

THE EAGLE EYE

BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS | QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

**BACK
TO
SCHOOL
EDITION**

✓ **World Class
Opportunities**

✓ **Small School
Relationships**

✓ **Lifelong
Impact**

@BrownCountySchools
August 2024 No.6



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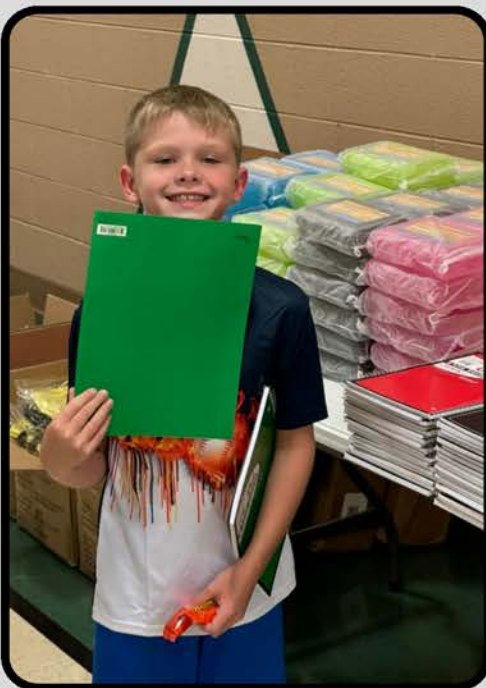
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Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!

As we embark on the new school year at Brown County Schools, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for the incredible opportunities that lie ahead. Our vision of providing world-class opportunities, fostering small school relationships, and making a lifelong impact on our students remains at the forefront of everything we do.

TEDx 2025: Mavericks, Icons, and Geniuses

We are thrilled to announce that Brown County Schools will host TEDx 2025 under the inspiring theme of "Mavericks, Icons, and Geniuses." This event will bring together innovative thinkers, leaders, and visionaries to share their insights and ideas with our community. It's an opportunity for our students, staff, and community members to engage with groundbreaking concepts and be inspired by some of the brightest minds of our time.



Ambassador Cohort #3

This year, we are launching the third cohort of our Ambassador program, involving 20 dedicated community members. These ambassadors will be invited into the district once a month to learn all about the business of educating kids. This initiative aims to strengthen the bond between our schools and the community, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of our educational processes and goals.

Welcoming New Staff Across the District

We are delighted to welcome new staff members to Brown County Schools. Their fresh perspectives, expertise, and enthusiasm will be invaluable as we continue to strive for excellence in education. Our new staff bring diverse experiences and innovative ideas that will enhance our learning environment and support our students' growth and development. Check out their photos in this issue of the Eagle Eye!



Engagement for Athletic Excellence, Family Involvement, and Communication

In the coming year, we are committed to creating more opportunities for engagement around key areas:

- **Athletic Excellence:** We will focus on developing programs and initiatives that promote athletic excellence, providing our students with the support and resources they need to excel in sports.
- **Family Engagement:** Recognizing the vital role families play in education, we will enhance our efforts to involve families in our schools. Through events, workshops, and open communication channels, we aim to build stronger partnerships with parents and guardians.
- **Increased Communication Efforts:** Effective communication is essential for a thriving school community. We will implement new strategies to ensure clear, consistent, and transparent communication between the district, schools, and families.

School Safety

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priorities. We are continuously working to enhance our safety measures, including developing innovative models for partnerships with local law enforcement, leveraging staffing and proximity advantages to optimize response times, and fostering a supportive environment that ensures student safety and well-being. Our latest project at the Brown County Middle School has a new secure front entrance! We hope you are able to check it out!

Vision for the Future

As we look ahead to the 2024-2025 school year, we are committed to providing world-class educational opportunities that nurture the potential of every student. Our focus on small school relationships ensures that each student receives personalized attention and support, fostering a sense of belonging and community. We strive to make a lifelong impact on our students, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to succeed in an ever-changing world.

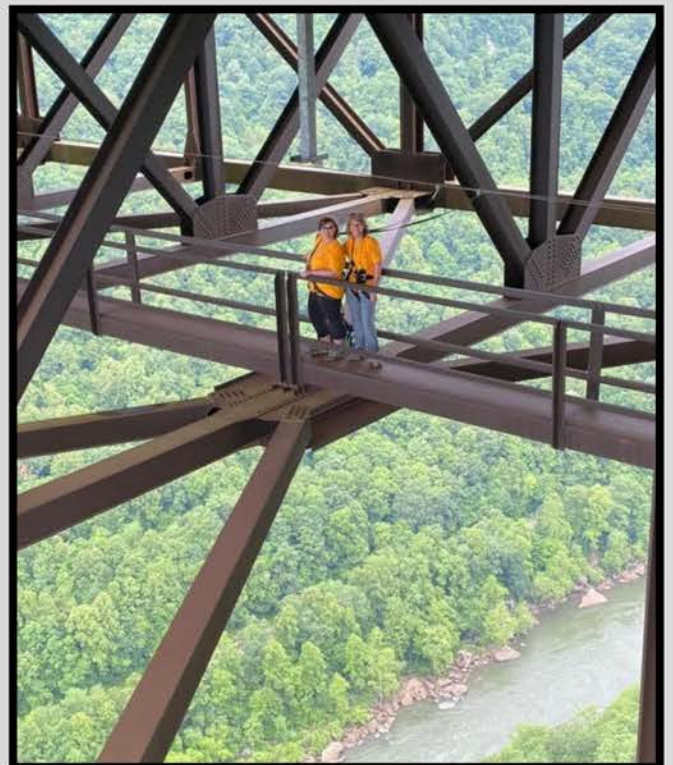
Welcome to a new school year filled with promise and potential. Together, we will achieve great things and continue to make Brown County Schools a place where dreams are nurtured and futures are built.

Here's to an exceptional 2024-2025 school year!

Warm regards,

Emily Tracy
Superintendent







EMBRACING NEW ROLES:

A CONVERSATION WITH MEGAN CONNELLY, DIRECTOR OF CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING AND ADULT EDUCATION



As Megan Connelly steps into her new role as the Director of Career-Connected Learning and Adult Education at Brown County Schools, she is excited to share some insights into what lies ahead.

What can people expect from you in your new role?

In my new role, I'll still be deeply involved in organizing community partnerships and work-based learning opportunities for our students. However, I'll also be expanding my responsibilities as the Director of the Career Resource Center (CRC). This role gives me the unique opportunity to work with all of our students, from preschoolers to adults, creating a cohesive educational journey across all ages. My office may be in the CRC, but my work will take me everywhere.

You have already accomplished and done so much for the students and the idea of work-based learning. How do you see that evolving?

My hope is that our work-based learning programs continue to grow as both students and businesses recognize the immense benefits of these opportunities. Recently, several new businesses and organizations have reached out after hearing about the successes of our first cohort of interns. As word spreads, I believe we can expand our internship, apprenticeship, and job shadow programs to ensure that the majority of students graduate with valuable career experiences and a clear post-secondary plan.

Connecting my work from pK-12 to adult education is another exciting challenge. I've made many community connections in the last year, which will be incredibly beneficial for the CRC. Education doesn't end at graduation; it's a lifelong journey. I want to help our community understand that Brown County Schools is here to support them at every stage of life. Now that I'm involved in adult education, I'll also be exploring the wealth of certification goal is to help students and adults alike see the full spectrum of opportunities available to them.

What kind of opportunities are provided for students currently, and what opportunities do you see coming in the future?

Brown County Schools already offers a variety of career experience and exploration opportunities that I hope will only grow. Our high school students can gain hands-on experience through internships, apprenticeships, and job shadowing in fields ranging from real estate and construction to fitness and technology. These experiences are invaluable for students to evaluate their strengths and interests.

We also have work-based learning happening within our schools. High school students are earning college credit and hours toward their CDA license by assisting in our toddler and preschool rooms. Others are repairing computers at our IT help desk or running a coffee cart and vending machine business. Through our Eagle and Eaglet Manufacturing programs, students gain experience in graphic design, machining, engineering, and sales.

In the future, I'm excited about establishing a biweekly guest speaker series featuring local professionals across various career fields. This will give students the chance to see and hear firsthand what different careers entail. We're also planning to grow our high school career day with more interactive sessions on college, career, and life skills, and showcasing opportunities for enrollment, enlistment, and employment.

If someone would like to help or get involved, how would they?

There are countless ways to get involved with our schools. Whether you're interested in supporting our youngest learners or our oldest, we have a place for you! We need guest speakers to share their career experiences with students PK-12, hosts for high school interns and apprentices, and members for our CRC advisory board.

If you're interested in getting involved but aren't sure how, please reach out! I'm always eager to discuss how we can best connect our community with our students. To get involved, email me at mconnelly@browncountyschools.com.







WELCOME MR. SHEROHMAN AND MRS. ROBERTS!



BCHS PRINCIPAL: STEVE SHEROHMAN

Mr. Sherohman has a diverse background in education. He's taught music, band, drama, english, social studies, and science. For the last four years he's been an Assistant Principal in Spencer County. He is excited to lead at Brown County High School, a place he says is a "shining star for innovation and creativity!"

BCHS VICE PRINCIPAL: SARAH ROBERTS

Mrs. Roberts is a Brown County graduate and is excited to be back serving in her hometown! She most recently spent the last several years as Dean of Students at Clark Pleasant Middle School. Mrs Roberts said she is "beyond excited to work alongside our amazing staff, students, and community to make this school year the best one yet!"



SAY HI TO THESE NEW FACES!



Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our new staff members! We're excited to have such talented and passionate educators joining our team. Their expertise and dedication will undoubtedly enhance the learning experience for all our students. Let's make them feel at home as they begin this new journey with us!

BROWN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Tony Bell, Physical Education
Thomas Arndt, Computer Science

VAN BUREN ELEMENTARY

Grace Li - Kindergarten

HELMSBURG ELEMENTARY

Carly Croft - Kindergarten

SPRUNICA ELEMENTARY

Meghann Farlow - Speech Language
Pathologist

TRANSPORTATION

Sandra Cox

TECHNOLOGY

Zach Proffitt

BROWN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Natalie Price - Counselor
Robert Tull - Health Teacher
Grace Cairncross - ELA
Alisha Loy - Paraprofessional

HEALTH SERVICES

Mallery Underwood - VBES
Melissa Ewen - BCMS

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Natalie Bell - Paraprofessional









A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

STEVEN SHEROHMAN

Greetings, Eagle Family!

I am so very honored to have the opportunity to serve you, students, families, and community in and through Brown County High School! I cannot adequately express how grateful and proud I am to have been extended an invitation to become part of Brown County Schools.

I have a diverse background in education. Prior to becoming an administrator, I spent many years as a music educator. Additionally, I've taught band, drama, high school English, middle school social studies, and middle school science, and have a background in community mental health where I served as a high-fidelity wraparound facilitator with at-risk kids. I've served small schools and large schools in several states. I am also a highly active member of the Indiana Association of School Principals.

But, enough about me. We will have plenty of time to get to know one another!

I want to thank everyone for making me feel so welcomed already! Please know, your kindness is something I deeply appreciate and was a significant draw to Brown County.

This year will be special. My top priorities are to get to know you, see what you do, support you, and begin to look forward with you. We will pursue big things. We will pursue things that seem impossible. We will be unrelenting in putting the needs of our kids first. We will pour into our students and into each other. We will do this because, together, WE ARE BROWN COUNTY!





A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

STEVEN SHEROHMAN

Undoubtedly, there is some heavy work that needs to be addressed this year with the development of new diploma types and requirements. For some, this may seem nerve-racking and unsettling. For others, you'll take it in stride. No matter your position, I've got your back, and we will do this work together. Please know, we will be thoughtful, intentional, and collaborative as we look to leverage this opportunity for our kids as they prepare for the day after graduation. I am excited about the opportunities that exist for kids in the new diploma models!

Again, I am absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to be of service to you and our school! I pledge to you my steadfast and unwavering commitment to what we do here. I will always encourage you, look out for you, and pour into you. Our best days are ahead of us—and because of that, I challenge you to think big with me!

Warmest Regards,

Steve Sherohman

Brown County High School Principal



HISTORY OF SUCCESS:

BROWN COUNTY SHINES AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Every year students at Brown County Schools take part in National History Day. The nonprofit Education Organization (NHD) reaches more than half a million students and tens of thousands of teachers each year via its international student history contest. Emily Lewellen is the National History Day Sponsor for Brown County Schools and started the middle school program, while also coaching the high school students. In the time she's been coaching the students they've had at least one person make it to nationals almost every year. This year was the same.



“This year Aesop Birkemeier went to nationals,” said Lewellen. “Something really special though, his dad and uncle competed and went to Nationals when they were in school also.” In total the Birkemeier’s created 18 total National History Day projects from 1988 to 1999. Now, Aesop is carrying on the family tradition.

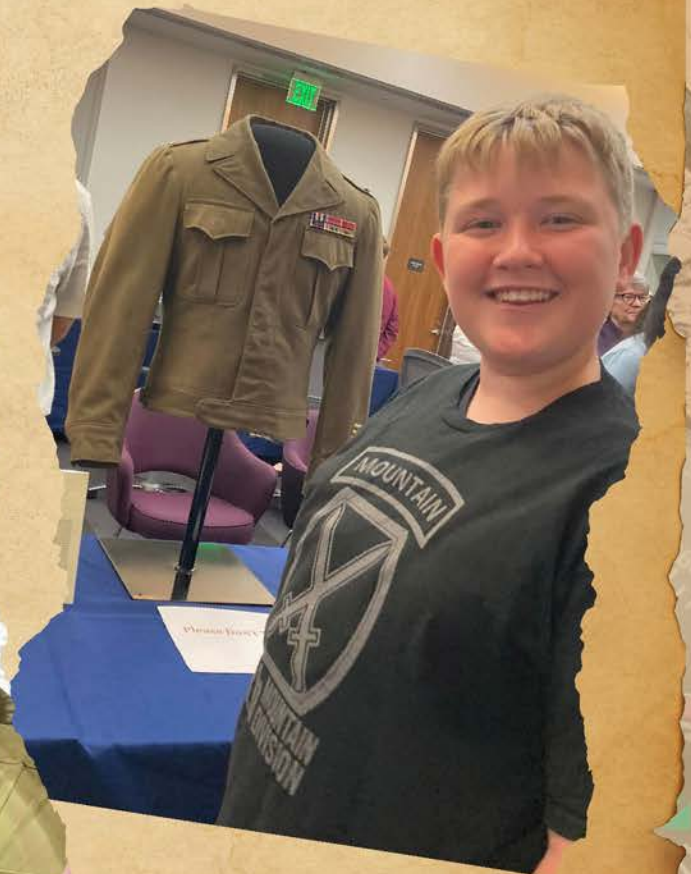
“This years theme was Turning Points in History”, said Lewellen. Aesop decided to do his NHD performance on the 10th Mountain Division in WWII. After year long preparation Aesop took the stage in Washington D.C. and placed 1st in junior individual performance!

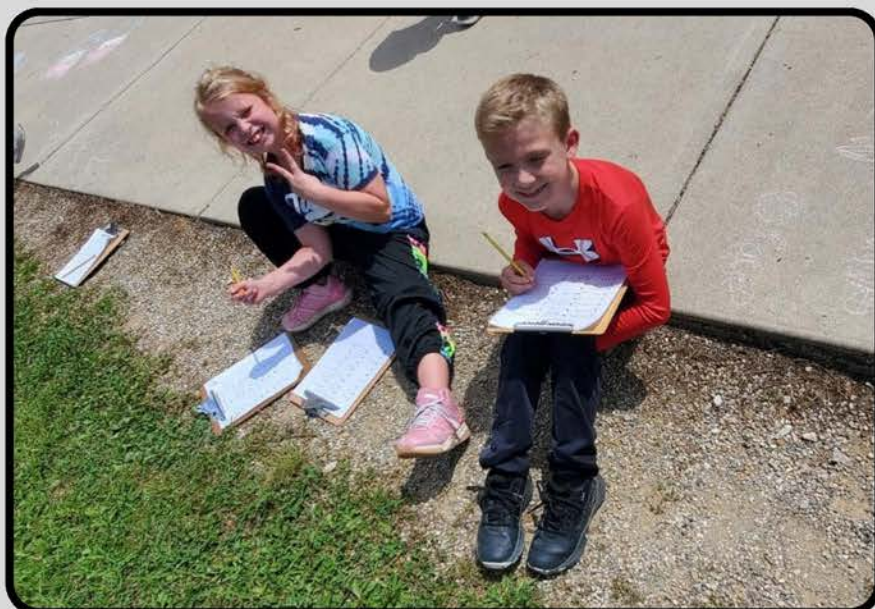
HISTORY OF SUCCESS:

BROWN COUNTY SHINES AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Winning the National History Day competition is a significant achievement that reflects Aesop's hard work, dedication, and passion for history. His success also highlights the supportive environment provided by Brown County schools, where educators encourage students to pursue excellence in academic endeavors. He, along with his fellow Brown County students who take part in NHD serve as a reminder of the importance of historical education and the power that young people have to make meaningful contributions to our understanding of the past.

Congratulations Aesop, Brown County's NHD participants, and Mrs. Lewllen for all your accomplishments!







MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

RENOVATE AND INNOVATE

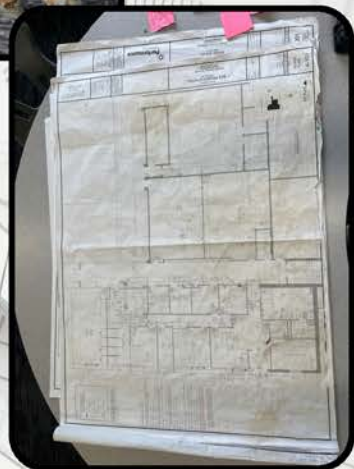


This summer, Brown County Middle School underwent a significant transformation as part of a facilities upgrade project. The renovation, which spanned several months, has revitalized a large portion of the school, providing students and staff with enhanced spaces designed to support learning, creativity, safety, and engagement.

These improvements came after years of conversations, guided by feedback from teachers, students, and parents, ensuring that the upgrades would meet the diverse needs of our school community.

Above all else safety and accessibility was front of mind when designing the renovation. "The safety component of having a secured entrance and an office flow with a student side was top of mind," said Brown County Middle School Principal Gavin Steele.

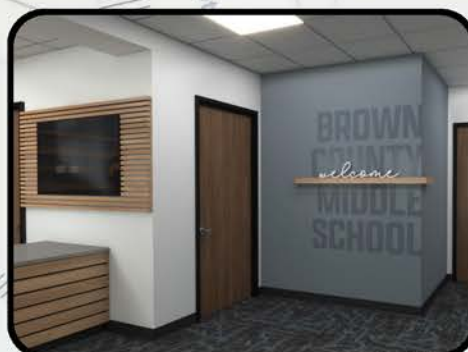
While the footprint of the school did not change, the upgrades provide a more spacious feel with emphasis on improving safety and accessibility. Steele has worked with staff and contractors diligently through the summer to ensure the project checks all boxes. "Everything flowed through the main office, now there is space that is stretched where all spaces have their own privacy," said Steele. "Students can flow into the nurse, or another office, and not have to congregate in one spot." All in all a little more than three classrooms were renovated, two large classrooms were added, one classroom was repurposed, and moved offices. The space puts student safety and accessibility first by providing multiple layers of security between visitors and students.





In addition to the inside of the building, a parking lot was added in front of the new main entrance. "The purpose of this lot is to serve school day traffic," said Steele. "Morning and afternoon flow will operate as it always has." This allows entrance to the building during the day safer and more efficient by being able to park easily and enter for a short amount of time.

As the school year begins, these renovations mark a new chapter for our middle school, reaffirming our commitment to providing a supportive and enriching environment for all members of our community.





SUMMER DAYS





AUG						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

5 - 6 -TEACHER WORK DAYS
 7 - FIRST STUDENT DAY

SEPT						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

2 - LABOR DAY (NO SCHOOL)

OCT						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

7 - 11 - FALL BREAK (NO SCHOOL)
 14 - PARENT TEACHER/CONFERENCES
 15 - START OF SECOND NINE WEEKS

NOV						
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27-29 - THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO SCHOOL)

DEC						
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29	30	31				

12/23 - 1/3 - WINTER BREAK (NO SCHOOL)

JAN						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

1- NEW YEAR'S DAY
 6 - FIRST STUDENT DAY/SEMESTER BEGINS
 20 - DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
 (WEATHER MAKE-UP DAY)

FEB						
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17 - PRESIDENT'S DAY (WEATHER MAKE-UP DAY)

MARCH						
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30	31					

10 - 14 SPRING BREAK (NO SCHOOL)
 17 - START OF 4TH NINE WEEKS

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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27	28	29	30			

11 - WEATHER MAKE-UP DAY

MAY						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

23 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
 26 - MEMORIAL DAY (NO SCHOOL)
 27 - TEACHER WORK DAY
 28 - 30 - WEATHER MAKE-UP DAYS
 31 - COMMENCEMENT

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



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etracy@browncountyschools.com
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47448
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47448
Phone: (812) 988 - 6606



BROWN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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VAN BUREN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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47448
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SPRUNICA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Shane Killinger
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46164

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HELMSBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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46160

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CAREER RESOURCE CENTER
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**WE ARE
BROWN
COUNTY**

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**WE ARE
BROWN
COUNTY**

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**WE ARE
BROWN
COUNTY**

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Hatchett**
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Phone: (812) 988 - 6606



WE ARE
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COUNTY

