on the corner of state roads 135 and 46. With the hills of Brown County as its backdrop, the recently remodeled, 99-room inn sits on 10 beautifully landscaped acres, with a restaurant and bar on site. Amenities include a large, covered indoor pool, playground, miniature golf, volleyball, complimentary high-speed WiFi and more. The Brown County Inn has both indoor and outdoor event spaces perfect for your wedding, retreat, conference, or reunion of up to 200 people. Please call (812) 988-2291 or email sales@browncountyinn.com for more information. 51 State Road 46 East, Nashville, www.browncountyinn.com.

CAMP PALAWOPEC LODGE & RETREAT AREA, 3497 Clay Lick Road, has a camp log cabin lodge that sleeps 30 guests, and outdoor cabins can accommodate 70 guests. Guests can enjoy 300 acres of woods, trails, a 4-acre lake, canoes, kayaks, beach, campfire areas, basketball court, ultimate Frisbee, soccer field, horseshoes, volleyball area, mountain bike trails, and an indoor meeting and dining area. Kitchen facilities are available. The property is open year-round. (812) 988-2689, www.camppalawopec.com.

QUALITY INN, 75 W. Chestnut St., is perfect for retreats. Guests can enjoy the lodge-like atmosphere with a cozy lobby and spacious guest rooms, and the indoor pool and fitness center. (812) 988-6118, www.choicehotels.com.

CORNERSTONE INN AND THE LODGE, 54 E. Franklin St., is in the heart of Nashville. The campus consists of 40 guest rooms, some with balconies, whirlpool tubs and fireplaces. Meeting facilities can hold up to 50 guests. View all rooms, rates and specials at www.CornerstoneInn.com. To contact our group sales office, call 1-812-988-0300 or 1-888-383-0300.

THE HARVEST HALL at eXplore Brown County Retreat Center and outdoor stage offer the perfect setting for weddings, conferences or parties. Plan an outdoor ceremony on the stage, but should it rain, move into the heated or air-conditioned hall. Cater the event yourself using the prep kitchen and save big money. The hall comfortably seats 200 and is furnished with tables and chairs and a small bar area, stage and decorated with rustic antiques and original paintings. The covered porches accommodate 50 additional guests. Restrooms with showers and changing rooms for the bride are provided. The fireplace and beautiful wooden staircase create the perfect spot for a wedding. eXplore Brown County at Valley Branch Retreat, 2620 Valley Branch Road, (812) 988-7750, www.explorebrowncounty.com.

HOTEL NASHVILLE, 245 N. Jefferson St., offers 45 rooms with an indoor pool, hot tub, restaurant and bar. Perfect for small meetings, weddings, rehearsal dinners, receptions and banquets. Off-site catering at local venues also available. (812) 988-8400, www.hotelnashville.com.

SALT CREEK GOLF RETREAT, 2359 State Road 46 East, offers a beautiful banquet facility that can accommodate 20 to 200 people. The facility overlooks the golf course and is great for weddings, receptions, reunions, corporate events and small meetings. On-site catering is available. (812) 988-7888, www.saltcreekgolf.com.

THE SEASONS LODGE AND CONFERENCE CENTER, 560 State Road 46 East, offers space for simple receptions or technologically enhanced conferences complete with high-speed Internet. The Seasons Lodge has 10 meeting rooms that accommodate 10 to 500 people and can accommodate up to 400 people for weddings or receptions. Choose from served or buffet menus, hors d'oeuvres and cash or host bars. The complex is also available for bridal teas, bridal showers, luncheons, rehearsal dinners and weddings. (812) 988-2284 or (800) 365-7327, www.seasonslodge.com.

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Holiday Art and Craft Show

NOV. 26-27

Visit the Seasons Lodge Holiday Art and Craft Show, 560 State Road 46 East. Many pieces will be available for sale. Breakfast, brunch and lunch will be available in the conference center dining area from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It's a Wonderful Life

Nov. 26-28

A live radio theater production at the Brown County Playhouse, 70 S. Van Buren St., 7:30 p.m., \$10 tickets. More information at www.browncountypayhouse.org.

Visits with Santa

Nov. 27, Dec. 10-11

Brown County History Center, 90 Gould Street

Tree lighting ceremony

NOV. 27

Don't miss the official Community Tree Lighting ceremony at the Brown County History Center, 90 E. Gould St., 5:30 p.m.

44th Annual Brown County Children's Auction

DEC. 3

Live auction benefiting featuring art, crafts, gift cards, Brown County merchant items and more. All proceeds are used to buy clothes for Brown County children in need at Brown County Inn Town Hall conference room, 51 State Road 46 East, 6 p.m. More information on Facebook at @bcchildrensauction.

Friendly Forest Winter Wonderland

DEC. 3, 4, 10, 11

Enjoy a walk through the Friendly Forest Winter Wonderland full of Christmas lights and music at Jackson Township Fire Department, 4831 Helmsburg Road, 6 to 8 p.m., free admission.

Brown County Christkindl Market

DEC. 3, 4

Artisan market in Coachlight Square, 211 S. Van Buren St., featuring decorated booths, live music, food, Santa Shop in Visitors Center, a tree lighting, Santa and Mrs. Claus and a traditional Christkindl Market Angel. Tree lighting and live music on Dec. 3 with the market open on both days from noon to 8 p.m.

Santa Train

DEC. 3

The Indiana Rail Road Company brings Santa and his friends to Helmsburg each year by train from the North Pole. Kids of all ages are invited to climb aboard and visit the big guy while the train is parked near the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Department, 4831 Helmsburg Road, in Helmsburg from 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.

Uplands Winter Wine Market

DEC. 4

The Indiana Uplands Wine Trail will be gathering at the historic Brown County Art Gallery, 1 Artist Drive, to offer a holiday shopping experience like no other. Tickets \$15, noon to 5 p.m. Taste wines from across the Indiana Uplands, sample specialty foods from local artisans and shop for the best in Indiana wines, wine accessories and more. Visitors also can explore the gallery exhibits, both permanent and seasonal, and watch as gallery members demonstrate their skills. For more information: www.indianauplands.com/event/uplands-winter-wine-market-2019-2.

'Believe: The Magic of Christmas'

DEC 3-5, 10-12, 17-19

This annual holiday live stage show from Golden Ticket Productions is filled with music, songs and characters to entertain the entire family at the Brown County Playhouse, 70 S. Van Buren St. Tickets are \$25, children 10 and under are free with paid adult. More information: www.browncountypayhouse.org.

Santa's Zip N' Sip

DEC. 3-30

Go ziplining with Santa, get a photo with him and join him for a cup of hot chocolate at eXplore Brown County at Valley Branch Retreat, 2620 Valley Branch Road, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$35 to \$75 per person depending on the zipline tour.

Witness Lindsey Sterling: Christmas Program 2021

DEC. 6

Live music, tickets starting at \$45, Brown County Music Center, 200 Maple Leaf Blvd. More information: browncountymusiccenter.com.

Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold

DEC. 16

From the author of "Late Nite Catechism" comes a holiday mystery production at the Brown County Playhouse. In this show, Sister takes on the mystery that has intrigued historians throughout the ages: Whatever happened to the Magi's gold? Sister retells the story of the nativity in this comedic holiday production at the Playhouse, 70 S. Van Buren St. Tickets are \$40 and \$35 for groups of 15 or more. More information: browncountypayhouse.org.

The Beach Boys Holiday Harmonies Tour 2021

DEC. 19

Live music, tickets starting at \$40, Brown County Music Center, 200 Maple Leaf Blvd. More information: browncountymusiccenter.com.

'Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's Wild & Swingin' Holiday Party

DEC. 22

Live music, tickets starting at \$25, Brown County Music Center, 200 Maple Leaf Blvd. More information: browncountymusiccenter.com.

Reverend Payton's Big Damn Band with special guests Myron Elkins and the Dying Breed and the Hammer and the Hatchet

DEC. 31

Live music, tickets on sale soon, Brown County Music Center, 200 Maple Leaf Blvd. More information: browncountymusiccenter.com.

Friends of T.C. Steele Member Art Show

FEB. 6-27

See an impressive array of original art made by Friends of T.C. Steele members at the T.C. Steele State Historic Site, 4220 T.C. Steele Road.

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Believe the Magic of Christmas 2021

Dec 3-5, 10-12, 17-19 | 7:30pm/2pm Sat & Sun



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December 9 | 7:30pm



Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold

December 16 | 7:30pm



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Showtimes, tickets & schedule online

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