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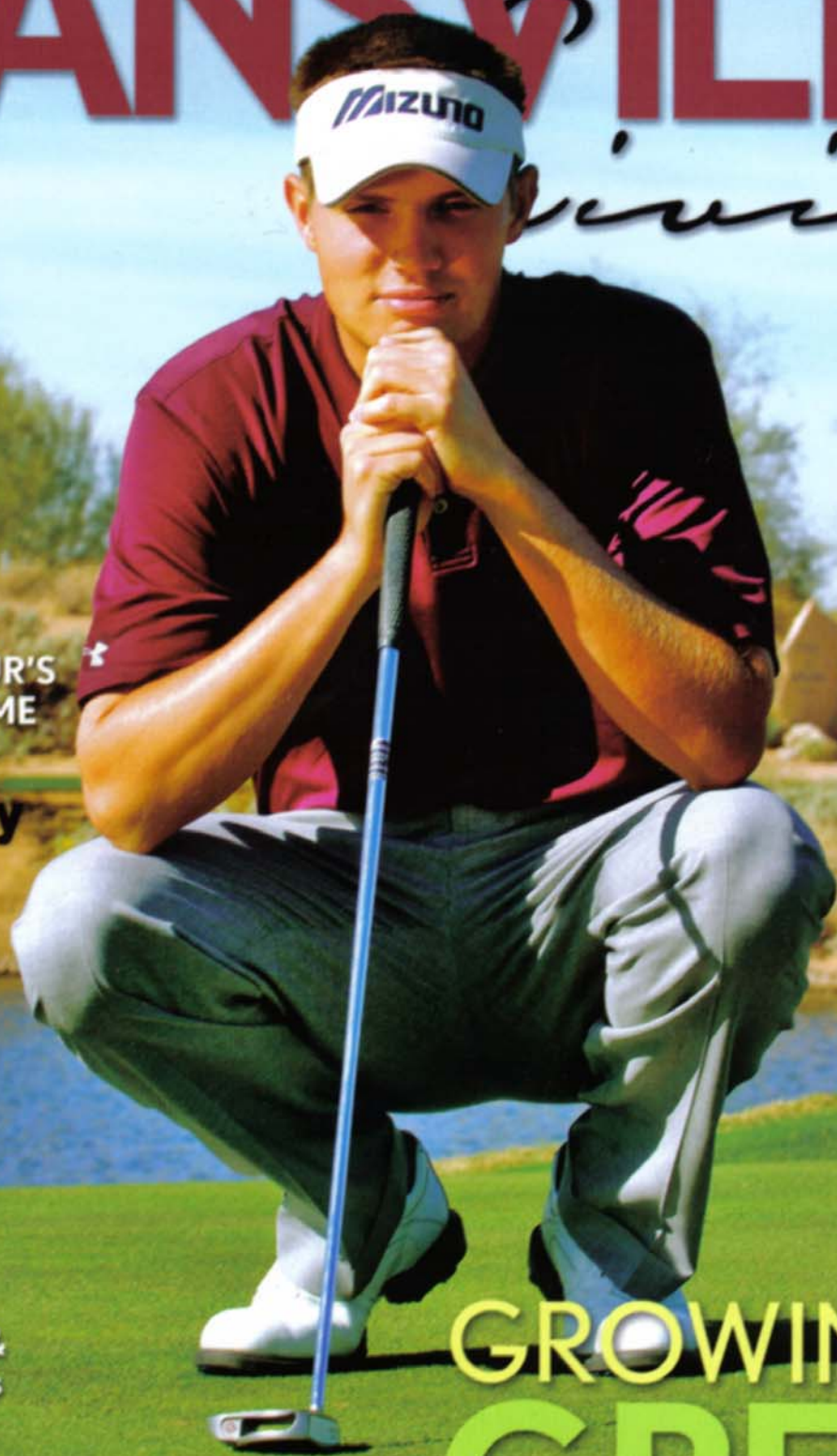
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# GROWING UP GREEN



JEFF OVERTON TURNS PRO



**RED HOT** | Brook Forrest White Jr. is spot heating this glass flower vase, a piece commissioned by a restaurant soon to open in downtown Louisville.

# Brook Forrest White Jr.

BY SARAH VANIKIOTIS • PHOTOS BY JESSE SOUTHERLAND

Owensboro native Brook Forrest White Jr. studied under internationally acclaimed glass artist Steven Rolfe Powell at Centre College in Danville, Ky., before opening his own glass studio. In 2004, White and fellow glass artist Susie Slabaugh opened the Flame Run art-glass gallery ([www.flamerun.com](http://www.flamerun.com)) near the multi-use glass complex Glassworks near downtown Louisville. Flame Run (828 E. Market St.) and Glassworks now serve as anchors for art galleries that dot the city's downtown. White's "Splash," is featured in the entrance of Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Warrick County.

**Art form:** Glass

**What attracted you to glassblowing as a medium?**

I suppose the biggest was the fire. Other things that I liked and still like are the teamwork, the intensity, the focus, the movement and the physicality of it. Glassblowing is a very physical process. Creating a large work requires teamwork and a complete focus of your attention. I play with colors and patterns in an effort to discover something new or that really works with a particular form.

**Tell me about the 7-by-18-foot "Splash," the commissioned piece you created for the lobby of the new Deaconess Gateway Hospital?**

At our studio in Louisville, we constructed a replica of the actual space where the glass was to be installed. The loose idea behind the piece was to convey a sense of

water. The main piece consists of about 25 individual glass pieces. I created all of the pieces from scratch, meaning I began with molten glass (cooled to about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit). Each piece is individually colored and shaped, using traditional glassblowing techniques.

**You went from working in a small studio to a large 12,000 square-foot gallery and studio with other artists. What was that like?**

There are several differences between my first studio and Flame Run. Most of these have to do with the size and capacity. We now have three working stations and can have up to nine to 10 artists working at one time in the "hot shop." One of the biggest similarities between the two studios is that there are still never enough hours in a day to accomplish what you want.

**You and (artist) Susie Slabaugh still work as creative partners?**

Susie and I do create work together. Susie and I have also teamed up outside of the studio. We were married last year and we just created our best work ever: twins. We're blessed with Aubrey Forrest (a girl) and Chrisler Robin (a boy).

**What's your latest work?**

The "Noble Series." The common element in this work is a large clear foot or base. The foot is a device I am utilizing to lift or elevate the vessel. I feel that this helps present the final form in a more elegant way.

**You've created a place where people can come to watch you work?**

Our hours are Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by special appointment. The public is welcome to watch us work for no admission price. ●

