“Everything Bowling Green”

The House Brothers
Perfecting the Lost Art of Gun Making

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Flip book over for THE NEW Home and Lifestyle Magazine
Sitting on the bank of the Green River in southeastern Butler County is the small town of Woodbury, Kentucky. With a population of less than 100, Woodbury, like most small towns, is unknown and unnoticed by most. If you drive around the area, you may see an unassuming log cabin. But probably what you don't know is that the man living in this cabin, Hershel House, is one of a handful of long rifle makers in the country, along with his brothers Frank and John. The whole family is involved in gun and knife making. Hershel and Frank make guns. John’s focus is on knives. Lally, Frank’s wife, does porcupine embroidery and moose hair embroidery on knife sheaths and accessories. All four are master artists known worldwide.

Long rifles gained popularity in the 1700s and 1800s and were commonly used for hunting or warfare. The rifle had an extremely long barrel and used rifling, which are spiral grooves in the bore, to increase stability and improve accuracy over the smooth bore muskets they eventually replaced. Long rifles took their place in American history for their use in many wars including the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

Hershel credits his grandfather and namesake, Hershel Finney, for his love of American history.
“His taught me to appreciate American history and kind of led me into my interest in early American history, the long rifle and all of that,” said Hershel. “He knew about it firsthand.”

As luck would have it, in 1956 when he was around 15, he stumbled upon an old rifle in an elderly neighbor’s barn. Mrs. Gibbs, the property owner, gave the rifle to Hershel. It had belonged to her husband’s father. Hershel set about cleaning it up and learned how to restore it. He knew a little about long rifles from his fourth-grade reader, Singing Wheels, which focused on life in the mid-1800s.

“It was so full of wonderful information about the frontier and it had quite a bit of information on the long rifle,” Hershel said. “So I had kind of a little bit of a jump when I found the long rifle. And I had actually been looking for one.”

His grandfather’s sister, Bessie Finney, gave him a powder horn that still had black powder in it and a bullet mold. He cast some lead bullets and within a few days of finding the gun, he was out shooting it.
“I learned to be able to handle that big old rifle and kill squirrels with it,” Hershel said. “It was deadly accurate. So it kind of shaped me into my interest in the long rifle, which has become a big part of my life.”

In 1961 Hershel joined the Marines. During his four years of service, he was a high shooter and won various competitions.

“I had a few good things happen to me in the four years I was in the U.S. Marine Corps because of my ability to shoot,” Hershel stated. “I was the high shooter in my platoon at Parris Island. That was a big deal. They considered every Marine a basic rifleman so I was made PFC. Later on, I beat our company commander in a shoot out and won the trophy he had put aside for himself. So I got a few perks from learning to shoot with a long rifle.”

When he was discharged from the Marine Corps in 1965, he joined the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and worked into a career.

“It was a long shot,” said Hershel. “There was a need for modern long rifle builders. I kept pondering that maybe I could have me a career building long rifles. That was in 1967. I’ve been building rifles ever since.”

At 79, he is currently working on restoring a rifle and has continuously built rifles, except the four years he was in the Marine Corps, since he found that one in the old barn. The first one he completely built was in 1959 when he was in high school.

In the years since, Hershel estimates he has built around 300 long rifles in addition to teaching gun building seminars and helping other people build rifles. He’s done an entire line of books and videos over the years on gun building, blacksmithing and other skills involved in the process. There is even an entire section about Hershel and how to make a long rifle in the Foxfire 5 book, published in the mid-70s.

“We’ve actually taught long rifle building through our seminars (at Woodbury) and Foxfire 5 book and here and there and helped several gunsmiths along the way” said Hershel. “They’re making their living building rifles, so it’s really been good. I’ve got my brothers, Frank and John both in this business with me. They’re both building guns and knives and enjoying the career that I helped get them started in, so I’m real proud. They come out here and help me with the seminars. We just do two or three here a year, though.”

A few years ago, Hershel, Frank and John completely hand built a rifle for the Contemporary Longrifle Association to raffle off as a fundraiser. It brought $140,000. They worked on it for about six months.

“I feel real proud to be a part of that,” Hershel said. “I think one reason is I didn’t have anybody around to help me when I started. I could really have come ahead a lot sooner with developing my skill if I had some help. So I think that helps me to want to help others.”

The building process to make a long rifle can take anywhere from a week or two for a plain one to a month for an ornate one. To be able to make a good long rifle requires a lot of different skills.

“You’ve got to be a good woodworker, metal blacksmith, a silversmith and be able to handle a gun.”

The brothers have also helped teach friends who now specialize in making knives, tomahawks and powder horns, as well as long rifles, and make a living doing it.

“It’s all tied together,” said Frank. “18th-century skills are all interconnected. One thing leads you to something else and they’re all intertwined.”
able to cast mounts and forge mounts and do all the silver and brass decorations,” Hershel said. “So there is a lot to it, and there’s several crafts involved. We do all the accessories that go with the long rifle. You need a patch knife to cut the patches that surround the bullet to go down the barrel. I make powder horns, bullet pouches, a lot of different things.”

“It’s all tied together,” said Frank. “18th-century skills are all interconnected. One thing leads you to something else and they’re all intertwined. And it’s as much about mindset often as it is about actually performing the skills. It takes a lifetime. It really does to figure it all out. It’s a unique art form. For gun making, you have to be at least conversant if not fluent in so many different facets to be able to pull it off. If you’re doing historical work, you have to have the education and the background.”

Hershel’s guns look more like the old-time rifles that were built a couple of hundred years ago because he likes to use the very same techniques, stains, saws and a lot of the same mannerisms. He builds the rifles in much the same manner they were originally built. He uses very few power tools which make the rifles look more 18th century. His guns range in price from a few thousand dollars up to about $25,000.

Even though he has decades of experience, Hershel feels like he is still working on perfecting his art.

“You either try to keep learning and keep progressing or you slide back the other way,” said Hershel.

Frank and Lally also follow Hershel’s philosophy on learning. They lived in Paris, Kentucky, for 12 years, where they restored the James Trabue log house in Ruddles Mills. The log home is one of the oldest standing structures in Kentucky. Frank had to teach himself how to do a lot of things in the restoration process.

“We hewed 27 new logs for that house,” said Frank. “We dressed 5,000 shingles, writhed out the gable boards, forged 5,000 nails to put the floors down, made timber windowsills and the window sashes and everything. It was really kind of sit down, scratch your head, get your tools together and figure out
brothers personally, it’s likely you’ve seen some of their work on TV or in movies.

“Mainly my brother Frank did that,” Hershel stated. “He did ‘The Patriot’ with Mel Gibson. He also did guns for ‘Master and Commander.’”

Frank and Lally have worked on or had their work appear in around 16 movies.


“It was an opportunity just to do something cool.”

Hershel’s had his brush with the movie industry as well. In the late ‘60s, Gov. Louie B. Nunn commissioned him to make a long rifle for Fess Parker when he was filming in Kentucky. Hershel and Fess became friends and he went to California on several occasions to meet with Fess. He also built a couple more rifles for Fess when he was working on other movies.

“We kind of got to be friends and he was the nicest, well-mannered gentleman that you’d ever want to meet,” recalled Hershel. “Just the neatest guy to be around. He certainly was a nice gentleman.”

Hershel’s latest venture is a book of cartoons. A self-taught artist, he did the illustrations for his section in the Foxfire book and has done art prints and sketches over the years. He’s currently working on a book of about 100 cartoons about his past adventures. He has about 50 years’ worth of cartoons he’s done along the way. A limited number of books will be printed and will be available through his Facebook page, “Hershel House Long Rifles and Such.”

For all his accomplishments, Hershel is a humble man. When asked about being known worldwide, he replied, “I don’t take that lightly. We treasure all of our friends and you just can’t have too many. Rick (Brown) got me started on the internet and through Facebook. Within a month, we had 5,000 friends. Facebook cut me off at 5,000 friends. So that kind of said a whole lot.”
Stevie Wonder said it best when he sang that music is the "language we all understand." It touches something deep within us. Behind the music are the artists, bands and stories that bring it all to life. When we hear our favorite songs, we need to hear more about the creators and their stories. Music documentaries tell hidden and not-so-hidden stories. They give us insights and history and make us fall in love all over again. SoundCheck Film Festival aims to bring you those stories – the ones you know and love as well as new ones that will make you fall in love for the first time.

Founder, and music lover Diann Nichols, hatched the idea of creating a new film festival in Bowling Green after seeing the overwhelming audience response to music documentaries at the Dallas International Film Festival and other festivals she worked. Diann, a native of Grayson County and a graduate of WKU, worked in Bowling Green several years after college before moving to Dallas, where she worked as a technical writer. After a while, she decided to make a career change and enrolled at community college, where she obtained an associate's degree in travel, special events and meeting management. Diann received an internship with a travel magazine, which led to her position as a content and marketing manager at the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Diann writes, “I had worked with several film festivals in Dallas (Dallas International Film Festival, VideoFest and USA Film Festival), which led to my interest in film. I started noticing that films about music and musicians were heavily attended and realized how much people (including myself) enjoyed them. That’s when I decided to have a film festival that would screen music documentaries exclusively. I did a lot of research and couldn’t find many festivals in that niche, so I started attending conferences and was able to talk with professionals. I kept getting the same response, which was, ‘Why hasn’t anyone thought of that before?’ I knew then I had a good idea.”

While visiting Bowling Green, Diann told her musician friends about her idea and talked with other local music folks, and knew right away that this was the perfect place for the film festival. SoundCheck Film Fest was born.

Diann stated, “I knew the Capitol Arts Theater and the downtown area would be the perfect place for the festival. As far as the festival goes, we’ll be screening documentaries from various genres – some of the documentaries will be about well-known bands, but others will be about little-known bands we think you will like. We also plan to have Q&A sessions with filmmakers and live music in addition to the films. We want to create a fun weekend totally immersed in music.”

Last spring, before the pandemic hit our area, Diann was already busy making preliminary plans. She met with local musicians, various businesses and entertainment venues. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The date was set; spring of 2021! She wants to involve WKU students and Bowling Green businesses to provide services for the festival.

Although COVID-19 has introduced many uncertainties to the festival world, SoundCheck Film Fest moves toward its inaugural launch date. The plans are to take advantage of the excellent downtown square and the nearby music venues, restaurants and businesses that make Bowling Green so unique. The festival aims to create something extraordinary for the city and the region, bringing the community together to celebrate the language that connects us all: music!

Additional information about the festival will be posted on the SoundCheck Film Fest Facebook page and website (www.soundcheckfilmfest.com) as it becomes available. In the meantime, check out The Latest page on the website for blog posts by Tommy Womack, of Government Cheese fame, and other guest writers about all things music.
Bowling Green's first rage room is coming to Nashville Road in January 2021. If you’re not familiar with a rage room, it’s a place where you can go smash things in a controlled environment. Southern Smashing is the latest brainchild of Manny Pinon, who also owns The GRIND by Mazing Manny, a gym he opened about eight years ago.

After the pandemic caused the gym to close for three months and, upon reopening, had a lot of regulations that led to a decreased revenue, Pinon decided he needed another source of income.

“Everybody is talking about how frustrated they are, so I want to give something to them,” said Pinon. “I want to bring 2021 in with a positive attitude. So that’s where the rage room comes in. Give people a room where they can put safety gear on, give them instructions, and let them go out there and relieve some stress.”

Pinon came up with the idea while watching a movie where people were breaking glasses and things and talking about how it made them feel good.

“When you break a glass, you’re like ‘I didn’t mean to break that glass,’ ” Pinon said. “But when you break it and you hear it, sometimes it makes you feel like you’re breaking all your past away. You’re breaking all the negativity away. “So that’s kind of how I came up with the whole idea of creating Southern Smashing.”

Pinon created a Facebook page and within the first day, it went viral with more than 1,000 shares. Within a week, it had more than 200,000 views. He had calls from people not just in the Bowling Green area, but also from Nashville, Indiana, Ohio and other areas asking when it will open and how to sign up. He’s also had interest from various artists and musicians in Nashville who want to shoot videos there.

“It’s going crazy,” Pinon said. “Honestly, I just wanted to open up a small business, but this is going way beyond a small business. It’s already attracting audiences from all over the place.”

Southern Smashing will offer seven rooms,
each with a different theme ranging from a kitchen to a garage to a bat room, where you smash stuff using a bat. There will also be lounge areas and a two-story party room where people upstairs can watch the party below smashing a car or breaking windows. Each participant will be equipped with safety gear that includes a coverall suit that covers from feet to neck, gloves, chest protector and face gear.

Pinon was born and raised in Texas but moved to Bowling Green about 11 years ago.

“I love the community of Bowling Green,” said Pinon. “The people here are nice. And I like giving back to the community. I see it as I give back without asking for anything and I get blessed.”

The feeling is obviously mutual as Pinon recently won Best Personal Trainer in the 2020 Best of Bowling Green awards.

“I love to work and at the same time, I love to help people out,” Pinon stated. “So this is something that will help everybody and it’s in a fun way. It’ll be in a safe way, so people can actually go and smash stuff without getting hurt. We have a lot of tension in us, we have a lot of stress within, and we have even anger. So just go out there and let it all out.”

Southern Smashing will be open afternoons and evenings Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, email Manny at SouthernSmashing@gmail.com or follow Southern Smashing on Instagram or Facebook.

“Everybody is talking about how frustrated they are, so I want to give something to them. I want to bring 2021 in with a positive attitude. So that’s where the rage room comes in.”

— Manny Pinon
We all remember that first door ding or dent in our new car. It may not have even been that big, but you couldn’t help but notice it every time you got in the car. The next time that happens, head over to Final Finish Auto Body Shop. Final Finish, the southern Kentucky leader in auto body and commercial truck repair, can make those dents and dings go away! Whether you need minor dent repair or major repairs from an auto accident, Final Finish can handle the job.

This family-owned and operated business opened in Bowling Green in late 2015 when the Ingrams purchased the Southern Kentucky Collision Center on Dishman Lane. However, this wasn’t their first venture in the body shop business or in business ownership.

“Our family has a history of independence and self-employment in business ownership and entrepreneurship,” said Eric Ingram, who, along with his brother Chase, owns Final Finish. “We come from the trucking and transportation industry and the farming community. We got into the body shop business around 2007.”

Although Eric Ingram lives in Bowling Green, his family also owns businesses in Butler County where they have lived for six generations. They started out in the transportation industry in Morgantown and grew the business to include a light manufacturing production facility where they do coatings and process parts that are manufactured for local companies. Their Morgantown facility also has one of the area’s only 60-foot truck booths that accommodates tractor-trailer-sized vehicles.

Final Finish works with all insurance companies and are a preferred vendor for many major insurance carriers. They provide free estimates and do repairs on all auto brands, including trucks. They also work on the customer’s behalf to get approval from auto insurance providers and secure financial compensation.

“We work with any insurance company and have good relationships with them, but we view the owner of the vehicle as the customer, not the insurance company,” said Ingram. “We’re looking out for the customer.”

In addition to consumer vehicles, Final Finish also repairs commercial trucks, buses and RVs. They work with businesses, farmers, municipalities, school systems and owner operators to make repairs and get the vehicles back on the road as quickly as possible.

Towing is another service offered by Final Finish. They employ a team of professional drivers who are qualified, screened and background checked to provide 24/7 towing. They can do equipment moving/hauling and have interstate authority to haul long distance.

Final Finish also offers powder and ceramic coating services. With hundreds of color options, Final Finish can powder coat your wheels, frames, outdoor furniture or other auto parts to enhance the look and protect the surface from chipping, scratching, UV rays and natural elements. Ceramic coatings are rated for 1,800F and commonly used for exhaust systems, engine components, automotive and motorcycle applications. Ceramics can be applied to steel or aluminum.

About 35 employees and more than 60 years of collective experience in the service industry, the Ingrams are service driven and want to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with their customers. They employ experienced technicians who care about doing a good job and are committed to the Final Finish team.

“Most of our people have been here multiple years and they do a really good job,” Ingram stated. “We don’t want to put our name on our work unless it’s done right.”

“The Ingrams are proud Kentuckians,” Ingram said. “We were raised proud of our southcentral Kentucky community. I live in Bowling Green, so we’re not just people from outside of town. I’m in the community. I live right in the middle of town. My wife and I both graduated from Western. So did my sister-in-law. My brother Chase went to Western for a couple of years and then joined the Army after 9/11. Bowling Green is home.”

Final Finish’s pride in its work shows. It was voted Best Auto Body Shop in the recent 2020 Best of Bowling Green awards.

“I think being voted the best shop in Bowling Green - there’s not much more of a segue way into we do a good job than when the whole community votes for you as the best shop,” said Ingram. “I think that ties into we’re practicing what we preach and there is a difference.”
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## Congratulations To The Winners Of The 2020...

### Best Of Bowling Green!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Favorite Winner</th>
<th>Clinic</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite Dermatologist</strong></td>
<td>JAMES ALLRED, M.D.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> DERMATOLOGIST OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite Dermatologist</strong></td>
<td>KYLE HERALD, P.A.-C</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> DERMATOLOGIST OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<td><strong>Favorite Cardiologist</strong></td>
<td>CHARLES S. LIN, M.D.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> Cardiologist OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<td><strong>Favorite Pharmacy</strong></td>
<td>GRAVES GILBERT CLINIC PHARMACY</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> PHARMACY IN BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<td><strong>Favorite Injury Rehab</strong></td>
<td>GRAVES GILBERT CLINIC PHYSICAL THERAPY</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> INJURY REHAB OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite Cardiologist</strong></td>
<td>JERRY ROY, M.D.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> CARDIOLOGIST OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite Dermatologist</strong></td>
<td>SHANNON WATKINS M.D.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> DERMATOLOGIST OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<td><strong>Favorite Physician</strong></td>
<td>RANCE R. WENTWORTH, M.D.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> PHYSICIAN OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<td><strong>Favorite Eye Doctor</strong></td>
<td>GGC EYES</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> EYE DOCTOR IN BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<td><strong>Favorite OB/GYN</strong></td>
<td>ANDREA BROOKS, M.D.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> OB/GYN OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite Orthopaedic Surgeon</strong></td>
<td>JOHN T. BURCH, M.D.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON IN BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite OB/GYN</strong></td>
<td>TODD A. DREXEL, D.O.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> OB/GYN OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<td><strong>Favorite Pediatrician</strong></td>
<td>DANIELLE FOSTER, D.O.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> PEDIATRICIAN OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite Pediatrician</strong></td>
<td>PIPPA PINCKLEY- STEWART, M.D.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> PEDIATRICIAN OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite Orthopaedic Surgeon</strong></td>
<td>CHRISTOPHER M. PATTON, M.D.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite OB/GYN</strong></td>
<td>DIANA GRANESE, M.D.</td>
<td>Graves Gilbert Clinic</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Voted a Favorite</em> OB/GYN OF BOWLING GREEN</td>
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</table>
Congratulations To The Winners Of The 2020...
BEST OF BOWLING GREEN!

**Favorite Event Venue**
Ellins Grove
2100 Hays Pondsville Road
Smiths Grove, KY 42171
(270) 535-3322 | elkinsgrove.com

**Favorite Auto Service Shop/Favorite Oil Change**
Thank You Bowling Green for Voting For Us
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Same location, same friendly faces.

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**Favorite Electrician**
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**Favorite Self Storage Facility**
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**Favorite Orthopaedic Surgeon**
David B. Richards, M.D.
Voted a Favorite Orthopaedic Surgeon of Bowling Green

**Favorite OB/GYN**
James Heltsley, D.O.
Voted a Favorite OB/GYN of Bowling Green
If you've ever made a major purchase, needed to hire an electrician, been in the market for a doctor or simply wanted to find a good place to eat, you've probably checked around for referrals. You may have asked neighbors and friends or read through hundreds of reviews online. But with the complications we face in life today, you may not have time to do extensive research. Or, you may be out and about and want to find something quickly. Now you can have that information at your fingertips with the Best of Bowling Green award results available on the 270bg app.

“For the first time we have taken the Best of Bowling Green section and published it so it will be live on the 270bg app for an entire year,” said Larry Jobe, Director of Sales at the Bowling Green Daily News. “You can go to the Best of Bowling Green section on the app and click on any category and you'll see the business that won and the favorites. This way it gives people access while they're out shopping or looking for something. It's right in their hand with easy access on 270bg.”

Each August, Daily News readers can go online to nominate their favorite businesses in various categories. In September, after all nominations are made, the top five businesses with the highest number of nominations in each category advance to the voting round. During the voting period, readers cast votes online for their favorites to determine the best businesses in each category. Then in early November, the winners and favorites are published as a special section in the Daily News. The results are also available on the 270bg app.

This year there were about 183,000 votes cast in more than 100 categories. Often, there are repeat winners. Having the Best of Bowling Green on the 270bg app allows you to quickly see if a business either won their category or is a favorite. It saves you time and the hassle that comes with calling around or reading reviews for hours online.

“In today's economy, when you're making purchasing decisions, you really can't afford to take a chance on your purchases,” said Jobe. “You can have some reassurance to the extent that if a business either won or they're one of the favorites in the Best of Bowling Green, then that's based on other people's experiences within the community who have done business with that company. It's not necessarily a guarantee, but it gives you a sense of security that if the community has voted for this person or business and they've won year after year after year, there's a reason why.”

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2020...**

**BEST OF BOWLING GREEN!**

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**Favorite Pest Control**

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**Edward Jones**

For Voting us Your Favorite Financial Advisor / Place for Investments!

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**Favorite Auto Service Shop/Oil Change**

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**Favorite Place to Buy Metal Buildings**

**Midsouth Metals & Canopies**

Thank You For Voting Us A FAVORITE Place To Buy Metal Buildings!

We appreciate your votes and your business!

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---

**Favorite Dermatologist**

**Kentucky Skin Cancer Center**

Dermatology & Cosmetics

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Don't Miss Out On The Excitement!

2021 Best of Bowling Green Is On Track To Be Bigger & Better!
A new, 976-page biography about Andy Warhol has just been published. Though his work still impacts the art world thirty years after he was murdered, isn’t almost a thousand pages a bit much? My Bible, the bestselling book of all time and regarded as the greatest story ever told, has far fewer pages. In it, the account of creation in Genesis is told in only 400 words. The Ten Commandments needed just 179 words; the Lord’s Prayer only 66.

The Gettysburg Address, written on the train enroute to the event, contained a mere 286 words and lasted only a few minutes. The man immediately preceding President Lincoln spoke for an hour and a half, yet his name is lost to history. Not a lesson learned over 150 years later when politicians and others still feel the need to float a battleship of words around a row boat of thought.

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How is your indoor air quality? What you can’t see CAN hurt YOU!
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• Reduces the levels of dust, debris, & dust mites
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Free estimates. Specializing in flat, low-slope and metal commercial and residential roofs.
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When I began writing fiction several years ago, I read that agents and publishers usually required 80,000 to 100,000 words, with 50,000 the minimum for a novel. Anything less was somewhat disparagingly referred to as a novella. Since it ranked #1 on the New York Times bestseller list for over a year, and sold more than 50 million copies worldwide, I doubt the late author Robert James Waller agonized over The Bridges of Madison County being called a novella. The mega-bestsellers Love Story by Eric Segal and The Graduate by Charles Webb had even fewer words than the 38,000 found in Bridges, and all three were made into movies of astounding commercial success.

Stephen King has published 58 books, including several under his nom de plume Richard Bachman, yet a reviewer of his 2018 novella Elevation derided it as “A mere slip of a book.” That critic likely never authored a book, and forgot or never read Steinbeck’s Pulitzer Prize-winning Of Mice and Men or Hemmingway’s The Old Man and the Sea, both of which today would be classified as novellas. One of the most captivating Christmas stories ever written is The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry. If you re-read it, or read it for the first time, it won’t take
long. There’s a lot to be said for the clarity and brevity of Hemmingway and O. Henry over the meandering verbosity of a Faulkner or F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Although many readers understandably relish getting lost for long periods of time in a lengthy work of fiction, things may be changing. I understand James Patterson, arguably the world’s most prolific successful writer at work today, has said his future releases will be around 125 pages. His reason? The shrinking time people are willing to devote to reading, as well as the growing popularity of reading on electronic devices like Nook and Kindle, even cell phones and Apple devices.

For my money, country music songwriters, especially those in years gone by, are some of the world’s greatest poets and storytellers. Their words capture a listener in the first few seconds, and unfold an entire story of wonderous joy or painful heartbreak in less than three minutes. I believe one listen to Glen Campbell’s rendition of John Hartford’s Gentle on my Mind will persuade you.

Oh, and the brief lyrics of Bob Dylan’s songs won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Literature.

Just sayin’.

The Girl on the Bench
the third novel from local author Larry B. Gildersleeve is now available.

Every day, the devil whispered in her ear, “You’re not strong enough to withstand the storm.” This day she shouted back, “I am the storm!”

“Gildersleeve’s prose is sunny and smooth …”
- Kirkus Reviews, June 2020

“The Girl on the Bench is … wholesome and inspirational … an upbeat tale of kindness and redemption …”
- Kirkus Reviews, June 2020


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If you would like to have your service appear in our directory, contact the Daily News Classified Department at 270-783-3232 for more information.
Sally and I decided it was time to check on our neighbors to the north and see how this climate of coronavirus, with its shutdowns, had affected them. We headed up 31-W (also known as Dixie Highway) and soon found a store we hadn’t reviewed before. Lost and Forgotten Treasures is located at 601 South Dixie Highway in Cave City. It’s more than one building. Next door to the shop we were in was another store that is open Thursday through Saturday, while this one is open every day. There is an amazing stock of merchandise, ranging from antiques and primitives to furniture and modern Case knives. We had a nice chat with Karissa, who told us she had been in business for about nine years. She told us about the store and also that they sold storage sheds just next door from their antique shops. They also had a shed lot in Munfordville, located on Main Street. This was a fun visit, and it has made our list of favorite stops when traveling north on a lazy Saturday.

Continuing into Cave City, take a left onto Broadway Street. This area is part of the Trash to Treasures Antique Trail. We were looking forward to visiting Magaline’s Antique Mall, but found that her store had closed because of the virus. Hopefully she will reopen soon. Magaline is lots of fun to chat with. Across the street from Magaline’s is another of our favorites, Paul’s Antiques and Collectibles, 113 Broadway. This wonderfully unique shop is owned by Paul Sullivan. The most awesome thing about the store is that it was once a bank. The old vault is still...
in the middle of the store. He has a wonderful collection of real deal antiques. Lots of the stuff we had never seen before. Sally was especially amazed at his display of Fenton colorful glass shoes, even some with Halloween designs. Antiques are a great gift for the person who is hard to shop for, and Paul’s really has something for everyone.

Some other stores on the antique trail were also closed down, but just up the street from Paul’s, we discovered Sugar Sank. Marla is the owner and has been in business about two years. Her store, located at 213 Broadway, is a very nice combination of antiques, furniture and consignment stuff. It also has a greenhouse, which opens in April, featuring seasonal flowers during the year. Marla has some good prices and even random markdowns to make the deals extra sweet.

Our next stop was another first time location for us. Nuttin Fancy Antique Barn is a really cool store. It’s located behind a big two-story Victorian style house on 306 Duke St. We were met by the resident min-pin mix, who escorted us back to the store. There we met Bonnie Hurt, the owner. Her shop is unique and filled to overflowing with everything. She has antiques, Indian artifacts, primitives, clothing, even scrubs. It’s two floors of fun for someone looking for the unusual. A little off the main drag, but worth a look. The grounds around the shop are nicely decorated and interesting to see.

We were sad about the stores that weren’t open, but glad we had a chance to see some new ones and make new friends. Hopefully, after this virus thing has run its course, the ones that had closed down can reopen. Antique, thrift and consignment stores are an American tradition. It’s recycling at its best.

We want to give a shout out to another business here in Bowling Green, The Wild Bird and Nature Store, at 901 Lehman Ave. Sally and I rescued a cockatiel a few years ago. Since we are retiring this year and planning to travel often, it was necessary to rehome our bird. The Wild Bird store helped us by giving Pidge, the cockatiel, a new home. Owned by Gerry and Jeftie Sawyer, the store has
been in business for over 20 years. As their name promises, they have just about everything for birds. Feeders, houses, specialty seed and lots of nature-oriented gifts and collectibles. A Herb Festival is held every April, featuring plants that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. How wonderful to have a place to purchase just the seeds and nectars wild birds need to be healthy and to keep them coming back often to visit.