



# Illinois Business Journal

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Some of the family members who are part of NOTS Logistics in Nashville, Ill., from left: Joe Kirchner, Michael Palko, Jason Povolish, Andy Kirchner, Kevin Brink and Michael Kollbaum.

## 40-year-old warehouser still breaking new ground

NOTS Logistics helps build Nashville, Ill., area into employment center

By DENNIS GRUBAUGH

A new, 216,000-square-foot warehouse is adding to the landscape of a family operated industrial park in Nashville, Ill., that has quietly grown into one of the largest of its kind in Metro East.

The structure is the 24th building for NOTS Logistics, which rivals the significance if not the size of the much larger Gateway Commerce Center in Edwardsville and Pontoon

Beach. Because of the more rural site, the Washington County operation gets less attention, but that’s starting to change.

“People see our location it’s like, oh my gosh, they have no idea the vastness of what exists out here,” said Andy Kirchner, the president and CEO, who grew up in the business. “Millions and millions of square feet of warehouse space, and we’re not the only ones that have grown up out here. We’ve kind of been Southern Illinois’ best kept secret to be honest with you.”

The business hub along Illinois Route 27, just off Interstate 64, is turning 40 in 2021.

“I was there the day we started,” said 54-year-old Kirchner who was then 14

and is the oldest of his siblings. “My two brothers and three sisters were all there in 1981 when Jimmy Carter was exiting as president and we had 19 percent interest rates and my dad said, ‘Hey, let’s go into business’.”

It began with the purchase of a one-truck operation while the family, led by parents Tom and Pat, was living on a rural farm, eight miles outside Nashville. The business Tom purchased was known as Norrenberns Truck Service, originally begun in 1925 by Henry Norrenberns and family in Albers but sold a couple of times before Kirchner’s purchase.

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## I-270 overhaul to represent major changes

By DENNIS GRUBAUGH

In coming years, the landscape of one of the Metro East busiest roads will change forever.

When done, Interstate 270, from the Riverview Drive interchange in Missouri to Illinois Route 157 in Glen Carbon will afford drivers a more convenient, east-west commute and better access to the ancillary roads along the way.

In short, this will no longer be your father’s 270. Or, even your grandfather’s, if he was around when the road was finished in 1965.

The rebuild is anticipated because vehicle volumes are expected to increase 31 percent with growth and development along the corridor, based on highway data compiled in 2017 and projected out to 2044.

“The highest daily use now is 56,900 per day. That is expected to go up 74,400. If no improvements are made, congestion would be at or near capacity,” Matt Overbey, project engineer with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, said during a recent forum. “Already, the accident rate along the stretch is nearly double the statewide rate for the United States.”

Contributing factors for crashes include capacity, lack of proper merging distances and narrow shoulders.

Overbey and several other transportation and engineering officials laid out the challenges facing 270 during a public presentation in the fall.

Kirk Brown, program development engineer with Illinois Department of Transportation, said the preliminary engineering study looks at improvements to the entire corridor, including the interchanges at Illinois Route 3, Old Alton Road and Route 203 in Granite City, Illinois Route 111 and Interstate 255 at Pontoon Beach and Route 157 in Glen Carbon.

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## Podcasting studio gives business a chance to spread vital message

By DENNIS GRUBAUGH

For months now, closeted businesses have sought to break away from a virus that has had them shut off from any kind of success.

A new podcasting service at SIUE may help some of them in getting back to business as usual.

Bolstered by a grant from the Edwardsville Community Foundation, the

Illinois Small Business Development Center for the Metro East has launched a podcasting studio, located within the SBDC offices in Alumni Hall.

“We had put in a proposal for this room, so that the SBDC and clients could use it for marketing, webinars, video podcasting (and more), said SBDC Director Jo Ann DiMaggio May. The Foundation liked the concept.

“We’ve got everything ready to go and

doing some training,” she said, just before SIUE’s holiday break. “We’re looking to get a graduate student to oversee the operations, maybe help with some editing. The goal is to offer services to business so they can promote their company and grow their audience on line. We’ll use it ourselves for interviews with different partners.”

Pam Farrar, the Foundation’s executive director, said her organization is happy to help with the virtual technology project.

“The SBDC at SIUE has a proven track record of supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs from the Metro East, and we are proud to assist with their important work,” she said in a release.

SBDC has been able to purchase necessary equipment to get the studio running, with the hopes of growing it in coming weeks.

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