



Merry Christmas!

[Download the "Noble Tree" challenge!](#)

State of Indiana's READI funding will catalyze Northeast Indiana's economic growth

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – Following a joint public meeting of the board of directors of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) and the Indiana Economic Development Foundation Inc. at Butler University in Indianapolis, the IEDC announced the Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) was awarded \$50 million to support Northeast Indiana's regional economic development plan as part of the state of Indiana's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI).

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Marine tech program boosted

Impact Institute's Marine Tech Program is one of several serving high school juniors and seniors seeking to learn vocational skills. The program recently received a generous donation of three outboard

motors from motor manufacturers Bennington Marine and Yamaha Motor Company. They will be used as part of the school's curriculum to obtain entry-level certifications. Outboard motors can cost upwards of \$30,000 each. The program typically serves about 25 students per class. Some continue on to work for local marinas and dealers while others continue on at places like the Marine Mechanics Institute in Florida before landing a permanent position.

New café showcases largely untapped workforce

One more step in a series of steps to assist individuals served by The Arc Noble Foundations has been realized. The CLC Café opened at the Community Learning Center (CLC) in Kendallville last week.



The CLC Café marks a milestone for The Arc, a local nonprofit organization that has been steadily moving in a direction to better help individuals with disabilities maximize their abilities to succeed at work. The organization has been long committed to supporting individuals at home and in the community. A workforce shortage has put a spotlight on The Arc's efforts to also help individuals with disabilities discover and pursue careers in Noble County.

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[Company website](#)

Laotto gains a new employer

United Ortho will bring at least 33 jobs to Laotto following the purchase of a long underutilized industrial building on the town's north side. The company, a manufacturer of orthopedic braces and supports, is making significant upgrades to an 84,000-square-foot warehouse that will

serve as a distribution warehouse. The company was granted a tax abatement by the Noble County Council for real property and personal property investments expected to total \$1.15 million dollars. Work is expected to begin in January with hopes to be operational by June.

Job Fair January 10

Hickory Recovery Network will be opening at the former Northridge Village nursing home in Albion in early 2022 and is looking to fill jobs at all levels of the organization. The company will provide in-patient, co-ed addiction treatment programs and services with up to 100 beds. A job fair will be held on Monday, January 10 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Augusta Hills Learning, Recreation and Community Center located at 2080 W 300 N, about two miles west of the stoplight in Albion. For more info about Hickory Treatment Centers visit hickorytreatmentcenters.com.



Job Fair



Douglas Ebey, Noble County entrepreneur

WATCH (4:16)

Expo to shine light on entrepreneurs

The first-ever "NoblePalooza, an Expo to Thrive", is a free community event for all ages coming to the Community Learning Center in Kendallville on Saturday, March 12, 2022. The event is sponsored by Thrive Noble County, an organization committed to promoting the five pillars of a thriving community, one of which is "Entrepreneurial Growth". NoblePalooza will feature a free, fun, and interactive "neighborhood" to discover and learn more about businesses and organizations from all across Noble County and their products, services, and needs. Exhibitors and vendors are being sought now and registration is open to the public. All participation is free!

Exhibitor / Vendor packet

Free registration to attend

Build your talent pipeline

Noble County employers are invited to participate in JA JobSpark Virtual, Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana's two-day online career exploration event connecting thousands of students to businesses in northern Indiana. This is an opportunity to engage students and showcase local careers.



How to participate



The 2021 recipients of the Shirley Traster Nursing Scholarship, administered by the Parkview Noble Foundation, are **Brooke Randol** and **Hanna Goodman**. The award is named in honor of Traster, an RN for 36 years at McCray Hospital until her retirement in 1986. The scholarship is available to eligible Parkview Noble Hospital workers who would like to advance professionally in the nursing field.

A vacancy left by retiring Noble County Superior Court I judge **Robert Kirsch** has been filled by **Steve Clouse**, a Central Noble High School graduate, long-time local attorney, and former Noble County Prosecutor. Clouse was sworn into office earlier this month after being appointed to fill the seat by Gov. Eric Holcomb.

West Noble's **Diego Flores** has been named recipient of 2022 Lilly Endowment Scholarship for Noble County. Flores and his parents were surprised with the news, announced by the Community Foundation of Noble County at West Noble High School. The scholarship provides full tuition, required fees, and up to \$900 per year for books and other supplies for four years of undergraduate study. Flores will attend Purdue University to study mechanical engineering in the fall of 2022.

Jack Birch has been named the new attorney for the City of Ligonier. Birch takes over for Steve Clouse. He is a graduate of West Noble and has practiced law for nearly 30 years with a practice, Birch Kaufman LLC, based in Syracuse.

Experience the Heart of Kendallville, a Main Street™ Affiliate, announced the hiring of its first Main Street manager. **Kristen Johnson** will step down from her current role as executive director of the Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce to focus exclusively on the development of the city's downtown corridor. Johnson will begin in the new role on January 10.



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