



May 2021



Let's Play!

When Ray Kinsella, the lead character in the 1989 hit film *Field of Dreams*, heard a voice whisper “If you build it, he will come”, he took a chance that paid off. In the final scene of the film hundreds of cars are seen approaching the newly constructed ballfield in his rural Iowa cornfield, fulfilling the prophecy that people will come to watch baseball.

Noble County’s own “field of dreams”, the Kendallville Outdoor Recreation Complex (KORC), is poised to enjoy a similar outcome because a group of local business leaders and citizens took a chance. Their efforts to raise \$2.38 million has transformed an 89-acre property on the city’s east side from a humble beginning in 2006 into a world-class tournament venue ready to welcome athletes from near and far, as well as the community at large.

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Lend your voice for development

We join our partner, Experience the Heart of Kendallville (a Main Street organization), in seeking your participation in a brief survey. Feedback will help inform strategies as they lead efforts to help revitalize and grow downtown Kendallville. Feel free to share the survey link with other stakeholders you know. Respondents are intended to be anyone who owns a business, works, lives, shops, or dines in Noble County. The survey will remain open until May 10th. Thank you.



[Take survey here](#)



Laotto butcher shop awarded \$112k

Heritage Meat Haus is one of 41 Indiana meat processors that received funding to offset the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on local, small agribusinesses. In April, the newly renovated and expanded store and processing facility was bustling with representatives from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and colleagues from across the region and state

to celebrate. Jeremy Lutter, owner, provided a tour to those gathered to see some of the work made possible by a \$112,700 matching grant. He highlighted the new retail space and equipment, a grinder, and overall expansions made at the facility, which added employees. The Meat Haus offers freshly butchered meats, custom processing services, and a variety of frozen and dry goods, many from Indiana producers.

Indiana's first telepharmacy closes

Pill Box Pharmacy, Inc. was the first to open a telepharmacy in Indiana. The Warsaw-based pharmacy and home medical equipment provider opened Pill Box in Albion in February 2019. The company was acquired in April by Alick's Home Medical Equipment. A letter from Greg Winn, president and owner of Pill Box, was addressed to the Albion business's customers to announce the local telepharmacy would close effective April 26.

[Read more](#)



Businesses getting facelifts

Facade grants have been awarded recently in multiple communities in Noble County. In Kendallville, Carla Lowe, owner of Carla's Antiques, was approved for \$5,399.30, 50% of the costs to replace windows and upgrade awnings on two buildings on Main Street. B & B Kitchen, a prep kitchen for Beauty & the Bull's food truck operating in a location formerly a pizzeria in Ligonier, plans to install new clear glass panes in 11 windows and repair woodwork on the storefront. The food truck began operating following a fire that destroyed the restaurant's bar and grill in Wolcottville last May.



Lorenzo Bona, Limestone Economics, introduces local restauranters and other foodies to ingredients from small businesses in Italy.

Bringing a taste of Italy

The Community Learning Center in Kendallville played host to several restaurant owners and staff from across the county for a tasting experience and introduction to food products from Italy. Local businessman Lorenzo Bona, owner of Limestone Economics and a native of Italy, shared his vision to build a trade relationship between small business owners in Italy and those in Noble County by featuring Italian-made ingredients on local menus and retailers selling the imported goods. "We want to create potential opportunities for cultures to meet and find ways to prosper," he told the audience.

[Learn more](#)



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

Order of Augustus was the honor bestowed upon Noble County Chief Probation Officer **Stacey Beam** by the Probation Officers Advisory Board of Indiana in April. Beam was "shocked" by the honor and recognition as the state's top probation officer. Five current judges and her staff were on hand for the surprise. Wells County Chief Probation Officer Greg Werich nominated Beam for the honor. Beam has served in the position since 2002.

Gaslight Playhouse honored **Jo Drudge** for a lifetime of dedication to the organization and the promotion of the arts in Noble County. Drudge, a resident of Rome City, received Gaslight's Legacy Award at a board meeting in April.

Anne (Harriman) Lowe has assumed the role of Noble County's health nurse. Lowe, a graduate of West Noble High School, served as the school corporation's nurse for the past eight years and recently received her Master's in Nursing degree with an emphasis on public health. Her first day working for the county was April 12.

Noble County has been approved to receive \$500,000 as one of the recipients of a Community Crossings matching grant. The funding is part of Governor Holcomb's Next Level Roads initiative to support local road and bridge construction projects. The funding will cover 75% of improvements planned.

Anna Strong and **Shae Coil**, East Noble freshman and senior respectively, are student artists who are in the running for the top prize of \$50,000 for their school in a national art competition. Strong and Coil painted canvas shoes and their designs were chosen in the Top 50 of all entries received from across the nation. Visit <https://customculture.vans.com/> by Friday, May 7 at 8 p.m. to view their designs and cast your vote.

COVID-19 RESOURCES & UPDATES



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