



April 2021



Outdoor amenities brought record revenues in 2020

The news was, more often than not, pretty grim from the tourism sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some local tourism partners, like Black Pine Animal Sanctuary, hotels, and museums suffered significant losses of revenue. Even so, on the whole, Noble County fared far better than many places because the great outdoors and wide-open spaces proved to be an ideal getaway for hundreds of thousands of people.

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No-Sag named a 'Rising Star' in Indiana

No-Sag Products Division of Leggett & Platt, Kendallville, was recently announced the winner of the 2021 Governor's Workplace Safety Award for a "small sized company" in Indiana. The Department of Labor website explains "No-Sag Products has had several new or reinvigorated processes over the last few years, but COVID-19 dominated their 2020 safety focus. No-Sag Products has five teams in place that address Employee Access Control; Virus Protection & Protocols; Sanitization & Disinfection; Communications & Training; and P.P.E. These teams have as few as one to as many as five designated members, with many more in their workforce actively involved. Their continued focus on safety included audits yielding 367 findings in two years, a record for the company. These same two years, however, have been the safest in company history."

Linson to retire

East Noble superintendent Ann Linson announced plans to retire effective June 30. She has led the school corporation for 11 years and retiring will close a 41-year career in education. Linson was named the Indiana Association of Public Schools Superintendent of the Year in District II last year, one of a long list of accolades earned during her tenure. A search committee will look to select a successor to start by July 1.



Rezoning makes way for 5,200-head hog farm

Land located on W CR 200N, Albion, has received the green light from Noble County to operate a confined feeding operation. Questions raised by neighbors were answered satisfactorily, allowing a change in zoning from A1 to A3.



New retailer in Kendallville

24/30 Surplus opened a new location in Kendallville in a space formerly occupied by Save-A-Lot. A grand opening was held in early March. The store is the Hoosier-owned businesses fifth location in northeast Indiana offering merchandise from major national brand chains at a discount, including countertop appliances, linens, furniture, and more.

Looking for employees?

Have you considered contacting The Arc Noble County Foundations for Employment Services? The Arc works with persons with disabilities who want to work and with employers who are ready and willing to consider hiring a person with a disability. The Arc will help ensure employees are well-trained and productive. Businesses and organizations that can accommodate a visit (with appropriate COVID-19 precautions) to provide participants ideas about jobs and future work possibilities are being sought now. Those interested may contact Jim Kane, Employment Services Manager at (260) 636-2155 or (260) 337-8499 (mobile), or email jkane@thearcfoundations.com for more information.

[Learn about Employment Services](#)



Local companies receive tax abatements

Noble County Council approved a five-year tax abatement on a \$700,000 expansion for KSN Kammerer LLC. The company expects to add 10-15 new jobs with the 20,000 square foot expansion. In Avilla, Town Council members approved a ten-year tax abatement for Indiana Phoenix. That company will invest \$178,000 into new software to sustain jobs at the concrete mixer assembly plant.



[Learn more...](#)

Thrive plans celebration

Thrive Noble County is planning a Celebration 2021, an inaugural community event that will inform, inspire, and immerse those who live, work, and play in Noble County in what makes the local communities thrive. The public is invited to come together to hear the stories of some of the people, places, and organizations that help make life better here by engaging in and supporting local entrepreneurs, youth, and culture.

Indiana Tech expands Zollner Engineering Center

A \$21.5 million expansion and renovation of Indiana Tech's Zollner Engineering Center is slated to start in May at the university's main Fort Wayne campus. The project will house new and existing programs in engineering, computer sciences, cybersecurity, life sciences, and technology. The scope of the project is said to center on Indiana Tech's core strengths to help meet the continued growth in demand regionally and nationally for talent. New learning spaces, labs, and equipment, including robotics, are among the many new opportunities the investment is expected to bring to the region.



Each month we celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of Noble County's people and places. Congratulations!

The **Norris family** farm, founded in Noble County in 1869, was recently honored by Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch and Indiana Department of Agriculture Director Bruce Kettler. The family was presented a Sesquicentennial Hoosier Homestead Award recognizing the family's commitment to farming for over 150 consecutive years.

Modernizing upgrades will be coming to **Carriage House Apartments** in Kendallville. Property managers for the 150-unit complex presented a \$14 million plan to Kendallville City Council recently and asked the city to be the "conduit" so the company can solicit the sale of tax-exempt bonds to help fund the project at a lower interest rate. The apartments were built in 1980 and are a Section 8 community. Upgrades will include new cabinets and countertops, lighting, appliances, and more.

Fishing Line Trail, connecting Rome City to Kendallville, will soon connect to a new section of trail to be called the Grand Army of the Republic Trail. The **City of Kendallville** learned they will receive a Next Level Trail grant for \$428,784 to add nearly one mile of new paved paths. One will connect Friendly Village, where Fishing Line Trail ends now, to another path near the Detering Nature Preserve. Another section will be added further east, along U.S. 6, to enhance walkability from Allen Chapel Road to Walmart. The projects will enhance safety and provide more opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Six grants totaling \$12,000 pushed Noble REMC's **Operation Round Up** program to a new milestone recently. The program has given 700 grants since inception to support local charitable organizations, programs, and projects that serve its members. More than 85% of the cooperative's members choose to "round up" payments on their electric utility bills in order to fund Operation Round Up giving. Those seeking grants can find the application online at nobleremc.com/operation-round-up.

West Noble student **Lydia Gow**, one of the youngest members of P.U.L.S.E. of Noble County, will invest \$1,500 she was awarded from a successful grant proposal to improve a town park in Cromwell. Gow, an eighth-grader, will buy a new inclusive swing to replace a broken one in the park and install sensory play equipment for special needs children. Gow has also recruited peers and classmates to paint other park structures there this spring. P.U.L.S.E. is a service-minded organization and philanthropic youth organization of the Community Foundation of Noble County.

Augusta Hills Learning, Recreation and Community Center officially opened on April 1, 2021 west of Albion. The facility features a main lodge with spaces available for programming and rentals, as well as a brand new gymnasium with courts for multiple games including basketball, pickleball, and volleyball. A raised, indoor walking track, accessible by elevator, and an outbuilding bring countless fitness, business, and social possibilities for individuals, families, and organizations in the community. Discounted introductory membership rates, including corporate packages, are now available. Find details at www.augustahills.org.

Kammerer Welding was recognized by Mayor SuzAnne Handshoe with Kendallville's Pillar of Community Award for their extraordinary contributions to the community. The Spirit Award was given to **Jerry Spaw** in recognition for his work on neighborhood revitalization.

COVID-19 RESOURCES & UPDATES



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