

Quarterly Issues Report

WLFI-TV 18

Third Quarter, 2020

Broadcast issues contained in this report:

Agriculture, Business and Healthcare

Crime

Diversity

Education

Transportation and Infrastructure

Agriculture, Business and Healthcare

COVID – 19 continues raging through the country and the Greater Lafayette Area, but Tippecanoe County sees numbers dropping after May's spike. A heatwave is gearing up to hit the area and masks may be exacerbating the symptoms of heatstroke as people flock to the outdoors. One family in Carroll County single handedly bring the common soybean to the world. The Fouts family celebrates a milestone in their agricultural history.

7-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:36)

Cases in Tippecanoe County had been going down in the weeks after the county's biggest spike in May. However, almost half of the cases in the past month were reported in the last seven days. Dr. Jeremy Adler says about 22-percent of the county's cases are in the Latin-x community. Indiana was set to move onto the fifth and final stage of the Reopen Indiana Plan on Saturday. That plan will now be modified to a "4.5 stage." Representatives from both Franciscan Health and IU Health Arnett say they are concerned about the rise in numbers.

7-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

As you just heard, Governor Eric Holcomb is slowing down the re-opening process. Today he announced the Back On Track Indiana Plan will be modified through July 17th. A few restrictions will still be lift come July 4th. But most things will stay the same. Bars, restaurants, museums and entertainment establishments and amusement parks will remain at their current level of capacities. On July 4th, fairs, festivals and other outdoor events may open. Holcomb says there were two back to back days last week with 500 positive tests statewide, leading to the decision to slow things down.

7-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Franciscan Health hospitals in Lafayette, Crawfordsville and Rensselaer are all impacted. Inpatients who do not have COVID-19 are now allowed one visitor per day. Hospital officials also say COVID-19 patients will not be allowed to have visitors - unless they are minors or non-decision making. Officials also say patients in labor can have one visitor - and a labor coach. To check out other changes, head over to wlfidot.com.

7-1 Ran 6 P.M. News (:31)

Cases in Tippecanoe County had been going down in the weeks after the county's biggest spike in May. However, almost half of the cases in the past month were reported in the last seven days. Dr. Jeremy Adler says about 22-percent of the county's cases are in the Latin-x community. Indiana will moving on to the modified "4.5 stage" starting on the 4th. West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis says it will take collaboration from everyone to keep the state on track.

7-2 Ran 10 P.M. News (:38)

Tippecanoe County is spending less money per capita than every county except one in the state of Indiana. The Department of Local Government Finance released a report this evening noting every county's expenditures from 2018 and 2019. Tippecanoe County ranked 90th after spending a little less than 800 dollars per capita this year. That is money spent on things like roads, education and law enforcement. Bob Plantenga says half of the funds comes from property taxes while another quarter come from income tax. The county auditor adds the money used shows how cost effectiveness and practicality make a difference.

7-2 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:33)

Many Industries have been hit hard by the coronavirus - but the real estate industry isn't one of them. News 18's Meredith Hackler talked with a local realtor who says there are more people wanting to buy than there are homes on the market.

7-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

The weather this weekend is expected to be hotter than normal which leaves people at risk of heat exhaustion. Heat exhaustion occurs when your body isn't able to thermo-regulate itself. Symptoms include light-headedness, dizziness, dry mouth and weakness. As symptoms progress a person can have an altered mental status and bad diarrhea. Masks can trigger heat exhaustion. However, Dr. Andrew Alaimo the Assistant Medical Director at Franciscan Health Lafayette says people should be wearing them especially if you plan to be around a large number of people.

7-3 Ran 6 P.M. News (:32)

A local paramedic group is offering COVID-19 anti-body testing to the public. Every Friday, Phoenix Paramedic Solutions tests blood samples outside Calvary Baptist Church in West Lafayette. The test can reveal if you've ever had COVID-19 - not just if you're currently infected. The organization has been testing people for three months. Out of 15-hundred people that have been tested, more than three-percent came out with positive results. EMS workers say this test can give us an understanding on how widespread the virus is locally.

7-3 Ran 6 P.M. News (:45)

With the temperatures set to be in the 90's for the weekend and days after people are more susceptible. Symptoms include light-headedness, dizziness dry mouth and weakness. As symptoms progress a person can have an altered mental status and bad diarrhea. Masks can trigger heat exhaustion however doctors say if you are celebrating the holiday weekend you should still be wearing one.

7-3 Ran 6 P.M. News (:45)

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7-4 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:41)

This year the Madam Carroll switched things up with a boat parade not only honoring veterans but first responders as well. "It was honoring everybody but we really wanted to send a message to our first responder community that we appreciate everything that they've been doing." Matthew McKean organized the boat parade this year. He says it was awesome honoring people who are and have served while also being safe during this pandemic with face masks and social distancing. The boat also limited the number of people allowed on this year.

7-5 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:27)

People are spending a lot of time outside this weekend enjoying the weather and many of those are flocking to community pools. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with Director of Operations for Lafayette Parks about how the city is handling the influx of customers during this time.

7-6 Ran 5 P.M. News (:24)

You can be tested for free at the Optum Testing Site now located at Durgan Elementary. That's located on South 18th Street in Lafayette. Today is the first day that the site is operating out of the school. L-S-C superintendent Les Huddle says it will be there only through the month of July before moving to a new location. He says those running the program have an efficient way to get people in and out safely.

7-6 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis says they are happy the mall has been bought and will soon no longer be an eye sore in the heart of the city. As we previously reported the Half of the ownership of Chauncey Hill Mall and Chauncey Hill Annex has been purchased by Muinzer and T2 Capital Management. The mayor says that Chauncey Hill Mall will still be torn down. The city hopes the new construction will also be retail space with a more modern look.

7-6 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

Organizers made the announcement last week as the coronavirus pandemic continues. Many 4-H projects will be submitted and judged virtually as a result of the changes. But the fair will still feature in-person events for 4-H'ers to showcase their animals. Byers says they plan to only feature one species of animal a day to limit the amount of attendees.

7-6 Ran 5 P.M. News (:41)

Dr. Ahsan strongly advises people to continue wearing masks outside in public even though it is hot. He says he recommends having an extra mask around just in case one gets wet from sweating. He wants to remind people that we are still in a pandemic and people are walking around asymptomatic. Someone with underlying medical conditions, especially respiratory, contracting COVID-19 in very hot weather like we've experienced would not be good.

7-6 Ran 10 P.M. News (:34)

Chauncey Hill Mall has a new owner and according to the city of West Lafayette that owner plans to tear the structure down and start fresh. West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis says they are happy the mall has been bought and will soon no longer be an eye sore in the heart of the city. As we previously reported the Half of the ownership of Chauncey Hill Mall and Chauncey Hill Annex has been purchased by Muinzer and T2 Capital Management. The mayor says that Chauncey Hill Mall will still be torn down. The city hopes the new construction will also be retail space with a more modern look.

7-7 Ran Morning News (:31)

The Tippecanoe County Health Department says it will be closed indefinitely while *several employees are in self-quarantine. T-C-H-D confirms a cluster of employees to have coronavirus early Monday afternoon. Five Guys Lafayette location was deep cleaned Monday and a sign out front says the store is closed. A customer we talked to says she isn't worried about COVID because of her age.

7-7 Ran Noon News (:45)

At least three employees are fighting covid-19 at the Lafayette Five Guys. The Tippecanoe County Health Department says it will be closed indefinitely while *several employees are in self-quarantine. T-C-H-D confirms a cluster of employees to have coronavirus early Monday afternoon. Five Guys Lafayette location was deep cleaned Monday and a sign out front says the store is closed. A customer we talked to says she isn't worried about COVID because of her age.

7-7 Ran 5 P.M. News (:57)

Several counties in Northern Indiana already have such mandates requiring residents to wear masks while out in public. Mayor Dennis says he hopes to see a county-wide mandate. But the West Lafayette City Council has been discussing a city-wide ordinance if no mandate is introduced to the entire county. Currently, no specific guidelines have been set for such an ordinance. Dennis says those would be discussed in a public City Council meeting.

7-7 Ran 5 P.M. News (:28)

The TASTE of Montgomery County has been cancelled. Organizers of the event met with the Montgomery County Health Department to discuss proper safety precautions that would be implemented if the event was held. After discussion, the committee made the decision to cancel this year's event. TASTE committee members feel that protection of the health of our community *must take priority. The event was scheduled for August 22nd. The event is set to return on Saturday, August 28-th of 20-21.

7-7 Ran 5 P.M. News (:53)

These days most people are looking to save as much money as possible and thrifting can be a good way to do so. In this week's Always Together, Always Local, we are highlighting Millie's Thrift shop. The thrift shop has been part of the community for 50 years. The non-profit store donates the revenue they make to the local catholic school system. The school system puts the money toward teachers' pay. The store is ran almost completely by volunteers, which lately have been hard to come by.

7-7 Ran 10 P.M. News (:50)

Lindsey McCaffry runs a photography business out of Crawfordsville. She says her business was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. But she got inspiration from another photographer to have a blind date photo session. She sent out a model call for a single man and woman to meet and take pictures like a couple. They did the shoot at the Darlington covered bridge in Montgomery County. The photos went viral on Facebook. Getting more than 68-thousand shares.

7-8 Ran 5 P.M. News (:50)

Students will receive instructions on *how and *when to get tested soon. The university will host different testing areas once this plan gets underway. It plans to partner with different laboratories to test students who are out of state. Purdue is expecting a record number of freshman this fall with a student body of more than 40,000. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Esteban Ramirez says it is important all students are aware of their own health.

7-8 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

The 53rd annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon was planned to take place on October 3rd and 4th at Fort Ouiatenon. After meeting with community leaders, the Tippecanoe County Historical Association decided to cancel the event. The decision was based on CDC guidelines and the difficulty of maintaining social distancing. The historical event acts as a fundraiser for more than 50 community organizations. It's expected to return on October 9th and 10th of 2021.

7-8 Ran 11 P.M. News (:35)

State Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box says.. because of the personal protective equipment site workers have to wear once it gets above a certain temperature... they have to close down if the site is not air conditioned. Along with that many Optum Serve testing sites were in schools and since schools are preparing for re-opening they have had to move. Dr. Box says the call center for Optum Serve will contact people if they made an appointment to get tested and a site has closed early.

7-9 Ran 10 P.M. News (:55)

Experts in Health Care predict this lack of service for chronically ill patients during the pandemic could become known as the silent deaths of COVID-19. Proactive MD which has 4 active clinics in the area says they have been reaching out to their patients to keep them on top of their treatment. They say it's part of a model they could help people manage their illnesses and not fall behind.

7-12 Ran 6 P.M. News (:35)

Researchers at Purdue University are working to make testing for coronavirus faster and easier. A group of students is creating a take-home COVID-19 test. It will work to identify if you have the virus through your saliva. Once saliva is captured on the testing device, it's supposed to be heated for about 30 minutes. From there you can tell if you have the virus if the color on the paper has changed. Purdue's push to quickly get the at-home test on the market is in response to the nationwide testing shortage. Dr. Mohit Verma, who is leading this project, is looking forward to what it will do.

7-13 Ran Noon News (:44)

Mayor John Dennis has enacted a mandatory mask order in the city of West Lafayette. The executive order goes into full effect starting today. It will remain in place indefinitely. "Face covering" is defined as a piece of cloth fabric or other material that fully covers the mouth *and nose. The order says the face covering must be worn when entering, exiting or waiting in line at a public business. They must also be worn on *all forms of public transportation and in any outdoor space where social distancing is not possible. All businesses *must require employees, contractors, or volunteers to wear a face covering. However, there are some reasons why a person does *not have to wear a mask. You can find those on our website, WLFI. Com.

7-13 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:45)

The Tippecanoe County Health Department is responding to a Facebook post from a local business stating it would not require employees to wear masks. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with the health department today about the ramifications a business could have in this situation. News 18 reached out to Fat Bottom Donuts and they did not respond. Fat Bottom Donuts has since deleted its Facebook page and taken down the post that sparked the conversation.

7-14 Ran 5 P.M. News (:26)

The Indiana State Department of Health is operating the location at White Horse Christian Center. That's at 1780 Cumberland Avenue in West Lafayette. The Tippecanoe County Health Department says you do not need a doctor's order or an appointment to get tested. Hours are nine a-m to six p-m. The site will continue operating through this Saturday, July 18th.

7-15 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

Tippecanoe County Health Officer, Dr. Jeremy Adler, says following COVID-19 precautions is more important now than ever. This means wearing face coverings, washing hands, avoiding crowds and social distancing at 6 feet. He says businesses should be creating policies to require employees and customers to wear masks. Dr. Adler is strongly recommending people postpone any trips they have to states facing a coronavirus crisis. That includes Florida, Texas and Arizona.

7-15 Ran 5 P.M. News (1:05)

According to the numbers put forward by Jo Wade at Visit Lafayette and West Lafayette. Seven home football games bring in right around 20-million dollars in revenue to Tippecanoe County with a conference only schedule planned for this fall. Local hotels, restaurants and other businesses are planning ahead. Patrick Bailey is the general manager of both the Holiday Inn City Centre and the Four Points by Sheraton. He says he's taking an optimistic approach.

7-15 Ran 6 P.M. News (:45)

West Lafayette's new Wellness and Aquatic Center is reaching major construction milestones. And the project is nearing its final leg. More than 90 percent of the facility's windows have been installed. Roofing is now underway and the majority of the concrete has been poured. The facility will feature a trail that will connect the facility to Cumberland Park. Mayor John Dennis says the Wellness Center will expand on the city's recreational options.

7-15 Ran 10 P.M. News (:55)

Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski says many local companies are flourishing during the covid-19 pandemic. He says jobs with construction, building and development have held strong. Roswarski cites multiple projects going on around Lafayette. The updates to Loeb Stadium and Columbian Park. Also the new Ellsworth building on the southwest corner of Fifth and South Streets along with the almost 17 million dollar Nova Tower apartments. The mayor says he's proud of the resilience businesses are showing in Lafayette.

7-17 Ran Noon News (:36)

As news 18 previously reported, Goodrich Quality Theaters filed for bankruptcy in February. The new plans to re-open come after Mason Asset Management *and Namdar Realty Group purchased the company's assets. This is according to a press release *just released by the company. It's re-opening 7 theaters in Indiana. This includes the *two in Lafayette and *one in West Lafayette. The company says customers will notice a drop in concession prices *and ticket prices. Goodrich Quality Theater plans to reopen in late July and early August.

7-17 Ran 5 P.M. News (:54)

The Indiana State Department of health sent out guidance for nursing homes on how to implement a program. Most long term care facilities have been on lock down not allowing in person visits due to COVID-19. The ISDH.. recognized that several residents of long term care facilities had increased feelings of loneliness and social isolation. Vickie Ayres who's mother currently resides at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Campus in Delphi says she has seen extreme changes in her mother since she can't visit her in person.

7-20 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

More than 500 students are currently on campus for the university's Early Start and Summer Start Programs. All students were required to take a COVID-19 saliva test during check-in. Students were tested on July 9th and 10th. Results came back within 48 hours. Those who tested positive were immediately relocated to the university's Protect Purdue Health Center. The center's chief medical officer is confident in the university's COVID-19 response plan.

7-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

Purdue University and Ivy Tech are working to combat this issue with a partnership. The universities have created an Addictions Studies Concentration. This applies to Purdue students who are majoring in Human Services. Ivy Tech is offering students five classes focusing directly on topics of addiction. Through these classes they'll receive an addictions studies certificate.

7-21 Ran 11 P.M. News (:60)

The Titan Bat Company in Logansport is expanding it's business from local leagues to minor league baseball. As Dakota Simon explains Trampas Young started the company making miniature bats in his garage. and he's moving his business up baseball's food chain.

7-22 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

Holcomb made the announcement at his weekly press briefing today. He says the reasoning for the statewide mask mandate has to do with Indiana's increase in COVID-19 positivity rates..an increase in Hoosiers being hospitalized for the virus..additional counties seeing more cases.. and increases in positivity rates in neighboring states. Holcomb says wearing face coverings will stop the spread and help businesses stay open.

7-23 Ran 5 P.M. News (:36)

Subaru of Indiana Automotive is rolling out its plan for a 158 million dollar expansion of its Lafayette plant. Governor Eric Holcomb spoke at today's unveiling of the project. The expansion to the existing building will create 350 new jobs right here in Greater Lafayette. The project will include a new service parts facility and will also generate a transmission assembly shop. Governor Holcomb says a project like this goes well beyond the numbers.

7-27 Ran Noon News (:32)

As News 18 first told you last week, the corporation says funding is a concern for the upcoming year. L-C-S-C did receive CARES Act money. However that will *not be enough to cover all the new coronavirus safety costs. These cost include hand sanitizer *and extra hours to keep kids, and teachers, safe. The vote to reopen is set for later today. News 18 will share the result with you online as soon as it's announced.

7-28 Ran 10 P.M. News (:46)

If you have received an unsolicited package of unidentified seeds by mail.. The office of the Indiana State Chemist at Purdue University is warning you not to plant or dispose of the seeds. Anyone in Indiana who receives a package is told not to open the seed packet and to mail it and any packaging materials to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Indiana Office. Agricultural officials believe the seeds are part of a "brushing" campaign in which online retailers send out unsolicited packages and use the fake sales to improve the seller's ratings in the marketplace. Don Robison the seed administrator for the Office of Indiana State Chemist says these seeds could wreak havoc on agriculture and the environment.

7-28 Ran 11 P.M. News (:57)

Goodrich Quality Theaters has released its re-opening plans. The company has already opened its drive-in theater in Huntington, but will start opening up its other Indiana locations in August. These are the opening dates that the company is aiming for, but they are subject to change. Eastside 10 in Lafayette will re-open on the seventh. Meanwhile Brownsburg 8 will re-open on the twenty first, and Lebanon Seven will re-open on the twenty eighth. Opening dates have yet to be determined for Wabash Landing 9, Lafayette 7, or Huntington 7.

7-29 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

Tippecanoe County Health Department says one of the free testing sites in area will be moving. The Indiana state department of health testing site currently located at Durgan Elementary will be moving on Monday, August third. It's relocating to the former Happy Hallow Elementary school - which is currently serves as the temporary West Lafayette City Hall. Dr. Jeremy Adler says if someone feels they need a COVID-19 test, it's important to choose a site with a quick turnaround for test results.

7-30 Ran 6 P.M. News (:31)

White Lodging will open Eight-Eleven Bistro, Boiler Up Bar, and Leaps Coffee August 5th. Just in time for students to be back on campus. The expansion to the union goes hand-in-hand with the renovations to the Union Club Hotel. And all three locations will open up with the customer's safety in mind. Head Chef Aj Buchanio says this provides yet another outlet for students, families, and other visitors across the Greater Lafayette area.

8-3 Ran Noon News (:26)

The Purdue Farmers Market will not be held due to health concerns. The annual event would occur every Thursday from May to October. It would provide a variety of produce, flowers and food. Director of Campus Planning, Michael Gulich, says the health of the community comes first. He adds they'll be looking forward to when the market can return to campus.

8-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:37)

Today Tippecanoe County Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding that allows Purdue to do so. Purdue will contact trace COVID-19 cases for all students, staff and faculty. Once contact tracing is done, Purdue will turn that data over to the Tippecanoe County Health Department and the state. Dr. Esteban Ramirez is the Chief Medical Officer of the Protect Purdue Health Center. He says it will be easier for the school to contact trace the Purdue Community than it would be for the state.

8-3 Ran 6 P.M. News (:32)

Granite Student Living took over the management of the complex about a month ago, according to an anonymous tenant. She received this notice, saying the leases by the previous management would be upheld. And then she got this notice on July 31st. It says her lease is being terminated and she must be out of the apartment by the end of August due to a "major renovation project." She says it was a total shock to get the vacate notice.

8-3 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:36)

Carroll County has played an important role in the history of the soybean across the state and the nation. The county is also the birthplace of the American Soybean Association. As News 18's Balint Szalavari reports, it all started on a farm outside of Camden. Today, the American Soybean Association advocates on policy and trade for soybean farmers. They represent more than 300 thousand U-S soybean farmers in 30 states.

8-4 Ran Noon News (:28)

Yoder says once the staff member tested positive all residents and staff were tested. That happened last week. Everyone was tested again on Monday. But those results are not back yet. Yoder says 12 of the cases are residents. Five are staff members. Stefani Forgey's 86-year-old mother-in-law lives at health care campus. She says the news comes as a shock.

8-4 Noon News (:24)

The Union Club hotel had a complete overhaul of all guest rooms and public spaces. All 182 rooms were completely renovated and decked out in Purdue colors. The hotel also has a restaurant 8Eleven Bistro a bar Boiler Up Bar and Coffee House called Leaps coffee and Artisan Pastries. Something even more interesting about this hotel is that it will partner with the Purdue's school of Hospitality and Tourism.

8-4 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

The announcement was today at Governor Eric Holcomb's weekly press conference. So far 24-thousand Hoosiers have applied for the program. In Tippecanoe County 1,011 renter have applied for assistance making Tippecanoe one of the top 5 counties in the state in need of assistance. If a county has a local rental assistance program. They are still able to take advantage of the state program however. There are stipulations that need to be followed.

8-5 Ran 6 P.M. News (:40)

The people I spoke with today say Logansport County Commissioners are secretly working with the company by not keeping the public informed. Their biggest concern is the environmental and health risk the factory could bring to the area. Construction for the factory has already started about three to four miles south of the city. It sits near homes and across from a crop field. Phillip Stephenson says many people are hoping the city's opposition will play a role in the final decision.

8-5 Ran 10 P.M. News (:32)

Some Purdue graduate students feel like their voice has not been heard in the formulation of the "Protect Purdue Plan." GROW is a grad student organization independent of the university. Members of GROW have started a petition demanding more transparency and communication from the university. They have concerns for value of graduate workers, custodial staff and student health. Elle Rochford is a PhD candidate and member of GROW. She says what Purdue does has a larger impact that could reach outside the university community.

8-6 Ran Morning News (:28)

Each week, customers will be able to pick up a box of seasonal vegetables grown on the farm. They will include produce such as kale, tomatoes, onions, peppers and herbs. According to Farm Manager Chris Adair, the farm has *not sold to the public for several years. He says they are now able to because of decreased demand from on-campus dining due to COVID-19.

8-6 Ran 6 P.M. News (:60)

Yesterday we reported Delphi's St. Elizabeth healthcare campus reported multiple positive cases. Now, the Mulberry Health center is reporting thirty-six cases. President Mark Wolfschlag released a statement saying, Currently, we have 26 residents and 10 staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19. We are now in the process of testing all residents and staff and expect to have results very soon. Sadly, we anticipate these figures are likely to rise.

8-7 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

It's the first of three theaters that's welcoming back guests in Greater Lafayette. Reopening dates have yet to be announced for Wabash Landing 9 in West Lafayette and Lafayette 7. As we previously reported, Goodrich Quality Theaters staff will be putting rules in place to keep movie-goers safe. Like capacity restrictions in theaters three-seat spacing between groups of people ... and of course wearing a mask. For more details on the safety measures you will need to follow, head to WLFI dot COM.

8-7 Ran 10 P.M. News (:30)

Bob Goldsmith says the jail has proper PPE and tests inmates who are showing symptoms. Goldsmith also told News 18 the agency is working on adopting new policies. This includes more accountability for deputies and staying up to date with Indiana code. Each employee will be able to have these new rules available on their phone in the form of an app. Goldsmith says this process typically takes years to publish.

8-9 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

The owners of Exploration Acres are working hard to make sure the farm can open safely for the fall season. It's famous corn maze this year is a tribute to the 75th anniversary of the U-S flag being raised at Iwo Jima. It also has the emblems of the five original branches of government. Owner Tim Fitzgerald added in the medic emblem at the last minute to honor the front line workers of COVID-19. He says excellent weather this summer has resulted in the best pumpkin patch he's had. And he hopes to share it all with the community.

8-10 Ran 6 P.M. News (:28)

Many people began questioning the transaction. 33 citizens filed a suit asking the Cass County courts to review the transaction. That's when WSP brought a law suit against those citizens. Schwarz says the company is claiming that this is damaging it by interfering with the title for the property. Many of those people live in Clymers, which is a town about a mile away from WSP's construction site. Schwarz says as of right now it's unsure what the company's goal is by filing this law suit.

8-10 Ran 10 P.M. News (:32)

That is IU Health Arnett's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. James Bien. He says keeping with the CDC's regulations is how best to get COVID-19 under control locally. In an interview with News 18, the doctor says abiding by social distancing measures, wearing masks and washing your hands regularly is a proven method to help prevent the infectious disease. He adds the biggest hurdle with the progressing pandemic is making sure community members know and follow the basics. This is especially important with schools reopening for the year.

8-11 Ran Noon News (:33)

The classroom in which the student attends class started remote learning on Monday. It was also cleaned last Friday and Monday. The school corporation is requiring the classroom to be empty for 72 hours before students are allowed to return. Contact tracing is being required for the student and their family. Impacted students will receive contact from the Frontier Elementary Administration or by School Nurse. State contact tracers will also be reaching out to parents whose son or daughter was determined to have contact with the identified student.

8-11 Ran Morning News (:23)

Also happening today, the West Lafayette "tiny target" is set to open up. However, organizers for today's opening event are keeping it small due to COVID-19. Following a very important guest event, the store will be open today from 6 p-m to 9 p-m. Managers want to be clear the maximum guest capacity for the store's grand opening will be capped at 21 people. News 18 will follow up with the event later on today.

8-11 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

Yeah a somber day in the college sports world. The Big Ten announcing this afternoon that all fall sports will be postponed including football. The announcement coming just a little less than a week. After the football schedule was actually released. We're going to hear more coming up in our sportscast at around 6:20. Purdue head football coach Jeff Brohm offered his thoughts. On commissioner Kevin Warren's decision to push sports back due to COVID-19.

8-11 Ran 10 P.M. News (:45)

Tippecanoe County Courts are getting ready for an increase in cases starting Monday. Indiana's eviction moratorium and prohibition on disconnecting utility services expires this Friday. Magistrate Dan Moore says on Monday and throughout the course of the next several weeks there will be many filings from landlords to evict tenants. Moore added the large volume of cases will burden the court system. His suggestion - try to settle this outside of court and have a conversation with your landlord or utility company. The court is pushing for a win-win scenario but knows it will step in if needed.

8-12 Ran 6 P.M. News (:55)

This is the first mandate the health department has given that has the potential to contradict the state's orders. Starting this Friday all restaurants will operate at 75% capacity. All bars and clubs will be at 50% capacity. There will only be table top service, and no bar top service. All dance floors will be closed. And all restaurants, bars and clubs will close at midnight. This also includes 24-hour drive through service offered at some fast food establishments. West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis and Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski both voiced their support.

8-12 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:34)

Cars could soon be making way for dining tables in Downtown Lafayette during the weekends. It's part of a plan presented by the Friends of Downtown that would expand dining areas for restaurants. I spoke with Friends of Downtown Lafayette Treasurer Steve Bultinck this morning and he told me the idea is to bring more people downtown. It's a concept he believes could benefit downtown businesses.

8-12 10 P.M. News (:45)

As kids prepare for the school year there are many things they'll have to make sure they have. Due to COVID-19 a mask is one of them. Vice President of Medical Affairs for Franciscan Health Dr. Daniel Wickert says it's important that parents get their kids wearing masks sooner rather than later. He says the key in getting kids comfortable with wearing a mask has everything to do with muscle memory. He also says under the age of two should not wear a mask. It'll be a difficult task but it will be beneficial as kids head back to school.

8-13 Ran 5 P.M. News (:36)

Jerry Strok owns Big League Sports Bar and Grill. He says the ordinance will hurt his business. As we previously reported, the new rules include bars, nightclubs and restaurants closing at midnight. Today, the health department administrator told us it allows the businesses to stay open even though COVID-19 cases are rising. She said it's an effort to avoid shutting them down. Strok says 50 percent of Big League's revenue comes after 12 a.m. He doesn't understand how closing at midnight would slow the spread of the virus.

8-18 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

That includes limiting large social gatherings at bars, restaurants and nightclubs. Chief John Cox says the department is working with the Dean of Student's Office and Greek Life. Cox says students have done a good job following social distancing guidelines and Purdue's mask requirements. But they should still expect regular enforcement when it comes to parties.

8-19 Ran 5 P.M. News (1:13)

As if we didn't have anything else to worry about in 2020.. Mosquitoes have been taking over the community this year. Especially for those who enjoy wooded areas like this one in West Lafayette.. So what's the deal? According to experts like professor of entomology Cate Hill. The late summer season is generally a hot spot for mosquitoes. Especially for a species of insects that loves long grass, humidity and standing water and with everything else going on Hill says now is the time when the West Nile Virus can spread, but there are simple ways you can help yourself and others around you at home and in your neighborhood.

8-20 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The latest USDA crop report shows the affects of COVID-19 on farming. Soybean prices have stayed about the same as anticipated before the pandemic. However, corn prices are down. 35 to 40 percent of all corn produced in the United States goes to the ethanol industry. With Americans driving less due to quarantine, the need for ethanol is down. Purdue Agricultural Economist Michael Langemeier says the pandemic is also impacting livestock, particularly pork. That's due to an increase in production.

8-23 Ran 11 P.M. News (:33)

Superintendent Al Remaly sent out an email to parents on Sunday. It says there are 10 confirmed cases in the school district. Three of which were found in the past three days. The letter says with the contact tracing that has been conducted, about 25% of the students at the junior/senior high school are impacted. The junior-senior high will move to virtual learning for two weeks. Clinton Central Elementary will move to virtual learning for one week.

8-24 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The City of Lafayette and Lafayette Board of Parks & Recreation announced today that the Lafayette Aviators will call the new Loeb Stadium home. Lafayette Family Entertainment which is the group over the Aviators signed a five year contract with the city. The team will operate a summer league baseball team to play in Loeb Stadium. That'll take place next year in May. Jefferson High School will also use this field for all of its home games as well.

8-25 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

Construction crews are making progress at the new IU Health hospital in Frankfort. As we've previously reported, leaders broke ground on the site in May of 2019. More than a year later, they have had some set backs in construction due to COVID-19. Kelly Braverman says they are bringing in materials from near and far. Including limestone from Bedford Indiana, which was specially quarried to get to them on time. Braverman says having a state of the art facility right in Frankfort will better serve the needs of people in Clinton County.

8-26 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:39)

A tale of two types of restaurants is playing out in Tippecanoe County. Some are struggling, but others are opening and even expanding. News 18's Joe Paul talked with local restaurant owners about setting up shop during the pandemic.

8-28 Ran 5 P.M. News (:25)

Citizens who aren't showing any symptoms are encouraged to self-isolate. Then after fourteen days, they can check if symptoms have emerged. This is not a replacement for actual testing. It's a way to slow the spread. IU Health's Dr. Thomas Meyer says it's still important to get tested if you suspect something.

8-28 Ran 5 P.M. News (:45)

Sheriff Bob Goldsmith's proposed budget includes a \$20,000 bump in pay. As News 18 previously reported, the county is foregoing raises for most employees due to budget concerns. The county will see a loss of roughly \$1 million in income tax revenue due to COVID-19-related layoffs and furloughs. But county auditor Bob Plantenga says Goldsmith is the lowest paid sheriff in similarly sized counties.

8-30 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

Tippecanoe County is kicking off National Recovery Month with a day of remembrance. Today dozens gathered at Columbian Park to observe International Overdose Awareness Day. The group included local health leaders and community members impacted by substance abuse. This event is designed to bring education-- and remember those who have lost their lives. In the county, there were 21 reported drug overdose deaths last year. That's why events like these are still crucial for Donna Zoss, even in a pandemic.

9-1 Ran Noon News (:28)

Libby Richards is an associate professor in Purdue's nursing school. She says flu-like symptoms can mirror COVID-19 symptoms and it's possible to get *both at the same time. And the two illnesses can become dangerous to those who are at risk. Richards says getting a flu vaccine helps you, and those around you, in the community.

9-1 Ran 10 P.M. News (:28)

Leaders at Healthy Communities of Clinton County say this is due to isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Shan Sheridan is a member of the Clinton County Chamber of Commerce. He also works closely with local youth. He says feelings of hopelessness shared by people around the country is also impacting this community.

9-2 Ran 5 P.M. News (:20)

As the bar closes it takes a lot of tradition with it. From the fabled Cactus Cups to the memories made by those who walked through the front door on Thursdays and beyond. It's safe to say this is a place students on campus are going to miss. Weather they were able to experience it or not.

9-3 Ran Morning News (:27)

No Purdue football season means no tailgating. That's hurting local companies that cater to game day fans. Owners of Midwest Rentals and D-and-R Barbecue say business has been slow since March. That's when stay-at-home orders took effect due to COVID-19. Now the cancelled Big Ten football season is just another blow. Patrick Johnson owns the Barbecue business. He's encouraging fans to find new ways to get together. That includes picking a new favorite team to follow.

9-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:38)

Over 1.6 million dollars in COVID relief dollars has been raised to help area non profits. In the first phase of it's efforts the United Way focused on helping non-profits pay rent and utilities, purchase PPE and help them provide their services virtually. Now it's focus is on sustaining non-profit. Michael Budd the CEO of United Way of Greater Lafayette says COVID-19 has taken a toll on non-profits at a time when they are needed the most.

9-3 Ran 10 P.M. News (1:32)

A zinc factory coming to Cass County has dropped a lawsuit it filed against 30 citizens. I spoke with the lawyer representing the citizens about why the lawsuit was dropped. He also shares why the battle isn't over and says there are still 3 active lawsuits against the company.

9-4 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

This new dining option for customers is apart of a promotion called Fresh Air Eats. This is the second weekend for restaurants to replicate the idea other cities such as Indianapolis are doing. I am down here to not only taste the food but to see how last weekend went. Many of the eating establishments downtown don't have the space to properly social distance in order to operate at 75% capacity. As a reminder outdoor dining down here is available Friday 4 to 10 pm , Sat 9am to 10 pm and Sunday 9am to 9pm.

9-4 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:46)

The kitchen at La Scala Italian Restaurant is bustling. But the dining area is full of stacked chairs and glassware. "We closed the restaurant, I think March 20 was our last day open, and during that time we kept asking ourselves, 'How do you run a restaurant during a pandemic?'" The solution? A unique subscription model delivering meals to customers' doors. Co-owner Kirsten Serrano says the service, called Good to Go, is contactless and pandemic-safe. "We take subscribers online, people can get either weekly or bi-weekly subscriptions. They sign up for the amount of food they want and then we deliver that on Thursdays."

9-4 6 P.M. News (1:28)

A well known business in downtown Lafayette is closing it's doors for good. I talked with Kathy Logsdon the owner of Kathy's Kandies who says retiring now just made sense. Kathy's last day in business will be tomorrow. When asked what she's looking forward to the most about retirement Kathy said getting some rest.

9-7 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

Exploration Acres will officially open for business on September 18th. Owner Tim Fitzgerald says the Tippecanoe County Health Department has approved his reopening plan. Part of the plan includes mask requirements on hayrides and in places where social distancing isn't possible. They will provide hand sanitizer throughout the farm as well. Fitzgerald is urging people to buy tickets online to minimize contact with employees. As we've previously reported, this year's corn maze pays homage to military and medical heroes.

9-8 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The organization says more federal funding needs to be made available to stop businesses from closing. A survey they conducted estimates more than 80 percent of business owners who received money from the Paycheck Protection Program have used their entire loan. Indiana state director for NFIB Barbara Quandt says lawmakers need to take action.

9-9 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

This is the only change being made to the mandate. County Health Officer Dr. Jeremy Adler says they did consider modifying the midnight curfew. However, he says the county is not quite at that level yet. He says they will continue to monitor data and that extending the curfew is still on the table as a future step. Dr. Adler says this decision was made based on feedback from local businesses and elected leaders. He hopes this first step towards easing the restaurant mandate will keep the health of the community and the sustainability of businesses in balance.

9-9 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:35)

Money from the federal Paycheck Protection Program is running low for many business owners. But as News 18's Joe Paul reports, a new grant could prop up companies around Tippecanoe County. Lafayette and West Lafayette rolled out similar relief packages for businesses. Most of their employees must be low- to moderate-income to qualify. The county is forming a committee to accept and review applications. Businesses can apply online on the county website.

9-10 Ran Noon News (:36)

Dr. Ramirez also provided some new coronavirus numbers. He said out of 844 quarantine beds, they are currently only using 50. He's hoping the university can increase its number of quarantine beds to 1-thousand as a precaution. He also confirmed that 27 cooperative living houses on campus have positive coronavirus cases. He said only 6 of those houses are on a larger quarantine. With 3 of those ending their quarantine this week. Spokesperson Tim Doty says Purdue is not naming these organizations because of quote "privacy." He says the university also does *not have any breakdown of positive cases in dorms.

9-10 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The program will now offer incarcerated individuals treatment for substance abuse disorders. The Jail is partnering with Quality 360 Health Care Alliance to do so. The new program will provide individual and group counseling, life skills training, and individual case management. Inmates can also receive medication assisted treatment if it's deemed appropriate after an assessment.

9-10 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:31)

The Tippecanoe County Jail has a new Treatment program for Inmates. The goal of it is to keep inmates from re-offending. News 18's Meredith Hackler talked with the Sheriff and the organizers of the program about how this new treatment will bridge a gap that's existed for years. The program is funded through grants so there is no cost to the tax payers of Tippecanoe County. So far the jail has 24 inmates taking part in the program.

9-15 Ran 5 P.M. News (:41)

On September 4th, Dr. Pickerill sent this email to the City of West Lafayette Clerk's email. The subject line is "mask mandate." The email says "Please stay within your boundaries. Trust the citizenry to use common sense in living our lives. There is no unequivocal scientific evidence to support your policy." This was shared with me by West Lafayette City Councilman Nick DeBoer, which he says is public record. As we've previously reported, Mayor Dennis issued the mask mandate a few weeks before Governor Holcomb did for the state. Mayor Dennis says he consulted with the Tippecanoe County Health Department and with leading doctors from both local hospitals about the effectiveness of wearing masks.

9-15 Ran 10 P.M. News (:30)

The County Health Department says it was first detected in a mosquito population here on August 26th. The County was notified of the test today. It's now asking people to use insect repellent containing DEET and making sure there's no standing water on their property. West Nile has been found in Tippecanoe County over the past several years, and the county says it's not surprised it was detected again this year.

9-16 Ran 5 P.M. News (:55)

Khala Hochstedler with the health department described the number of cases as a small cluster. But she couldn't confirm the exact number of positive cases within the complex. She says the owner, Granite Student Living, is being cooperative. But it's unclear what is being done to quarantine residents with the virus. Highly touched areas and common spaces are being disinfected frequently. Resident Olivia Willman says she first found out about the cluster by signs posted throughout the building. She says she also received an email on Monday with more information.

9-16 Ran 5 P.M. News (:45)

The Purdue Retirees Association is hosting a drive-thru vaccination clinic at the West Lafayette V-F-W. Retirees can pull up and fill out a disinfected application with single use pens. Once filled out, they can quickly receive the shot and be on their way. PURA President Norman Long says it was important to keep this event around despite COVID 19's persistence.

9-16 Ran 10 P.M. News (:55)

The new center is the only one of its kind in the Lafayette area. Before patients with chronic or non-healing wounds would have to travel to Indianapolis to receive the treatments that they need. Non-healing wounds can lead to lower quality of life and may lead to amputations. When wounds persist, a specialized approach is required for healing. Dr. Roger Bangs the Medical Director of the IU Health Arnett Wound center says they will now be able to treat patients with Hyperbaric oxygen therapy.. which wasn't possible before.

9-17 Ran 10 P.M. News (:56)

In continuing coverage, Big Ten football is back and fans are pumped. Obviously no fans will be in attendance at the games this fall. Or at least anyone from the public. The university had to remind some students on campus today that there will be no tailgating. But fans do have games to look forward to. The overall reaction is excitement to just having some normalcy. There are in person classes going on around campus. And now students will be able to gather round TV's, Laptops, and phones. To watch Boilermaker football.

9-18 Ran 5 P.M. News (:55)

The local department is coordinating with the state Department of Health on its investigation. Anyone who had food and-or drink at La Aldea Grocery store from September seventh, 2020 through September 17 and is experiencing symptoms is being asked to contact the Tippecanoe County Health Department at 765-423-9222 ext. 1. Salmonella symptoms include diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps. Salmonella are bacteria, which live in the intestines of people and many animals. They are usually transmitted to people when they eat food contaminated with the bacteria, but can also be transmitted through contact with animals or their environment.

9-18 Ran 5 P.M. News (:36)

The deadline to apply for the grants is October 2nd. The funds will be used for payroll and operational costs. Not every business will receive grants. A special committee will consider whether applicant businesses have had economic hardships during the pandemic. To find out what other considerations the committee will make, head to W-L-F-I dot COM.

9-19 Ran 11 P.M. News (:30)

Lafayette has a new COVID-19 testing site. CVS Health opened a drive thru testing site at its location on U.S. 231 South to further serve the people of Tippecanoe County. It opened to the public on Friday. It's one of 18 locations CVS is opening throughout Indiana. CVS Health has now expanded testing to include children ages 12 and older, as schools reopen in our community. Testing is offered to insured and uninsured patients, with no out-of-pocket costs to patients.

9-22 Ran 5 P.M. News (:55)

As News 18 previously reported, an active cluster was discovered at Grant Street Station as early as September 11th. We now know that at least 11 residents have tested positive for the virus. In July, a cluster of 13 cases was found at The Cottages. And a cluster of 12 cases at Rise on Chauncey. Tippecanoe County Health Officer Jeremy Adler says both of those hotspots have since been resolved. He tells me that the amenities these residents often seek can also promote the spread of the virus.

9-23 Ran 5 P.M. News (:58)

Since the state of Indiana has a positivity rate below 4 percent Holcombs administration feels the state can move to the next stage of re-opening. Under stage 5 face coverings will still be required for all Hoosiers and so will social distancing and extra sanitary practices. Capacity levels can return to normal for bars and restaurants, but social distancing is expected to be maintained. Governor Holcomb says if local officials want to have stricter guidelines it's something he will support.

9-23 Ran 10 P.M. News (:39)

Indiana's unemployment rate sits at 6.4 percent which is lower than the national average of 8.4. The state invested fifty million dollars of CARES act money in to the Next Level Jobs Program. This allowed it to expand the number of tuition free training and education programs. Now the state is adding 25 million more dollars to help even more Hoosiers find better jobs. That money has to be used by December 30th. Hoosiers who complete training through the Next Level Jobs program on average make over twenty dollars an hour.

9-23 Ran 6 P.M. News (:52)

Staff at the county jail and sheriff's office are taking extra steps to keep the virus out. Employees are provided with protective gear and additional sanitizing supplies. Frequently touched surfaces in day rooms and break rooms are disinfected between uses. Inmates are being limited to virtual visitations. A-A, G-E-D and Bible study programs have also been cancelled.

9-23 Ran 11 P.M. News (:36)

Ivy Tech's Agriculture Department will use the funds on equipment, staffing and measuring key soil health data points. The department will also be able to host field days for students and the public. They will be able to observe the results of crop trials and speak with ag experts. Department of Agriculture Chair Kraig Bowers hopes these opportunities will encourage students to pursue careers in agriculture.

9-24 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

Rossville Schools says it has two positive COVID-19 cases within its Middle and High School student population. According to a statement on the school's website, the school is following C-D-C guidelines for contact tracing and have identified a large group of students who were close to people diagnosed with the illness. The Indiana State Department of Health will contact families that have been identified for contact tracing. Lastly, students will not attend classes tomorrow. The school will conduct an e-Learning day instead.

9-24 Ran 10 P.M. News (:56)

COVID-19 has made holding fundraising events difficult.. but some non-profits have gotten creative. Tonight the Lafayette Daybreak Rotary Club held their 13th annual Toast To Mental Health. This year due to COVID-19 the event was held drive through style. People who wanted to donate simply drove up and dropped off their donation. All Raffles were also held drive through style as well. Matt Salsbery the Chairman of the Toast to Mental Health Committee says access to mental health is needed now more than ever.

9-25 Ran Noon News (:45)

The city of Lafayette is proposing an extension of open air-dinning. As we've previously reported, it closes downtown streets to allow for more outdoor seating. This allows restaurants to serve more people while maintaining social distancing. Due to the positive response, the city would like to extend it through October.

9-28 Ran 5 P.M. News (:57)

Purdue University is offering on-campus flu vaccinations starting today. The Co-Rec on campus will serve as a primary site continuing Wednesday and Friday. And next week on Monday and Wednesday from 10 AM to 8 PM each day. Students who are on campus and all faculty and staff are required to receive a vaccination this fall as part of the Protect Purdue Plan. The clinics also cover spouses and dependents on a Purdue medical plan. Libby Richards is an associate professor in the school of nursing at Purdue. She says creating this availability for those on campus will ultimately help keep Greater Lafayette healthy.

9-28 Ran 10 P.M. News (:53)

Leaders at Loving Heart Animal Shelter in Lafayette are concerned for their future. The animal shelter, which has been in the community for 11 years says they need around 8,900 dollars to be able to stay in the building they currently lease. The no kill shelter says because many of their fundraising events have been canceled the only revenue they have is from animals that they have adopted out.

Crime

A potentially scary situation at a local Wal-Mart store is diffused with the use of less-than-lethal means. A local cyclist is the victim of a random shooting. The cyclist suffers from a shattered arm where the bullet entered their arm. A Clark's Hill man is headed to jail and a forthcoming court appearance after he was caught soliciting sex from a minor.

7-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:36)

A Lafayette mother now faces charges after her dog killed her one-month-old baby. Police were called to Jennifer Connell's home on Greenbush Street on January 25th. There, authorities say they found a dog that was behaving aggressively in a bedroom along with an infant that wasn't breathing. Police say they had to shoot the dog to get the infant. The baby was pronounced dead at a local hospital. Jennifer Connell faces a total of three charges, which are two counts of neglect of a dependent and one count of neglect of a dependent resulting in bodily injury.

7-2 Ran 11 P.M. News (:35)

Our top story tonight, Lafayette police are investigating a shooting. They say it happened at the intersection of North 27th and Brown Streets. That is near Lafayette Sunnyside intermediate School and Lafayette Christian School. Lafayette police Sgt. Ian O'Shields says the scene is now clear and they're not looking for any active threat to the public - but no suspect is in custody. The person shot was taken to the hospital with unknown injuries. Investigators should have a statement on how the shooting happened tomorrow. We will bring you that information as soon as it's available.

7-3 Ran Morning News (:26)

Tippecanoe County prosecutors have filed formal charges against Morgan Holder. They say the victim first came forward to authorities in September. Court documents say she described several incidents between January of 20-18 and August of 20-19. Holder is currently listed in the Tippecanoe County Jail on a 15- thousand dollar bond.

7-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:60)

Capt. Art Choate with WLPD says the man said he was heading to Walmart with his knife. That's when police followed him and took action and tried to negotiate with him here in the Walmart parking lot. Cpt. Choate says he was resisting when officer tried to cuff him so they tazed him so he would comply. The stand-off was short with police and after the man was tazed he was taken into custody and is receiving medical treatment. Choate told News 18 the man kept instigating officers and was hostile so that's why the stand-off ensued.

7-5 Ran 6 P.M. News (:45)

Deputies from the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office responded to the call around 4:15 yesterday afternoon. During the investigation, they learned that Donald Crider had allegedly touched the girl inappropriately. He then armed himself while in the home after police had been contacted. Police say the victim had already exited the home and was not injured. Crider eventually walked out of the home on his own around 8:20. He was arrested and taken the Tippecanoe County Jail. He faces preliminary charges of sexual battery and criminal confinement. We've been told by the sheriff's office that we don't have a mug shot yet because Crider won't cooperate.

7-5 Ran 11 P.M. News (:44)

As we previously reported, Purdue filed a federal report of the case in March. Three dogs died and one was injured during research for the G-I drug "Omeprazole." Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! co-founder Michael Budkie says they have contacted Purdue President Mitch Daniels. The organization is demanding that the responsible staff be terminated, the project in question halted, and all canine health records be posted on the University website. Budkie says he has not heard back from the university. You can read SAEN's letter to President Daniels and the federal complaint filed later tonight on our website wlfi.com.

7-6 Ran Noon News (:43)

And 81-year-old man is arrested after allegedly sexually assaulting a 17 year old girl. Deputies from the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office responded to the call around 4:15 yesterday afternoon. During the investigation, they learned that Donald Crider had allegedly touched the girl inappropriately. He then armed himself while in the home after police had been contacted. Police say the victim had already exited the home and was not injured. Crider eventually walked out of the home on his own. He was arrested and taken the Tippecanoe County Jail. He faces preliminary charges of sexual battery and criminal confinement. We've now been told by the sheriff's office that we don't have a mug shot yet because of some technical issues.

7-6 Ran 10 P.M. News (:34)

Police say it happened Sunday afternoon at Shady Knoll apartments. When police arrived at the scene, they found a woman with stabbing injuries from the head, neck and shoulders. Before being taken to the hospital, the victim identified her attacker as a woman named Blessing Yoder. The victim is now in critical condition. Police have not been able to find Yoder and is asking for the public's help. If you know anything about Yoder's whereabouts, you are asked to call police at 765 362 2762.

7-8 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

Court documents say that on July 3rd, Josue Escalera showed up to a woman's house with a knife and pounded on the door. Authorities say Escalera told the woman to come with him to his parent's house, where he had previously been warned for trespassing, or he would kill her. Officers then tazed Escalera and took him into custody. Josue allegedly admitted to police that he entered the woman's house when she would not answer him. Josue's charges include kidnapping, intimidation and burglary.

7-8 Ran 10 P.M. News (:47)

Authorities say Ian Allen stopped by and shot a cyclist. Court documents say the cyclist's arm was shattered after he got shot, and was taken to an Indianapolis hospital for surgery. Officers say they found Allen's vehicle at a hotel on South Street, and found Allen inside the building. Allen allegedly admitted to shooting the cyclist and taking his two backpacks. Police say they searched the backpacks, where they believe they found the handgun that was used in the shooting along with small amounts of methamphetamine, marijuana and heroin. Allen's charges include robbery resulting in serious bodily injury and dealing methamphetamine.

7-9 Ran Noon News (:33)

According to police, Edbin Ceron sexually assaulted a 14-year-old girl in October. Police were called to the residence where she said Ceron asked her to have sexual intercourse. The victim refused, but he proceeded to inappropriately touch her. Ceron faces a possible sentence of 3 to 16 *years for the Rape conviction. He also faces 2 to 12 years for the conviction of Sexual Misconduct with a minor. His sentencing hearing will be scheduled at a later date.

7-9 Ran Noon News (:37)

Police say shortly after, they found the backpacks with Allen at his hotel room. Inside there were allegedly small amounts of meth, marijuana, and heroin, as well as the handgun used in the shooting. Allen's charges include robbery resulting in serious bodily injury and dealing methamphetamine. The bicyclist suffered non- life threatening injuries.

7-9 Ran Morning News (:31)

According to police, Edbin Ceron sexually assaulted a 14-year-old girl in October. Police were called to the residence where she said Ceron asked her to have sexual intercourse. The victim refused, but he proceeded to inappropriately touch her. Ceron faces a possible sentence of 3 to 16 *years for the Rape conviction. He also faces 2 to 12 years for the conviction of Sexual Misconduct with a minor. His sentencing hearing will be scheduled later.

7-9 Ran 10 P.M. News (:37)

NIPSCO is warning Hoosiers about fraud calls that are getting sent to homes and businesses. NIPSCO says the scammers are posing as NIPSCO employees -- who are demanding payments to avoid service disconnections. The company says it does not demand immediate payment by meeting in person or using a certain payment method. If you do get a suspicious call that claims to be NIPSCO, you should do the following. Call the Customer care center at 1-800-464-7726. You should not give away any personal information, including your NIPSCO account number. And know your payment options for NIPSCO when it comes to taking care of bills.

7-10 Ran 5 P.M. News (:39)

A stabbing last night has left one teen in critical condition and one man behind bars. It happened in the alley next to the Marathon on 900 Ferry Street in Lafayette around 10:30. The 18 year old victim was riding his bike home through the ally when 48 year old David Engstrom held out a knife in front of the vicitim and cut his neck. The victim was taken to an area hospital in critical condition.

7-10 Ran 11 P.M. News (:23)

A Lafayette man is facing two charges of sexual misconduct with a minor. Prosecutors say Matthew Ferguson drove out of state to meet the victim, and brought her back to his Lafayette home, where they had intercourse. According to investigators Ferguson admitted he believed the victim to be around 15 years old. Ferguson is 25. He is being held in the Tippecanoe County jail without bond.

7-13 Ran 6 P.M. News (:26)

A Clark's Hill man is facing child molesting charges, three years after the victim says it happened. Prosecutors say a ten year old girl recently came forward saying when she was seven, Terry Marcum molested her. It happened at a Lafayette home when Marcum was 31. Online records indicate Marcum is also facing a child molesting charge in Boone County, where he was arrested in June 2019 for a 2016 incident. He's facing a September trial in that case.

7-16 Ran 11 P.M. News (:30)

The investigations started as a traffic stop for an infraction on northbound I-65. K9 Gunny was deployed - leading authorities to this, More than 34 thousand dollars in cash, large quantities of marijuana, and two guns. Two men and a juvenile girl were inside the vehicle. The sheriff's office confirmed one of the men has been arrested and their identities have not been released yet.

7-17 Ran 11 P.M. News (:20)

The Clinton County Sheriff's Office has arrested a 21-year old Rossville man in a child pornography case. Hayden Anderson is charged with *one count of possession of child pornography for materials found on Anderson's phone. The sheriff's office says it's connected to a runaway case from another county.

7-18 Ran 6 P.M. News (:45)

Lafayette Sergeant Ian O'Shields says the LPD retrieval team pulled the body out around 1 p.m. This is still under investigation but as of now, officers do not believe there was any foul play. It's unclear how long the body was in the water and It's unclear who made the call. Tippecanoe County Coroner Donna Avolt told me the autopsy is scheduled for the beginning of next week. We will update this story as we get more information. For now, I'm reporting live at Armstrong Park in Lafayette. Micah Upshaw, News 18.

7-19 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:46)

One Fowler teen has created an unintentional business that's now booming. Breanne Butler has been painting rocks and selling them since the start of the pandemic. Butler was born with spina-bifida, which affects her ability to walk. News 18's Micah Upshaw tells us how this business is going to help grant her 16th birthday wish.

7-21 Ran Noon News (:42)

Police say last Monday, two boys ages 14 and 17 reported being beaten and robbed in separate incidents about an hour apart. Surveillance video helped identify four suspects - a 12 year old, a 14 year old, and *two 15 year olds. Police say the next night they returned to the park, where *one of the 15-year olds sexually assaulted a 13- year old girl. On Friday, officers on patrol saw *three of them in the park *again and arrested them. The fourth was arrested at home. All four are facing *two counts of robbery. The teen suspected of assaulting the girl is *also facing a sexual battery charge.

7-24 Ran Noon News (:30)

The case alleges LPD used excessive force in an incident that happened on May 9-th. Tippecanoe County Judge, Sean Persin, appointed Mary Hutchinson as the special prosecuting attorney. She requested I-S-P's help in the investigation on June 22nd. We will have more information on the allegations of excessive force, tonight on News 18 at Five and Six.

7-27 Ran 5 P.M. News (:40)

The incident happened on Friday evening around 6-30. Morgan was riding her bike on 150-East near 900-North. According to the sheriff's office she was hit by a car and found lying in a ditch. She died from her injuries while being taken to the hospital. Witnesses report they saw the driver take off at a high speed. Officers identified the driver as Eddie Norris. During a standoff-off between Norris and law enforcement, the sheriff's office says he took his own life. Tomorrow we will hear from some of Peggy's former coworkers.

7-28 Ran 5 P.M. News (:49)

Nine people who witnessed what happened in some capacity testified today. Including a woman who ended up shattering her knee when she fell while running after shots were fired. Three minors also testified who were part of the friend group involved in the shooting. All three minors and the first woman testified to either seeing or hearing three shots being fired. Police also found three shell casings at the scene. Two of the minors confirmed Erves was aiming for their friend, who is also a presumed minor. Four other adults who were not connected to the group but saw what happened testified in the afternoon. Three of them say they physically saw shots being fired. Several of Erves' family members attended today to show support. They all blew kisses and gave words of encouragement to Erves as they left the courtroom today.

7-28 Ran 5 P.M. News (:54)

According to court documents, resident Michael Bryant filed the lawsuit in the Tippecanoe Circuit Court last Wednesday. He is arguing that the city's mask mandate is unconstitutional. According to Bryant's attorney, Arie Lipinski, they hope to obtain a preliminary injunction, preventing the enforcement of the madate. The case argues that public health guidance on the effectiveness of masks has been conflicted. And there is not sufficient evidence to conclude that mask-wearing orders are an effective way to reducing the spread of COVID-19. Bryant also claims there are less restrictive methods to stop the spread of the coronavirus which the West Lafayette City Council could adopt after a majority vote. News 18 reached out to West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis. He was unable to comment at this time.

7-28 Ran 10 P.M. News (:30)

Clinton County Sheriff's Deputies arrested a South Bend man this afternoon for allegedly stealing a vehicle. Authorities say they made a traffic stop on a vehicle going southbound on Interstate 65. Deputies say they determined that the vehicle was stolen after checking the plate. Police say the driver - David Hurd -- tried faking his identity. Authorities then searched the vehicle, where they found a small amount of marijuana. Formal charges on Hurd are pending from the Clinton County prosecutor's office.

7-30 Ran 5 P.M. News (:46)

34-year old RC Smith is charged with two counts of sexual misconduct and two counts of official misconduct. According to court documents, investigators interviewed the inmate about the allegations. Prosecutors say she initially denied they had anything other than a professional relationship. But documents state she eventually admitted they had sexual contact, including in the parking lot at Applebee's. Prosecutors say they also have proof the two shared several sexually explicit phone messages. According to online court records - Smith is due back in court in September.

8-3 Ran 11 P.M. News (:39)

This allegedly happened after midnight on August 3rd. According to court documents, Justin Garberding had a fight with a man who lived on Rockingham Lane in Lafayette. Police say Garberding took the man's laptop and iPad. When the man tried to get his electronics back, authorities say Garberding struck the man on the side of the head with a metal bracket. Authorities say when they were arresting Garberding, he struck an officer in the wrist. Garberding charges include Armed Robbery, Theft, and battery resulting in bodily injury to a public safety official.

8-5 Ran 6 P.M. News (:27)

According to police, 29-year-old Jacob Creamer met the victim online and agreed to meet at an apartment in Lafayette. Court documents say Creamer then raped the victim with an object, then he had sexual intercourse with her without her consent. According to online court records, Creamer is due back in court this November. He faces charges of rape and criminal confinement.

8-7 Ran Morning News (:43)

Gard says they responded to a report of an injured man in the road. He was found near 10-th street. The individual was bleeding from an apparent wound. He was transported to an area hospital where he later died. Details are slim right now, but Gard tells us it could be traffic related. Gard says the individual had been on a motorized vehicle. However, *no other vehicles were involved. News 18 is working to learn more. As this story develops, we will be sure to update you on-air and online at wfli dot com.

8-12 Ran Noon News (:33)

Lafayette police say it started with an incident at 4-th and Owen Street. That's near the Bilt-more Tap room *and Banh Mi Eatery. Police say the shooting happened around 6:46 Tuesday night at 14-th and King Street. A 38-year-old man was taken to the hospital after being hit in the back. His condition is *not known at this time. Police are still looking for the shooter. If you have any information about the shooting, you are asked to call L-P-D or the WeTip Hotline at 800-78-CRIME.

8-14 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

Stephen Behm is charged with child molestation, possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. Prosecutors say the incident happened at Behm's home in late June. West Lafayette Police arrested Behm on Thursday. Court documents state that police found marijuana and a pipe during the arrest. fAccording to online court records, Behm is due in court again in October.

8-16 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:11)

This is what the scene at the Lafayette Crossing strip mall looked like when I got on scene around midnight. Lafayette Police say they responded to the call on State Road 26 around 10:20 last night. Police surround the entire shopping center and roughly 40 bikers were in the parking lot, which was surrounded by caution tape. LPD says two men stepped outside of the Big League Sports Bar and Grill. They were then confronted by a group from the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club. Police say Nicholas Lusson first attacked Colton Mitchell by hitting him in the head with some sort of metal object. Mitchell then attacked back, stabbing Lusson in the chest. Lusson died at the scene.

8-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:38)

Our top story this afternoon, more Purdue students could be facing consequences with administration after an off-campus party bust this morning. It happened the day after 36 Purdue students were suspended for a party on-campus. Deputy Terry Ruley says deputies were called to a West Lafayette subdivision for a noise complaint. When they got there at about 1:17 a.m. they found a party with 20 to 30 people. The two hosts said they were Purdue students. Ruley says they told officers they were aware of the Purdue pledge they signed regarding wearing masks and social distancing. The case has been forwarded to the University's Dean of Students.

8-21 Ran 6 P.M. News (:31)

According to court documents, workers at Bob Rohrman's dealership on Teal road said an Audi S-U-V was missing from the parking lot. They also said multiple doors were damaged inside the building. It happened on the morning of June 28th. Officers say they later found this man on your screen -- Antoine Gabriel Junior. Police say he was asleep inside the car on State Road 25. Authorities say Gabriel admitted to driving the S-U-V. Gabriel now faces charges of burglary and auto theft.

8-22 Ran 6 P.M. News (:57)

It happened Friday evening around 6:45 pm. An Indiana State Police trooper says he was driving an unmarked police car on I-65 going southbound. That's when a Jeep SUV passed him going above 100 miles per hour. The trooper caught up to the jeep and pulled it over. As the trooper was walking to the SUV, he says the car sped away. Another trooper sitting in Tippecanoe County saw the jeep speed by him. The jeep started driving in the right shoulder to pass traffic. As the jeep approached the construction zone at the Wabash River bridge, it crashed into a barrier wall. It then cut across both lanes of traffic and hit a guard rail.

8-23 Ran 6 P.M. News (:35)

It happened behind the Friendly Market Convenience Store located near Poland Hill Rd. and Twyckenham Boulevard. Lafayette Police got the call around 2:20 p-m. The man shot has been identified as 26-year-old Derrick Record. According Lieutenant Matt Gard, Record was only shot once. He was taken to an Indianapolis hospital in critical condition. It's unclear what led up to the incident and if a shooting suspect has been identified. Lt. Gard said the department is currently investigating.

8-25 Ran 5 P.M. News (1:06)

Parks told police that his wife had thrown her wedding ring and keys at him. Then she got into a car with someone else and left. He said he tried calling her multiple times before coming to report her missing. Police searched Parks' Elm Street home in Crawfordsville. They found dried blood in the driveway and the garage. They also found a bloody shoeprint. After getting a warrant to search the rest of the home, the woman's head was found buried in the cellar. Police say the victim is Hope Parks. An autopsy showed she died from a gunshot wound to the back of the head.

8-27 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

Police say when they got there, they found a man with a gunshot wound. That person was taken to a local hospital and then transferred to a Indianapolis hospital. Where he was shot or his condition is not known at this time. Police say they have a person of interest detained. There is no risk to the public. The shooting is still under investigation.

8-27 Ran 5 P.M. News (:39)

As News 18 previously reported the former couple has been charged with multiple felony neglect of a dependent charges. The couple is accused abandoning Natalia their then adoptive daughter in a Lafayette apartment and then leaving for Canada. Prosecutors say Michael and Kristine Barnett also legally changed the Ukrainian girl's presumed age from 8-years-old to 22-years-old. Both Michael and Kristine have filed a motion for the felony charges to be dropped. Until the judge rules on that motion the jury trial remains in limbo. It was scheduled to take place next month.

9-1 Ran Morning News (:35)

Lt. Matt Gard with Lafayette Police said they first got a call around 11:14 last night. When officers arrived, they found two men dead from gunshot wounds. L-P-D is still investigating the reason behind the shooting. Lt. Gard could not give any further details on what happened. News 18 is working to learn more. We will provide any updates online and on air.

9-12 Ran 6 P.M. News (:42)

The man has been identified as Van Nice Junior. The chase started around 8:45 on interstate 65. An Indiana State Police trooper spotted a car speeding with an improper tail-light. When the officer tried pulling Nice over he refused. He took officers through neighborhoods in Dayton and Lafayette.

9-14 Ran 5 P.M. News (:36)

A man is behind bars after Lafayette police say he fired shots into the air when they told him to leave a home. Sergeant Ian O'Shields says, this man, Casey Hand fired multiple shots into the air as he was leaving. Police were able to track Hand down at a Lafayette hotel. He was arrested around 8 a.m. He's preliminary charged with intimidation with a deadly weapon and criminal recklessness with a fire arm. Hand is being held in the Tippecanoe County Jail.

9-16 Ran 10 P.M. News (:45)

A Fowler man has been arrested on child pornography charges after a year long investigation. Detectives with Indiana State Police arrested 28-year-old Daniel Valdez. The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He faces 5 preliminary charges of child pornography under the age of 12. And 5 counts of possession of child pornography. He is currently being held at the Benton County Jail. News 18 reached out to the jail to get Valdez's mug shot after business hours, however they said they are not allowed to give out mugshots.

9-16 Ran 11 P.M. News (:45)

According to the Sheriff's Office, the explosion happened inside a vehicle on North Lakewood Drive in Monticello. Law enforcement discovered that an explosive device was detonated inside the cab of the truck. Authorities spent hours Monday & Tuesday investigating what happened. This morning, Indiana State Police arrested Wayne Boswell in connection with the explosion. He faces a preliminary charge of Arson. His bond is currently set at 20 thousand dollars.

9-17 Ran 10 P.M. News (:40)

Both Lafayette and West Lafayette Police Departments are investigating two attempted armed robberies. They happened at about 7:30 and 7:41 on Friday evening. Both departments got reports of a robbery at 111 South River Road in West Lafayette. Then another one at 109 South Beck Lane in Lafayette. The man left both areas before police got there. Investigators believe he was driving a moped.

9-24 Ran 11 P.M. News (:55)

Police served a search warrant at house in the 600-block of Elmwood Drive on Wednesday. 30-year-old Nicholas Ruiz, 32 year-old Stephanie Creasy, and 57-year-old Etta Miller face a variety of charges for both dealing and possessing narcotics. Police say during their investigation they witnessed an increase of traffic to and from the home. Frankfort Police Chief Scott Shoemaker says this isn't the first time these three individuals have had run in's with the law.

9-27 Ran 11 P.M. News (:53)

It happened Saturday night, just after 11. An Indiana State Police Trooper was in the middle of a traffic stop when he saw a car pass him going the wrong way. This was on U-S 41 near County Road 850 North. The trooper caught the wrong way driver just after the interchange of 41 with State Road 63.

Diversity

Conversations are being held between government leaders and local minority rights advocates. What will the results be after the two groups meet. In the midst of mandatory social-distancing regulations holidays are still being held, but safely. On Fourth of July hundreds of flags are planted to memorialize men and women killed in battle. Prisoners in the local jail still crave visits from their loved ones, but without the ability to let visitors into the jail the Sheriff had to get creative. A handful of internet capable tablets were introduced to allow visits, but they can also easily be cleaned.

7-1 Ran Morning News (:36)

As News 18 previously reported, two weeks ago, a group of protest leaders had a private conversation with city officials. Part of the discussion included uncovering any misunderstandings between the groups. Mayor Tony Roswarski talked about police training and the city's community-based police approach. Rally leaders talked about better ways to connect with minority communities. Roswarski says overall, it was a positive conversation.

7-1 Ran Noon News (:33)

The West Lafayette Police Department has released a community message regarding their department. The message, called "Where We Stand", breaks down the actions and requirements for WLPD. The information clarifies questions, and concerns, people may have about the department. According to the message, WLP is not allowed to use chokeholds. The department is also required to give a warning before shooting and they are banned from shooting at moving vehicles.

7-2 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

Treasurer for Pride Lafayette Jesse Knoth Harrington says the organization has already lost in the ballpark of five to seven thousand dollars. The organization will lose nearly \$20,000 in fundraising due to canceling OutFest. Pride Lafayette closed its doors earlier this year due to the pandemic and hasn't held an event since. Harrington says they'll have to get creative by the end of the year or next year will be tough for the organization.

7-3 Ran 10 P.M. News (:26)

The community is recognizing the lives lost in war this fourth of July weekend. 500 US flags were planted around Columbian Park's Veterans Memorial. Active and non-active service members, kids, and volunteers all took part in the commemoration. The Tippecanoe County Veterans Council has been organizing this for 30 years. A couple service members said this tradition is important to all age groups and it is special to the community.

7-3 Ran 10 P.M. News (:45)

Valley Oaks Health is preparing to host a virtual First Responder Support group. The mental health organization received a grant from the United Way of Tippecanoe County to hold the virtual event. Facilitators are hoping to support and help first responders address post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression and any other challenges they may face especially during this time. Therapist for Valley Oaks Kim Denton says it's important to be there for front line workers who frequently face potentially dangerous and even traumatic situations.

7-7 Ran 5 P.M. News (:58)

This annual event aims to keep the deer population under control. State parks don't allow hunting seasons and there are no natural predators. If the deer population isn't balanced, it can pose a threat to local vegetation. Applicants have to be Indiana residents and have a valid deer-hunting license. Additionally, all applications will only be accepted online due to COVID19. Natural Resources Manager, Anthony Sipes says their protocol for COVID-19 will reflect the current situation at the time of the first hunt.

7-7 Ran 10 P.M. News (:50)

Pride Lafayette was given a \$500 donation tonight from the Central Presbyterian Church. The church congregation says it recognized Pride Lafayette's financial struggles and wanted to help. Tonight at Pride Lafayette's meeting the Presbyterians surprised the board members with the money. As we previously reported the non-profit canceled OUTFest which sets them back around 20-thousand dollars. Ryan Shelley says Pride has a big outreach.

7-7 Ran 10 P.M. News (:20)

The Tippecanoe School Corporation is adding a Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator to its staff. The position was created to develop and monitor programs throughout the district that provide a welcoming environment to all students of all backgrounds. TSC named Sadie Harper-Scott to the position. Scott is the president of the local chapter of the NAACP.

7-8 Ran 5 P.M. News (:51)

The 10th annual Wabash Riverfest has been cancelled due to COVID19. The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation halted its plans for providing outdoor activities to Greater Lafayette. However, it wasn't for a lack of trying. They tried several times to restructure the event around new regulations and social distancing. This proved to be difficult given the close contact nature of most of the activities. Watershed Coordinator, Shannon Stanis says they considered every alternative that they could.

7-8 Ran 5 P.M. News (:41)

Franciscan Health Lafayette East is now home to the state's newest Safe Haven Baby Box. The device allows mothers in crisis to safely and anonymously surrender their infant to hospital staff. Each box is in a heated and air-conditioned room with its own ventilation. When used, the box sounds a silent alarm notifying staff that a baby has been surrendered. It also follows Indiana's Safe Haven Law, which allows an individual to give up an infant without arrest or prosecution. Nate Barrett is one of the donors who made the new box possible. He says this is an important addition to the community.

7-9 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The City of Frankfort says it's canceling this year's Hispanic Heritage Festival. According to a statement sent out by the Community Development Director Annie Brown -- the city cited the coronavirus pandemic for calling off the event. City officials say they want to keep residents safe and keep the infection rate low. Plans for city events and festivals in 2021 are underway. City leaders plan to host next year's Hispanic Heritage Festival on September 18th, 2021.

7-9 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:35)

The Tippecanoe County health department says COVID-19 cases among the LatinX community are disproportionate. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with the President of the Latino Center for Wellness and education today on how the county should work to fix this health crisis. President of the Latino Center for Wellness and Education says they are working with the Tippecanoe County Health Department to expand resources and make them available to the Latino community.

7-10 Ran 5 P.M. News (:51)

For ten years, Michael Lance has covered up racist and offensive tattoos for free. When he opened up Soldier Mike's Tattoos & Piercing's in Lafayette in 2017 he continued that service. Lance says his whole goal in offering this service is to give people who want to change a fresh slate. He's covered up more than 100 tattoos since starting ten years ago. He says he advocates for second chances. In today's racial climate it's important that we help each other change for the better.

7-10 Ran 5 P.M. News (:43)

The West Lafayette Police Department is creating a new initiative to create more transparency within the community. The initiative is called Ask W-L-P-D that will take place on the City of West Lafayette's YouTube page. The program will allow community members to ask questions to the department, where officers will respond with short 5-minute videos. The initiative will also be used to introduce community initiatives, programs along with providing important public service announcements. Public service videos will be posted at the beginning of each month. The first video was posted today and features Sergeant Sanford Swanson. We'll have a story on our website later tonight on how you can ask your questions to police.

7-10 Ran 5 P.M. News (:26)

The Columbian Park Zoo is set to host its 18th Annual Zoo Run run as a Virtual race this year. Participants can complete the 5K anytime between July 24th and August 24th. Registration is 20 dollars per person ... and includes a collectible t-shirt. People taking part in the walk or run will have opportunities to win prizes along the way, and top finishers will receive a certificate. To register, you can go online to [zoo-run-run dot its-your-race dot com](http://zoo-run-run-dot-its-your-race-dot-com).

7-11 Ran 6 P.M. News (:32)

A group of Harrison High School alumni are petitioning to rename the school and mascot. The high school is named after William Henry Harrison, who was the 9th president of the United States. Harrison is responsible for forcing thousands of Native Americans off their land. He also supported slavery happening in the south. Class of two-thousand alumna Rachel Gray says his name does not deserve to be honored. She joins three other alumni who worked together to publish the petition on July 4th. Since then it's gained more than 650 signatures.

7-14 Ran Morning News (:45)

This all started earlier this month after a group of alumni created a petition to change the name and mascot of the school. It currently has more than one-thousand signatures. They argue that William Henry Harrison does not deserve to be honored because of his history of racism in the United States. While counter-petitioners agree that Harrison may not have left the best legacy, they don't want to see the school's legacy suffer. Those in favor of not changing the name have expressed concerns beyond holding on to history. They're also concerned about how much it would cost and if this could cause a ripple effect.

7-15 Ran 11 P.M. News (:45)

The YWCA of Greater Lafayette will be able to create job skills training classes thanks to a grant. Google.org pledged 5-million dollars to YWCA's across the country. With its portion of the grant money, our local YWCA will be able to improve job training programs and increase access to digital skills for women and underserved Americans. This will be used to further the YWCA's "Empowerment Suits You" program. CEO Allison Beggs says having these skills will have a bigger impact in impact local women's lives.

7-16 Ran 11 P.M. News (: 29)

The boxes are designed to provide 24/7 access to books meant for all ages. Park goers are encouraged to take a book, but also leave a book for others to enjoy. These eight new libraries are a result of collaboration between United Way, Women United and Homebuilders of Purdue. Samantha Haville is the marketing manager for Lafayette Parks and Rec. She says that excited for what these libraries can do for park goers.

7-17 Ran 5 P.M. News (:46)

Firefighters are undergoing cultural training this week. West Lafayette City Clerk Sana Booker is leading the conversation. The training is giving firefighters a chance to ask questions in a safe space. Chief Tim Heath says this is something he's wanted to implement for years. As the nation has brought this conversation to the forefront -- he says there's no better time than now.

7-18 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:30)

People in Frankfort are joining a national movement backing local law enforcement. A non for profit organization called Bridge The Blue started the movement. Many communities around the country have held demonstrations expressing support for local law enforcement. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with people in Clinton County today about the message they are hoping to send during a time when racial tensions are high.

7-25 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

Racial justice advocate groups in Greater Lafayette are looking into alternatives to police and prisons. Today, three organizations came together for a demonstration outside the county courthouse. Organizers say they want to look at new ways policing and prison systems can operate. The event included educating those in attendance on where county funds are going. It also provided options for people to decide where they'd like funds to go. Their plan is to present this information to city and county leaders.

7-26 Ran 6 P.M. News (:46)

The Lafayette Police Department has released a Youtube video responding to an investigation against three officers. They are accused of using excessive force with a K-9 while responding to a 9-1-1 call. We first brought you this story on Friday with body cam footage we received from the victim's lawyers. Richard Bailey Junior is claiming the officers used excessive force because of his race. The Youtube video includes additional body cam footage and audio of the incident. In the video, Lafayette Police Chief Patrick Flannelly says the body cam footage previously released doesn't necessarily show the whole picture. He says he hopes this additional footage helps tell a more factual story. You can find a link to the Youtube video on our website WLF.COM.

7-27 Ran 5 P.M. News (:25)

Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski swore in Chad Young as the newest member of the City's Human Relations Commission. Young makes the seventh member of the group. The Commission is responsible for the fight against prejudices in the community. With a focus on local businesses and schools. Young's priority as a teacher is serving children and young adults in local educational institutions.

7-28 Ran 5 P.M. News (:45)

Morgan was an English teacher at Tecumseh for nearly 30 years. She retired about three years ago and often worked as a substitute in Lafayette. On Thursday, a speeding car hit her while she was riding her bike. Her husband said she was on her way to the post office to deliver birthday cards. Everyone who came to celebrate her today worked directly with her. The teachers are remembering Morgan's passion for children. They say she had a tough love and a great sense of humor. Teacher Theresa Huston organized today's lunch.

7-28 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:09)

A major technology upgrade is underway at the Tippecanoe County Jail. The correctional facility is providing inmates with tablets with limited use. As News 18's Balint Szalavari reports, the tablets will provide several features, all under a secure network.

7-30 Ran 10 P.M. News (:36)

Governor Eric Holcomb has extended the moratorium not allowing land lords to evict people due to the coronavirus. Right now, Lafayette transitional housing says nationally the forecast shows that homelessness is expected to increase by 40 percent. Advocates say the federal government needs to step in to prevent more people from becoming homeless. Senator Todd Young says he would support a federal relief option for renters and home owners.

7-31 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

Food Finders is taking the day to thank the Indiana National Guard. Due to COVID19, many of the volunteers deemed high risk. The National Guard was dispatched to all locations to take on the work. This includes food distribution and inventory stock. The manpower made it possible to do more mobile pantries around the county. Today was supposed to be the Guard's last day. However, due to recent events, that time has been extended. Chief Engagement Officer Kier Crites says they owe a big thanks to those in the Guard.

8-1 Ran 6 P.M. News (:31)

United Way of Greater Lafayette volunteers are making masks for kids in need. The organization is partnering with the Greater Lafayette Sewing Masks group. These mask will go to students starting classes this fall. United Way has donated many of the masks to the Salvation Army's Tools for School event. The rest will be dropped at different schools throughout the county. The masks were made with a white fabric so kids can decorate them. United Way leaders are hoping this encourages young students to stay safe.

8-1 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:30)

Girl Scout Troop 50435 is excited about their newest project in recreating Clinton Praise's courtyard into a safe hang out space for kids. "We decided on this project like last year. But due to COVID-19 it just set it back completely." The troop started getting ready for this project with approval from the school board and began raising funds before school ended for the fall semester. But COVID-19 pushed their start date back 3-months. When schools closed for good in March it left the girls only a month to complete the project. "It started out as a concrete slab and all that was out here was a bench." After more than 300 hours of work troop 50435 successfully recreated the school's courtyard located on the Elementary side. The girls built and painted four new tables and added a sensory walk as well.

8-2 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

West Lafayette women is using her talents to benefit people living in Greater Lafayette. Artist Atossa Rahmanifar is donating 100-percent of her art proceeds to two local non-profits. Food Finders Food Bank and the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette are the recipients. As a nutritionist, she wanted to combine her passion for painting and her passion for healthy eating. The money she makes will be equally divided between the two organizations. So far she's raised more than 25-thousand dollars.

8-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

The following day, he will begin serving as Chief Deputy Prosecutor under Carroll County Prosecutor Nicholas McLeland. The Delphi City Council will fill the Mayor Evans' position at a regular or special meeting. We'll hear directly from Evans - coming up tonight on News 18 at 11.

8-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

The road from the Martin Jischke intersection east to University Street features a bike lane - and three new street murals. The new murals are done with the history of the University in mind. A traditional Purdue P is featured along with the Bell Tower and other Purdue related fanfare. The streets new design provides an upgrade visually. It also provides a practical means of transportation for students.

8-3 Ran 6 P.M. News (:24)

Purdue University Police says it's investigating a series of burglaries from storage units in Purdue Village. The burglaries have been reported by Purdue Village residents. In each case, padlocks from the storage-unit doors were cut. Authorities say that in most cases storage units were rummaged through and had items taken from them.

8-3 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:34)

The changes you'll find align with CDC's recommendations. There's social-distancing markers, a mask requirement, and sanitation methods in place. Now all this is to make sure this pantry can continue serving those in need especially in these unprecedented times.

8-8 Ran 6 P.M. News (:33)

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation is hosting self guided Green Tours. 31 sites across Greater Lafayette are specially marked with an educational signs. Each provide educational tips on how to reduce pollution from entering the Wabash River. According to Watershed Coordinator Shannon Stanis, some local methods include rain barrels, rain gardens and the Sagamore Parkway bioswale. She says that private citizens can get involved in these practices.

8-10 Ran 6 P.M. News (:55)

Spray paint vandalism found at Clegg Memorial Gardens is mostly gone thanks to the efforts of a local housekeeping crew. Four women from The Happy Housekeeper and Co went to work to remove the graffiti. Clegg Memorial Gardens has a special place in the hearts of the crew working. They are the family of 16-year-old Kyle Richardson. He was one of the Harrison High School students killed on a wintery morning this past February near Lovetree Lane. They say Kyle loved coming out to Clegg to enjoy nature. And when they heard about the vandalism, Vanessa Chalifoux says they knew they could help the place that meant so much to their lost loved one.

8-10 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

According to the National Embryo Donation Center, around 30-thousand embryos are sitting in storage. That high number is what inspired one West Lafayette couple to adopt an embryo of their own. Ashley and Mark Harkleroad had previously adopted their two sons Max and Eli through the traditional process. The couple was able to have one child biologically through IVF. However they wanted to add another child to their family so they decided to adopt an embryo. That embryo ended up being twins of African American decent.

8-11 Ran Morning News (:33)

Happening today, the Dog Park Association is holding the 9-th annual Pooch Plunge at Castaway Bay. It's the perfect chance to get your dog out of the house while cooling off with other pups. Before draining the pool, organizers keep it open for man's best friend to enjoy. Despite the ongoing pandemic, Dog Park Association President LeAnne Williams says the event will go on keeping social distancing, and safety, in mind.

8-12 Ran Morning News (:31)

Several state organizations partnered to provide this economic support to groups that have been affected by COVID-19. Locally the Tippecanoe Arts Federation had to cancel the Taste of Tippecanoe, as well as Taps for Taf. The CEO of the Tippecanoe Arts Federation, Tetia Lee, says they have lost over 350 thousand dollars. She says that loss of revenue affects more than Tippecanoe County.

8-17 Ran 10 P.M. News (:30)

A Lafayette mother is speaking out after her teenage son was found guilty for attempted murder. Today News 18 got an exclusive interview with Keya Erves. Her 17-year-old son Lyon was responsible for a shooting outside the Tippecanoe Mall. According to multiple witnesses, he had the gun pointed straight out at someone. The incident happened this past December. His sentencing was scheduled for today but the judge has allowed him more time. Keya says it was hard hearing her son's verdict.

8-18 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:20)

Purdue University has worked with the Census Bureau to get students living on campus counted. It's the ones living off campus that the city is having a hard time capturing. Particularly students living in apartment complexes.

8-18 Ran 6 P.M. News (:36)

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Lafayette owns the property. As we reported in 2018, they wanted to tear it down to build a new rectory, but the Lafayette Historic Preservation Commission said tearing it down would be a loss of historic resources. Indiana Landmarks Director Tommy Kleckner says church leaders haven't set a demolition date, but being on the list could encourage them to keep it standing.

8-20 Ran Noon News (:32)

Dennis told News 18 it was the most divisive decision in his career, but said he does not regret it. More than 80 percent of West Lafayette residents agree with the decision according to Dennis. Dennis is working alongside Purdue President Mitch Daniels *and West Lafayette Schools Superintendent Rocky Killion. They're making sure schools are following all protocols. Dennis says the city is ready to fight this through the end.

8-24 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

The non profit received the "Your Welcome Here" Seal from the Human Rights Campaign's All-Children-All Families program. To obtain this seal the organization had to change part of their training for volunteers and staff. CASA volunteers will now take training to be more sensitive towards the LGBTQ community. Executive Director for CASA Coleen Connor says these new guidelines will ensure CASA is serving all marginalized children.

8-27 Ran 5 P.M. News (:27)

According to the NAACP African Americans are twice as likely to live in poverty. They also spend a higher fraction of their household income on electricity and heating. That's why the organization is offering relief to struggling African Americans. The new program called Hand up Not a Hand out gives eligible residents up to 300 dollars to pay utility bills. NAACP's Barbara Bolling-Williams says they hope to work with utility companies through this program as well.

8-27 Ran 10 P.M. News(:38)

This week The Lafayette Police Department is spreading some extra love through its National Night Out event. Since Monday officers have traveled to different neighborhoods to hand out free Kona Ice Cones and connect with the community. Today was the last day.

8-29 Ran 6 P.M. News (:33)

Recovery Cafe Lafayette is re-opening with new safety restrictions. The non-profit is now requiring masks and social-distancing. Leaders have also switched from providing hot meals to pre-packaged food. The cafe was designed to be a safe space for people on a road to recovery. It's run by peer recovery coaches who lead talking sessions with those who attend. The goal is to connect people with community resources. And to connect people with others dealing with similar hardships. That's why Manager Rebecca is happy to get back to normal operations.

9-1 Ran Noon News (:34)

As we previously reported, former Mayor Shane Evans resigned to pursue the open deputy prosecutor job in Carroll County. Normally, the party of the outgoing mayor would choose a successor in a caucus. But since Evans was an independent, the city council made the vote on the 15th. Werling worked with the Delphi Opera House project. And served on the city's Board of Works and Area Plan Commission. dShe's thankful to have a good working relationship with many veteran city workers.

9-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:29)

Pay Less Super Markets have been among the most popular early voting centers in Tippecanoe County. But they've opted out of this year's general election to accommodate social distancing guidelines. Assisted living facilities are closed to the public. And they've also been a target for early voting in the past. Germany Harris, a staff member at the Tippecanoe County Board of Elections, says the board is planning 450 early voting hours. That's to counteract the lower number of locations.

9-1 ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The city is giving away more than 100-thousand dollars. It will be split among six organizations. The city's Community Development Block Grant is providing these funds. The money will help non-profit leaders pay their staff and employees. Family Promise is one organization benefiting. It's the only family shelter in Tippecanoe County. The money is helping pay its case managers, who help families find stable living.

9-2 Ran Noon News (:42)

Rohrman is known for his car dealerships and his zany commercials. He was born in Lafayette and graduated from Lafayette Jeff. He started selling cars in the late 1950s and opened his own used car lot in the 1960s. The Bob Rohrman Auto Group now consists of 32 dealerships in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. His work in the community is also leaving an impact. Rorhman has donated millions of dollars to various charities. That includes meals on wheels, the make-a-wish foundation and multiple cancer charities. He was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash in 2019. That same year he donated 15 million dollars to Purdue. It led the Board of Trustees to approve the renaming of the field at Ross Ade Stadium to Rorhman Field.

9-3 Ran Noon News (:30)

Purdue kicked off it's year long speaker series called 'Pursuing Racial Justice Together. About 25-hundred people joined the event virtually. This was the first event featuring Dr. Ibram Kendi. He's the author of the New York Times bestseller "How to be Anti-racist." His book explores the concept of anti-racism through the lenses of ethics, history, law and science. Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, John Gates, says Dr. Kendi's work brings context to the national conversation around how to be anti-racist.

9-3 Ran Noon News (:24)

Two murals are being painted in downtown Wolcott. It's all thanks to the Tippecanoe Arts Federation. TAF is able to do so through a grant from the Wabash Heartland Innovation Network. It's a ten county project. 50 artist submitted work to be selected. Nicole Salgar and Janson Rapisarda got their work selected. They say it's an awesome feeling to showcase their work in a way that impacts the community.

9-4 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:48)

Local artists are having a hard time showcasing their work in this pandemic. People particularly feeling the effects are artists who sell their work for a living. Now one Lafayette neighborhood is working to solve the problem. News 18's Micah Upshaw tells us how. In addition to some neighbors selling art, others will be hosting a yard sale this weekend. The event is Saturday 9 to 5 p-m. Sunday 1 to 5 p-m. And Monday 9 to 5 p-m.

9-6 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

This afternoon, dozens gathered on Lake Shafer in Monticello. Boaters say their goal is to show support for the president's re-election this year. This follows a number of Trump 20-20 boat parade's happening across the nation. Organizer Taylor Reynolds says more than 300 boaters were expected to participate. However, the start of the event was met with heavy rain. For Reynolds and others, that wasn't stopping them from showing support. This afternoon, dozens gathered on Lake Shafer in Monticello. Boaters say their goal is to show support for the president's re-election this year. This follows a number of Trump 20-20 boat parade's happening across the nation. Organizer Taylor Reynolds says more than 300 boaters were expected to participate. However, the start of the event was met with heavy rain. For Reynolds and others, that wasn't stopping them from showing support.

9-7 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The seventh annual Purdue Day of Giving is set for Wednesday. The 24-hour online fundraiser was postponed back in April due to the coronavirus. This year, the Protect Purdue fund has been added as an option for donors. As we've been reporting, it's the university's effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. The day features 70 participating units and 220 student organizations. A link with information on how to donate can be found on WLFI dot com.

9-8 Ran Noon News (:35)

United Way celebrated Labor Day with free Kona Ice for kids twelve and under. The Kona Ice truck stopped by four different facilities around Lafayette. The event was hosted in partnership with United Way's Labor Engagement Committee. L-E-C is a group of different unions who partner with United Way for community outreach. The group would normally hold a community wide gathering on Labor Day at a local park. However due to COVID-19, it could *not take place this year. Chairperson for L-E-C, James Melvin, says his group wanted to be a part of bringing everyone together safely during this time.

9-10 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

As News 18 previously reported, Indiana isn't expanding "no excuse" absentee voting for the general election. But that's not stopping political parties from sending applications to voters across the state. Roush says the election board has been receiving "non-stop" calls from concerned voters. Some are confused because they never requested an application. Others have already filled one out online or at the clerk's office.

9-10 Ran 5 P.M. News (:45)

The Queen Anne-style duplex was built sometime in the 1890's. It still has original wood work and floors throughout. As well as many other historical features from that time. But it's what it will eventually become that has the Home With Hope crew excited. The property will become a three-quarter house. Six people will be able to live here while going through a recovery program. It's right next to Home With Hope's current men's facility. Executive director Allison Miner says that's a major benefit.

9-11 Ran 10 P.M. News (:33)

An Indiana court has rejected an appeal from conservative religious groups that have unsuccessfully challenged limits on the state's religious objections law. It was signed by then-Governor Mike Pence. A state appeals court ruling upheld a county judge's decision last year that the three groups failed to prove they had faced any harm. Pence signed the bill in 20-15 amid a national uproar that it could be used to discriminate against LGBTQ individuals. An attorney for the religious groups said they would consider an appeal to the state Supreme Court.

9-12 Ran 6 P.M. News (:34)

Greater Lafayette's annual Hunger Hike is going virtual this year. The fundraiser helps local non-profits to continue serving people in need. It's helped raise more than 2-million dollars since it started nearly 30 years ago. Instead of a one day race, organizers have created "Challenge Week." Starting tomorrow, runners are encouraged to donate and create personal running goals. The event will end the following Sunday with a live-stream at the end of the week. It'll include local musicians and performers. Coordinator Josh Prokopy says this year's event is more important now than ever.

9-14 Morning News (:22)

Discovery Bible Studies kicked off last weekend at Tippecanoe County Work Release. Virtual Discovery Bible Studies are offered via Zoom with house arrest Participants. Lead Pastor at Connection Point Church Zach Maddox says the theme is hope. Maddox says this is a program that he's wanted to implement for many years. But he says during this time people shouldn't feel alone.

9-14 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

Indiana is one of 16 states that allows people who were incarcerated to vote. This rule also includes people awaiting trial, on probation and in home detention. Local voter rights activists have found that many people are unaware of this. That's why three state and local organizations have worked to pay for this billboard. It's located at the intersection of 9th and Duncan Street, just seconds away from the Tippecanoe County jail. That is not a coincidence. Organizer Melissa Gruver says she wants former inmates and their visitors to have easy access to this information.

9-15 Ran 5 P.M. News (2:10)

I'm here at Lafayette Jefferson High School. The county council debate is slated to begin in 45 minutes. We spoke to all the candidates about what they hope to accomplish if elected. Candidates for two area Indiana House seats will also be debating tonight. We'll have a preview of the races coming up on News 18 at 6. Reporting in Lafayette, Joe Paul, News 18.

9-17 Ran Morning News (:45)

Associate Director for Civic Engagement & Leadership Development Melissa Gruver says the facility will allow for proper social distancing. Voting booths will be set up in the concourse. It will open from 11 A-M to 6 P-M on October 14th for on-campus early voting . Those hours will shift from 6 A-M to 6 P-M on November 3rd. Gruver says it'll be a great asset for elections this year. Especially during this time.

9-17 Ran 5 P.M. News (:55)

Today the Indiana Department of Child Services was awarded four-point-seven million dollars in federal funding. That's more than any other state to receive money. It's because nearly 25 hundred children were adopted in Indiana in fiscal year 2019. Those numbers are up by more than one thousand over the past five years. Lacy Page is licensing lead at the The Villages of Indiana. The agency works in connection with DCS to license foster parents and coordinate private adoptions. Last year they were referred 5,000 kids. Many of whom are school age.

9-18 Ran 5 P.M. News (:45)

The sign was unveiled at the Indiana State Police memorial ceremony. This event normally happens during National Police Memorial Week in May. However, the date was pushed back due to Covid 19. Senator Brian Buchanan was the one who drafted the road dedication. He says he was surprised by the turnout he saw the day it passed.

9-19 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:55)

It's officially been 100-years since the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote in the U.S. Today the YWCA Greater Lafayette is celebrating with an outdoor educational exhibit. News 18's Micah Upshaw tells us how it's helping highlight *all* the women who made it possible. This traveling Smithsonian exhibit is free for organizations to use nationwide. YWCA was one of the firsts to request to bring it to Greater Lafayette.

9-20 Ran 6 P.M. News (:25)

This year's virtual Greater Lafayette Hunger Hike brought in more than 105-thousand dollars. There's only been four times in history that this event has surpassed that 100-thousand dollar mark. Lafayette Urban Ministry and Food Finders Food Bank are among those benefiting. Participants were encouraged to create their own running challenges to raise money. More than 850 people donated this year.

9-21 Ran Noon News (:56)

Alright pod-cast junkies, If your local police department had a pod-cast, would you listen to it? After 3 years the Lafayette Police Department wants to remind people of its podcast. The goal is to give people an inside look of the department. It's brought to listeners by the Community Outreach Unit. Episodes are recorded monthly. Topics range from crime statistics, to crime prevention and everything in between. Sergeant Ian O'Shields says the pod-cast is a part of building a relationship with the community the department serves.

9-21 Ran 6 P.M. News (:55)

More than eight-thousand voters have submitted applications so far. That's up from two-thousand in the 2016 presidential election. About 12-thousand county residents voted by mail in this year's primary election. As News 18 previously reported, state political parties mailed applications to registered voters statewide this month. County clerk Julie Roush says that resulted in many duplicate applications. As well as the assumption that absentee voting was the only option.

9-22 Ran 5 P.M. News (:60)

The county is partnering with Chicago-based engineering firm Greeley and Hansen for the project. They will help create an environmental plan focusing on more eco-friendly practices and policies. According to Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski, Tippecanoe County is the first place in the state where two cities and the county have come together to create a climate action plan. He says this will make more change possible moving forward. The project will be split into five phases. Roswarski says phases one and two will take about two years to complete.

9-22 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:59)

We have less than 45 days until the November 3rd election. Many are focused on the presidential race. But there are several important elections that directly impact the people of our viewing area. Including the race for Indiana Senate District 7. News 18's Anna Darling talked with the candidates about their goals if elected.

9-23 Ran Noon News (:55)

The Baptist Student Foundation is an essential resource for students facing difficulties. When campus shut down last spring, the need grew for those with no where to go. That includes students without access to transportation, mental health services or a place to fellowship. The organization's headquarters, known as the Found, became a beacon for those in need. But its reach goes far beyond campus. The organization is working harder than ever to reach the entire Greater Lafayette Community.

9-23 Ran 5 P.M. News (:45)

Boulac wants Superior Four to participate in proposed mental health and substance abuse courts. He hopes to reduce the amount of people going to jail and redirect them to community services. Sandy would bring back the county's forensic drug treatment and problem solving courts. He also wants to require clients to actively seek employment if they are using public defenders. As News 18 previously reported, current Superior Four Judge Laura Zeman is retiring. Both candidates say the court is run well and has an efficient case management structure.

9-24 Ran 10 P.M. News (:26)

Twenty polling places have been listed for this year's election. Some of the locations include the Lafayette City Hall, the River City Community Center and Ivy Tech Community College. A public test will be on October 2nd at 10 in the morning. For a complete list of polling places, you can head to our website, WLF1 dot COM.

9-26 Ran 6 P.M. News (:50)

Hundreds of people in Greater Lafayette are walking to end Alzheimer's disease. This morning, they participated in the Alzheimer's Associations' annual walk-fundraiser. The Indiana Chapter held it in West Lafayette at Tapawingo Park. Volunteers also planted nearly 400 pinwheel flowers near the park entrance. Each one represents the different individuals impacted by the disease. Organizer Anne Murray says this event is all about bringing awareness and Lafayette does a great of that.

9-25 Ran 6 P.M. News (:50)

Food Finders Food Bank is in desperate need of volunteers. After September 30th all but six national guardsman will no longer be helping at the food bank. Originally the federal government was paying for the national guard to help food banks meet their increased demands due to COVID-19. Currently the state of Indiana has been picking up the tab. However after the majority of the National Guard is re-assigned the food bank is worried they won't be able to keep up with the continued demand.

9-26 Ran 11 P.M. News (:48)

If you take a drive down Wabash Avenue you may notice a more colorful roadway. Today neighbors came out to paint a crosswalk outside Sacred Grounds Coffee Shop. The project is designed to help slow down traffic. It's also making the area safer and more pedestrian friendly. It's funded through a grant from the Indiana Department of Health. Chicago artist Janson Rapisarda created the abstract design. He says he enjoyed spending time bringing art to Greater Lafayette.

9-27 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:27)

A Lafayette family is facing the reality of losing a husband and father -- but they're not alone. Today nearly 170 motorcyclists came together for a fundraiser-ride to benefit the Martin family. News 18's Micah Upshaw tells us how its bringing light in dark situation. Today's motorcycle-benefit event also included raffles and food. The total made today will be on our website later tonight.

9-28 Ran 5 P.M. News (:51)

It covered the cost of the building and staff for the first year of operations. The new pantry will follow a standard grocery store layout. Visitors will be able select from a wider variety of foods such as dairy products, fruits and vegetables and canned goods. According to Senior Impact Director Adam Meyer, Food Finders usually serves 300 to 400 families daily. But the larger space will allow more families to be accommodated. Meyers says they are looking forward to providing a more casual experience for visitors.

Education

Not straying far from the rest of society, schools are also grappling with COVID-19 and how to best serve their students. Many schools are releasing their plans for students and teachers to come back safely. Parents of students around the GLA are expressing their concerns for in-person learning and rally for e-learning this Fall. Inevitably schools begin to see positive cases arise. What are these schools doing about the cases and what are they doing to quell cases in their buildings.

7-8 Ran Noon News (:37)

All Purdue students will be tested for COVID-19 before returning to campus. Purdue University made the announcement today. According a press release, the university is formulating plans to pay for *all students to get tested. The goal is to have *all students tested before they move into residence halls and attend classes in August. Students will receive instructions on *how and *when to get tested soon. News 18 is following this story closely and is talking with leaders on campus about the announcement. We will continue to follow this story as it develops and bring you any new developments.

7-8 Ran 5 P.M. News (:57)

Happening right now - West Lafayette Community School Corporation's superintendent is presenting the district's coronavirus reopening plan to the school board. Dr. Rocky Killion released a draft of the plan yesterday. Students will be required to have a mask on them. But they will only be required to wear it in certain situations where social distancing isn't possible. A full E-learning option will only be provided to students who get a medical exemption. Dr. Killion says this is a living document that will most likely change. But since they don't have much direction from the state, he says this is the best direction for the corporation.

7-9 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:08)

Tippecanoe County School Corporation has given families formal notice of its fall plan. The requirements include having masks available at all times. It will be required to wear them on the bus, for example. The schools will provide hand sanitizer and more opportunities for hand washing. Guests will be restricted in school buildings, and all students will be required to be fever free for at least 72 hours before returning to school.

7-10 Ran 5 P.M. News (:57)

The university is kicking off its Early Start and Summer Start programs for incoming freshman. This year's program has a record-breaking one-thousand student. Six hundred of them started moving in yesterday and today. The other 400 are fulfilling their classes remotely online. Each student was administered a COVID-19 test upon arrival. They were also given a kit with masks, a face shield, and other sanitation items. All the learning and activities this summer will happen at a proper social-distance.

7-13 Ran 10 P.M. News (:34)

The Lafayette school board is taking one more week to decide on its fall 2020 reopening plans. Tonight school board members held a meeting to discuss the 50 page document. It spells out safety, social distancing and sports. Students must carry some sort of cloth covering to school, but masks are not required, just recommended, except in soem cases like the school bus. Also students have the option of e-learning or in person instruction. Many teachers and parents voiced their frustrations with the board tonight. Here's what a couple of them had to say.

7-13 Ran 10 P.M. News (:33)

Logansport Community School Corporation board heard the district's plan for reopening tonight. Face coverings will be worn by students any time social distancing isn't possible. That includes during passing periods and on the school bus. L-C-S-C will also be providing a remote learning option for any family who wants it. Superintendent Michele Starkey says they worked closely with the other Cass County schools and the health department on this plan. And after struggling with the flu last year, she says they were better prepared for this pandemic.

7-14 Ran 11 P.M. News (:24)

For the next two-weeks, businesses will be collecting donated school supplies for students. It will go directly to a child in need. This year is the first time Dog-N-Suds is participating as a collection location. The marketing and communications director hopes their participation brings a positive impact.

7-14 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:15)

Parents of students who attend West Lafayette schools want to see an e-learning option added to the district's re-opening plan. I talked to parents about why they want this option and superintendent Rocky Killion about what it would take to make it happen.

7-16 Ran 6 P.M. News (:36)

The most common way to register right now is through a virtual appointment. You can schedule one individually or sign up for an express enrollment day. That's August 3rd for current students or August 8th for new ones. The school is also planning an in-person registration event for Agriculture and Business Administration students. That's Tuesday, July 28th from noon to six on campus. Organizers say social distancing measures will be in place. Classes begin August 24th.

7-17 Ran 11 P.M. News (:30)

Graduates got to walk across the stage today. Graduates and family safely gathered at Straley Field to hold the graduation. Students were socially distanced as many of their classmates gave speeches. They also made sure to keep things clean by sanitizing the stand and mic after each speech. Graduate Samuel Montes says he wasn't sure if he'd get to experience graduation this year so this was exciting for him.

7-20 Ran 5 P.M. News (:27)

Teachers in Tippecanoe County say their school districts are working with them daily to re-open safely. While some teachers would prefer to start school virtually, others say certain students don't learn as well virtual. That could take away from the education they deserve. Mary Eisert is the president of the Tippecanoe Education Association. She says there are some questions and concerns that are still being worked out with administrators.

7-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:55)

Currently, the Sheriff's Office has three school resource officers serving the Tippecanoe School Corporation. They cover all 19 TSC schools. According to Sheriff Bob Goldsmith, TSC would like to assign the new officers to McCutcheon and Harrison High Schools. Goldsmith says this helps students build a stronger bond with local law enforcement.

7-22 Ran 6 P.M. News (:25)

Ivy Tech's Next Level Jobs program is going virtual for the first time due to the coronavirus. The program provides short-term certification in programs such as healthcare, business and welding. Courses are being offered tuition-free for the upcoming semester. They will be available to local residents and employers.

7-22 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:55)

K-12 schools in Indiana breathed a sigh of relief when Governor Holcomb announced in June that public school funding wouldn't be cut in the upcoming budget session. However many schools now have to figure out the extra financial burdens of reopening during a pandemic. News 18's Anna Darling talked with school and state leaders to understand where we are at in the fight for school funding.

7-23 Ran 11 P.M. News (:28)

The corporation sent out the update to staff and families today. The notice says this extra time will allow for necessary changes to adjust schedules. The deadline for choosing TSC's virtual academy is extended until Wednesday, July 29th. Also, per the new statewide mandate, masks will be required of all students, staff and visitors at schools and on buses.

7-27 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:35)

Purdue University and the Protect Purdue Implementation Team are taking the next steps to providing a safe and healthy campus this fall semester. They have made changes within certain residence halls and to cleaning schedules. As News 18's Balint Szalavari reports, many incoming freshman are happy that their safety is a priority as they arrive on campus.

7-28 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:10)

While schools are planning to open back up for students in the next month. Districts are taking measures to ensure the students are safe while they're on school grounds. But what about on the bus? Dakota Simon spoke with the Tippecanoe School Corporation to learn more about how schools are keeping students safe outside the building.

8-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:28)

School districts continue to put plans in place for socially distant learning while in the building. Classrooms will now be set up with student and teacher safety in mind. The Lafayette School Corporation is now tackling how they promote social distancing in the hallways. Passing periods will look different for students specifically at the high school level. Superintendent Les Huddle says it's a fluid situation that may change in the first few days back to school.

8-6 Ran 10 P.M. News (:34)

According to a statement from the school, a staff member at the elementary school has tested positive. That member has recently met with other staff members as well, and they are now self-quarantining. The first student day will now be on Monday, August 24th and August 20th and 21st are teacher work days. With this delay, Pioneer Schools will need to build eight days back into the academic calendar. The school corporation plans on releasing an updated school calendar in the near future.

8-10 Ran 10 P.M. News (:32)

Purdue researchers will soon have a new piece of equipment for their studies. Recently, they received a grant from the National Science Foundation. This money will go towards building an Anvil computer. This is a brand of super computer known for its computing capability and artificial intelligence applications. It can be used from understanding the makeup of viruses to studying outer space. Senior Scientist Carol Song is the principal investigator for the project. She says this device will serve a greater purpose for the University.

8-11 Ran Morning News (:45)

Class is back in session for Twin Lakes School Corporation staff and students. The school district is one of the first to fully reopen in our viewing area. For Twin Lakes School Corporation leaders, staff and students needs are at the forefront. Assistant Superintendent Debbie Metzger spent the first day back visiting all five schools. While she couldn't meet on camera, she did spend her day seeing the districts plans come to life.

8-12 Ran 10 P.M. News (:50)

Schools in Tippecanoe County will be going back to school a week from tomorrow. This includes Lafayette schools, West Lafayette schools and Tippecanoe County schools. All three districts moved in unison, pushing their start day back to August 20th. Several schools districts in Indiana who have already reopened have seen positive cases in both students and staff. Dr. Adler says he has confidence in the plans the three districts have put together.

8-13 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

Director of Technology Dr. Devin Arms says students learning virtually must have access to high-speed internet at certain points during the day. 98 percent of parents or guardians reported to the TSC that they did have access to appropriate internet connection. For those who don't he says TSC has gone the extra mile to provide hot spots for families choosing to learn remotely.

8-14 Ran Noon News (:28)

A new assistant principal is stepping in at Harrison High School. The Tippecanoe School Corporation appointed Francine Denecke to the role at its latest school board meeting, is replacing Cory Runkle - who took a principal position at South Adams High School received her undergrad at Iowa State and her Masters from Ball State University. She has 13 years of teaching experience most recently as an interim assistant principal at Klondike Elementary School.

8-16 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:34)

Purdue Boiler Gold Rush is underway. Thousands of students are settling into their dorms and houses on campus. Many of today's movers are going to be experiencing college life for the first time. News 18's Micah Upshaw shows us how move-in day will work. Nearly 6-thousand students are expected to move in these next few days. Move-in time for Boiler Gold Rush started on Friday and will end on Tuesday August 18th. We will continue our back to school coverage all this week on News 18 this morning.

8-17 Ran 10 P.M. News (:28)

Purdue University Global and Ivy Tech Community College have created a pathway to help students in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. Qualifying dsassociate's degrees from Ivy Tech now earn credits toward a Bachelor's degree from Purdue Global. It completes all of their general coursework. Seven areas of study at Ivy Tech coincide with Purdue Global curriculum in this case. Including business administration, computer science, and criminal justice among others. Purdue University Global Chancellor Frank Dooley says this initiative serves students from every background.

8-18 Ran 5 P.M. News (:23)

Purdue University is offering a Hybrid learning plan for students this fall. It's in an effort to provide flexibility due to the CoronaVirus. The new system is called HyFlex learning. It allows instructors to teach both in person and remotely if students or professors need to miss class. Chantal Levesque-Bristol says this new method is as close to in-person learning as possible.

8-18 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:36)

Purdue University is utilizing technology this year to promote a hybrid learning system. It's an effort to limit class sizes for the safety of everyone on campus. News 18's Dakota Simon has the story. As students return to campus here at Purdue University one of the biggest questions is how will an education be learned safely. Well the University is partnering with professors all over campus like the one's here at Knoy Hall of Technology for a hybrid model.

8-19 Ran Morning News (:45)

I spoke with Lafayette Jeff's School Resource Officer Mark Roberts. He told me drivers need to be on the lookout for flashing yellow lights, indicating an active school zone. When the lights are flashing, a reduced speed limit is in place. For zones within the Lafayette School Corporation, speeds are limited to 20 miles per hour. Roberts says following the posted speed reduces the risk of accidents.

8-19 Ran Morning News (:30)

As we previously reported, they were hired by the sheriff's office to serve McCutcheon and Harrison High Schools. Deputy, Steven Stone-rock, is assigned to McCutcheon. He has 10 years of law enforcement experience. Deputy, Jason Morgan, is spending his days at Harrison. He's been in law enforcement for 20 years. Both look forward to making a difference.

8-20 Ran 5 P.M. News (:36)

University representatives confirm it happened at a Circle Pines Cooperative party. They say students violated the Protect Purdue Pledge. Purdue says the organization and students may appeal the interim suspension. However..the ultimate decision will be made later after a full hearing process. Associate Vice Provost & Dean of Students Dr. Katie Sermersheim says students, faculty and staff must find lower-risk activities in which to connect with one another. Otherwise - they run the risk of a code violation.

8-20 Ran 5 P.M. News (1:13)

West Lafayette Elementary Principal Amber Targgart's new school year is off to a great start. Despite facing the numerous challenges of returning to in-person classes during a pandemic students throughout the West Lafayette Community School Corporation answered the challenge. Targgart says even at the elementary level day one finished above reproach. They are doing amazing. You'd think this age level would have a hard time, but they are listening, they are working, I really think parents have had a lot of conversations with the kids, coming up into this and preparing them, and it's obvious and it's evident, and they are doing a great job.

8-20 Ran Morning News (:36)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools throughout the state have implemented safety measures. Some of the safety measures within the Tippecanoe County School district include giving students the option between in-person classes or e-learning. TSC says 20 percent of families decided to do e-learning. While 80 percent choose in-person. Melanie Nemacheck is one of the 80 percent of parents who picked in-person classes for her child. Her daughter is in 8th grade at Battle Ground Middle School.

8-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Local child care centers say that remaining open during the COVID-19 outbreak has been hard. As we reported earlier this week, Right Steps' Dennis Burton location was forced to close recently. As News 18 previously reported, four teachers tested positive for COVID-19. Right Steps President and CEO Debi DeBruyn says staying open can be scary. But it's crucial to help parents get back to work.

8-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:55)

The Hispanic community is being hit hard by the pandemic. It's the third largest ethnic demographic in Tippecanoe County testing positive for Covid-19. That's according to the Indiana State Health Department. Parents are particularly worried about adjusting to e-Learning this coming school year. Both parents and Tippecanoe County School leaders say language barriers could be a problem.

8-24 Ran Noon News (:42)

Yeah just like students K-12 in our area returned last week Purdue University following suit today. In-person classes have returned to session for the first time since March. While classes are back there are a lot of protocols and adjustments being made to keep everyone safe. We've told you previously about Purdue's hybrid learning model where students have the choice to learn from home if they want to. Class sizes are being limited along with a host of other regulations. Coming up tonight at 5 and 6 tonight we're going to hear from a few students on campus.

8-28 Ran Noon News (:36)

As News 18 previously reported, all students were required to be tested for COVID-19 before arriving on campus. Now that students are back, social distancing and wearing a mask is the new normal. As part of the Protect Purdue Plan, the University has designated quarantine spaces if a student tests positive. Purdue President Mitch Daniels says the advanced safety measures the university is taking sets them apart from other universities.

8-31 Ran 11 P.M. News (:30)

In an email Interim Superintendent Debbie Metzger says the decision was based upon multiple COVID-19 positive cases within the week. Metzger says the most current diagnosis was Monday afternoon. Students will return on Thursday, September 10th. All high school athletic events and practices will also be canceled until the 10th. All other K-8 schools in the district will remain open.

9-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:29)

The corporation got two 1-thousand dollar grants from the Indiana Humanities non-profit. The grant is paying for educational books with topics focusing on diversity. These books will go to all the middle schools and high schools. Alicia Spray with TSC applied for the grant for the middle schools. She says the recent nationwide conversations surrounding racial-injustice inspired her.

9-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

The West Lafayette Community School Corporation is keeping families informed during the COVID-19 pandemic. They've instituted a COVID-19 tracker on their website. It showcases how many positive COVID cases there are among students and staff. It'll put into perspective how many students are on-site and doing virtual learning. The goal being to ensure school plans are up to date and parents are informed. Superintendent Rocky Killion says they're working closely with the Tippecanoe Health Department to keep the tracker up to date.

9-10 Ran Noon News (:35)

State Health Commissioner, Dr. Kristina Box, says originally the state was going to have separate reporting systems. This would be where schools sent their positive COVID-19 results. Multiple school corporations said having to report their results *twice, once to local health departments *and again to the state for the dashboard, would be a burden. Now, the state has a way to build the dashboard without having schools report their numbers twice. Dr. Box says this resource is needed to help keep schools open.

9-10 Ran 10 P.M. News (:46)

The Emerging Leaders Science Scholars program at Purdue University is welcoming a record number of students this fall semester. 88 students are involved in the new program that's aimed toward helping students from underserved backgrounds. It's an initiative that provides financial and academic aid to students enrolled in the college of science. Emma Davis is just one of the students enrolled in the program. For her this is an opportunity that's opened doors that may have never existed.

9-14 6 P.M. News (1:21)

School districts all over are now looking for substitute teaching. The Lafayette School Corporation needs substitutes from the elementary school level all the way up here to Tecumseh Junior High, and Lafayette Jeff High School. And this is a problem all over the area school corporations continue to add to their substitute teaching pools.

9-16 Ran Noon News (:31)

The West Lafayette campus reached it's highest enrollment ever at 46-thousand-one-hundred-fourteen students. This includes more than 35-thousand undergraduates. This year's incoming class is the largest in Purdue history. The incoming class has nearly 9-thousand students. Purdue President, Mitch Daniels, says this is a good problem to have. However, as enrollment continues to climb the university will have to evaluate how they move forward.

9-16 Ran 10 P.M. News (:55)

IU Health Arnett is urging parents to re-think a trip to the emergency room. The hospital says students have been showing up in the E-R after schools sent them home with COVID symptoms. Chief Medical Officer Dr. James Bien says it's been a reoccurring problem since school started. He says students are wanting to be tested. They also want letters clearing them to go back to school if negative. Bien says the E-R cannot test for the virus. He stresses the importance of only going in if it is an actual emergency. So, Bien sent a letter to local schools asking them to pass the message along.

9-17 Ran Noon News (:47)

An annual list released by "U.S. News and World Report" moved Purdue *up a spot from last year. The University is now ranked 5-th after moving above Stanford. More than 1-thousand 500 schools across the country were surveyed. The report also released an overall ranking. Purdue ranked 53-rd on that list. Provost of the University, Jay Akridge, credits Purdue's new Impact Learning System among other efforts for the ranking.

9-21 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:34)

The Horizon program has been a part of Purdue for the past 43 years. It's a federally funded service that has to be renewed every five years. This is a competitive grant and this pandemic made it even harder to secure. This grant is provided through the U.S Department of Education. The funding is set to start in the year of 2022. Reporting live in West Lafayette, Micah Upshaw. News 18.

9-23 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:30)

The Cornerstone program at Purdue University continues to be an attraction to Universities across the country. The initiative designed to provide Liberal Arts courses to more students received a 7 million dollar grant from the Natonal Endowment for Humanties and The Teagle Foundation. Dakota Simon takes us inside the program and it's expansion. The Cornerstone program started in 2017 with around 100 students. This fall more than 2,000 students are involved in introductory courses within the program.

9-25 Ran 10 P.M. News (:58)

R-D-P Political Action Committee is raising money for four West Lafayette school board candidates. Dennis says he was approached by close friends to take the chairman position. But he resigned after he says the PAC sent a letter that was personally offensive. News 18 obtained a copy of a letter sent by the PAC. The letter says some of the fifteen candidates running for school board have a personal agenda or grudge against the current administration.

9-28 Ran Noon News (:28)

Parents were notified Friday that this week would be an e-learning week for students. According to the letter, all students in grades 7 through 12 are learning from home starting today. While at home, students are being asked to follow a 2-hour delay schedule. The school has found 7 positive COVID-19 cases so far. 2 of those are from this past week. That includes *one student and *one staff member.

9-28 Ran 5 P.M. News (:24)

13 of the 14 students are athletes. The students violated the Protect Purdue Pledge. That's according to a statement sent out by the university. The students have until Wednesday to leave their residence hall. They may file an appeal of the decision.

9-28 Ran 10 P.M. News (:54)

Patrick Hickner, Ryan Allbaugh and David Bordner all joined the board in 2017. Chris Dyer is running for Allbaugh's seat. Billy Lytle is running for Bordner's seat, who is not seeking re-election. And former Carroll Elementary Principal Amanda Redmon is running for Hickner's position. As we previously reported, many were left stunned after the school board voted 4-to-1 not to renew Redmon's contract.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Indiana drivers now have one less distraction to worry about while driving. Beginning July first drivers can be pulled over and issued a citation for using a mobile device while driving. One more section of the Columbian Park Memorial Island project is underway. The lagoon around the island is drained and the dredging process is almost complete. A long neglected chemical facility is receiving some much needed remediation. The nearly century old property is being cleaned and old contaminated building materials are being safely removed so the neighborhood can be used for habitation once again.

7-1 Ran Morning News (:24)

As of this morning, it will be against the law for all drivers to have a phone in their hand while driving. That means no phone calls, texting or any other activities on your phone if it is in your hand. Indiana State Trooper Stephen Grayson says this law will help save lives.

7-1 Ran Morning News (:32)

The Logansport Mall is almost ready for demolition after years of redevelopment planning. In a News 18 update, the city says Park Development LLC, which owns the property, now has state and local approvals for their redevelopment plan. It will involve tearing down most of the old mall and replacing it with an open-air retail center, anchored by a Walmart Supercenter and a Home Depot. Two existing businesses - Dunham's Sports and Dollar Tree - will remain open during construction. Work will start as soon as the specific permits come through.

7-1 Ran Noon News (:33)

Developers say turning 3rd and 4th streets into 2 way streets will make downtown Lafayette businesses more accessible and it will accommodate all types of transportation. In a virtual meeting last night - city leaders said it would also make for a more vibrant and safe downtown. As News 18 previously reported, the city has been thinking about converting the streets into two-ways for several months. Both of them currently go one way. Eric Lucas is the principal at M-K-S-K, the landscape architect for this project. He says the change needs to provide for all.

7-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The lagoon at Columbian Park has been drained. This is the third and final phase of the Memorial Island project. All the fish have been relocated with outside help. The park is now removing all the sludge and sediment that has built up since the 1800s. This is to help build an ecosystem of sea vegetation when the lagoon is filled back up. In the process, many abandoned items have been found on the lagoon floor. Park Superintendent Claudine Laufman says it's been an interesting scavenger hunt.

7-7 Ran 5 P.M. News (:40)

Some improvements are coming to McCaw Park in Lafayette. The Lafayette Parks Foundation is receiving 85-thousand dollars from the McAllister Foundation to go toward renovations on three baseball fields. These range from rebuilding the pitcher mounds and overhead protective netting. Director of Operations Jon Miner says these changes have been needed for a few years now. He says they've been able to take advantage of the delay to youth sports due to COVID-19.

7-8 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

A former gas plant property in Logansport is undergoing an environmental cleanup. The former manufactured gas plant site was operating around 1885 until the early 1900's. In an effort to ensure the protection of the environment, NIPSCO has an ongoing program to study former sites where gas was historically manufactured. They hope to learn what environmental impacts may have occurred. While the site in Logansport is safe to the public, the company will remove impacted soil and replace it.

7-9 Ran 5 P.M. News (:25)

Heads up for drivers in Tippecanoe County, State Road 25 will close on, *or after, July 13. The closure will take place over Wallace ditch. That's about a mile and a half *south of State Road 28. The Indiana Department of Transportation says the closure is for a *small structure replacement project. The detour follows State Road 28 to State Road 3-41, to State Road 55, *and back. The road is scheduled to reopen on September 4th.

7-10 Ran Noon News (:28)

The Indiana Department of Transportation says State Road 3-52 is set to close between Oxford and Boswell. This is expected to start on Monday, July 20th and is *not expected to re-open until September 15th. Crews plan to make a small structure replacement on the bridge just *west of Oxford. Drivers will need to seek an alternate route. The official detour will follow U-S 41, State Road 26 and State Road 55 and back.

7-12 Ran 6 P.M. News (:28)

Yesterday's strong winds brought down a number of large trees in Frankfort. It blew down power lines, leaving many residents without electricity. Street Superintendent Jason Forsythe says the city spent seven-hours removing trees and cleaning the roads. This is how some homes still look today. Forsythe said he's happy there were no reported injuries. However, he estimates some damage could be costly for homeowners. He said the city cannot remove trees that are on private property.

7-13 Ran 5 P.M. News (:45)

The Richard Wachs aquatics center at West Lafayette Jr Sr high school is now open for public use. The pool originally opened for high school competition back in December and open lanes are now available for adults and younger children. Swimming programs are being offered for children ages eight through 12. The programs are open to the public.. And are being operated with the swimmer's safety in mind, Social distancing is required around the pool and on the pool deck and one swimmer is permitted in a lane at a time. Lessons are also being conducted this week with at least six feet of distance between the swim instructors and students Camp instructor Chris Klinge says the their mission is to safely provide an outlet for those passionate about being in the pool.

7-14 Ran Noon News (:41)

Frankfort leaders believe the project will help with economic development in the city. As News 18 previously reported, Mayor Judy Sheets says, they'd like to use the space to build attractions like housing or restaurants. But first, they're interested in seeing what the community wants. Starting tonight, the city will be conducting weekly meetings to hear from residents. It gets underway at six p-m at the Frankfort Neighborhood Center. The second meeting is scheduled for Thursday at the Community Schools of Frankfort. You can find the full list of dates on wlf dot com.

7-14 Ran 6 P.M. News (:26)

It will effect the road between University Street and Russell Street. The new road closure start date is Wednesday, July 22nd. It will be closed every day from seven to 4-30 P-M, through Sunday, July 28th. The closure is making way for a Purdue Christian Campus House going up in the area. City Project Engineer Dan Auckley says overall, this construction season has stayed busy.

7-15 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

The city is also working to finalize designs for Cason Family Park. The designs cover the first two phases of the project. According to Director of Development Erin Easter, the city has budgeted around two-point-four million dollars for the project's first phase. It will feature multiple playgrounds, trails and public facilities. The project's second phase includes a water feature, three shelters and additional trails. The city would like to begin construction in the spring of 2021. Completion is planned for 2022.

7-15 Ran 11 P.M. News (:24)

Drivers should be aware of an upcoming road project near Battle Ground. The city is repaving 600 North from State Road 43 to Prophet's Rock Road. Work is expected to start on Monday and last through the end of August. During that time, traffic will be limited to one way at a time, and heavy trucks may not be allowed to pass. The resurfacing is part of Battle Ground's community crossings grant from the state.

7-16 Ran Morning News (:15)

A heads up, a boil water advisery went into effect an hour ago for people living in Battle Grond just west of Prophets Rock Road. This is due to a water main break. This does include the Woods Edge Community. The boil advisory will stay in effect until 4 p-m tomorrow.

7-16 Ran Noon News (:39)

The new roundabout is part of a *two phase project to enhance the safety and accessibility in the area. You can see it's location here on your screen. The project includes the reconstruction of the Kankakee, Beaver-ville and Southern Railroad Bridge. Once the project is completed in the fall, the road *under the railroad bridge will allow two-way traffic. Until then, the sections of Newman Road from State Road 26 to Benson Drive will remain *closed. Detours will remain in place.

7-16 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The U-S Department of Commerce has awarded a four point five million dollar grant for the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility in Wolcott. The agency says it will help the town grow and diversify the local economy, while boosting regional resilience after future natural disasters. Wolcott Clerk Treasurer Pamela Bennett says the town is expanding, so it's very exciting.

7-17 Ran Morning News (:28)

The city of Lafayette says the City Hall will continue having modified hours. Hours of operation will be from 8 a.m to 12 p.m. and, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. During the break from 12 to 2, the city hall will undergo deap cleaning. Guests must use the *south entrance and guest will be limited to *one person per family. City leaders will review these procedures on July 31st. If there hasn't been a surge, or spike, in COVID-19 cases... normal business hours *will resume on Monday, August 3rd.

7-20 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Lafayette Parks dedicated the playground today. The play area features a rubberized surface, a 17 foot tall macro net and climbing blocks. The old play sets were replaced with updated ones. The park was open back in June, however it was limited to McAllister summer camp members. With this dedication, the park is now open to the north end community. Chad Aldridge is the manager of the center. He says it was time for an update after years of wear and tear.

7-20 Ran 5 P.M. News (:45)

Tippecanoe County's newest wastewater district is moving onto its next stage of planning. County Commissioners will be submitting a petition to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for approval. It will need approval from the department before planning can proceed. The wastewater district would be built in northeastern Tippecanoe County. According to Commissioner Tracy Brown, plans for the new facility began after drainage issues were noticed in the Buck Creek area. He says the facility is an important backup as septic systems in the area continue to age.

7-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:23)

Tonight the city's "Go Greener Commission" will host an upcoming virtual public input session. It will include a brief presentation, questions and answers *and a discussion. The meeting will start at six p-m. For more information head over to wfi dot com.

7-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Thanks to a recent grant, you'll be seeing more rain barrels around Tippecanoe County. These barrels are used to prevent polluted storm water from flowing into the Wabash River. The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation is providing barrel kits which residents can pay for. Thanks to a grant from Tipmont Envirowatts, they're able to keep costs down. With this kit, residents can set the barrels up on their own downspouts, catching any pollutants that flow through. Watershed Coordinator Shannon Stanis says they've been seeing good results.

7-22 Ran Noon News (:35)

The new signal will be located on State Road 26 and County Road 900 East. As News 18 previously reported, in the last five years there have been 124 crashes at the intersection. The new traffic signal is part of a contract awarded to Mid-western Electric. The company was awarded over five hundred thousand dollars to install new signals. The Indiana Department of transportation wants drivers to be alert as these signals being to be activated.

7-22 Ran Noon News (:26)

A heads up for drivers in White County- a portion of State Road 16 is set to close next week. Take a look at your screen. On Monday, State Road 16 between U.S. 421 and State Road 39 will be closed. The closure is for seal coating to be completed. The project is set to last for three days. The Indiana Department of Transportation says drivers should seek an alternative route. The detour will follow U.S 421...State Road 14... U.S. 35 *and State Road 119.

7-22 Ran 6 P.M. News (:23)

One of the nations largest railroad companies had to clean up a train derailment today. It happened at 10:45 at the Norfolk Southern rail yard in Lafayette. A spokesperson for the company says five train cars were derailed while switching tracks. Three cars rolled onto their sides. There were no injuries and no hazardous materials involved. They are still looking into how this happened.

7-23 Ran Noon News (:36)

The city says they are taking actions against C-S-X Transportation and Indiana Department of Transportation. Take a look at your screen. The section of roadway scheduled to close includes U-S 136, State Road 32 and State Road 47. This closure will impact multiple drivers as *more than 13 thousand vehicles travel this route daily. The city of Crawfordsville is seeking an emergency order to prevent the closure until August 15-th.

7-24 Ran Morning News (:45)

West Lafayette Fire Station 3 is upgrading to a new quint fire truck. The term "quint" means the truck is a combination of different models. It features a 100-foot ladder, a water pump and narrow suspension. All of which can be controlled by *one firefighter via a wireless remote. Additionally, it comes with a surveillance camera attached to the ladder. This camera can provide an aerial view during a fire *or search and rescue. Deputy Fire Chief, Jeff Need, says it's all about efficiency when dealing with fires.

7-24 Ran 10 P.M. News (:45)

Armstrong Park in Lafayette is home to a new musical playground set. The Lafayette Kiwanis club collaborated with the city's park department and provided a 15-thousand dollar donation to make it all possible. The playset is now open to the public. The addition aligns with the city's effort in promoting the arts. Mary Jo Van-deveer is the president of the Kiwanis Club. She says when it comes to the city's parks - thinking outside the box is important.

7-27 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

The Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission is seeking public input for its 2050 Transportation Plan. They have released a survey addressing several different targets to improve the county's transportation system. This includes improving user safety, reducing traffic congestion and promoting climate sustainability. According to Assistant Director of Transportation Planning Tim Stroshine, the survey will highlight what is most important to the community. He says this allows for a better use of funding.

7-27 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

The corner of Ninth and South Streets in downtown Lafayette look a little different. The city is officially introducing a new pumping station at the old Village Pantry location. The new building is designed to not only bring a new look to the area, but to reduce flooding in the downtown area as well. It will also provide relief to the existing wastewater treatment plant. Mayor Tony Roswarski says the new pumping station provides benefits now, and well into the future.

7-29 Ran Noon News (:30)

The city of Lafayette has announced it will close all three-city pools on August 9th, for the health and safety of the community. That was already the final day for both Castaway Bay and Vinton Pools, but Tropicanoe Cove was expected to stay open on weekends through Labor Day. But the city made the decision to close the pools to avoid large gatherings ahead of the expected start of the school year. Because of Governor Holcomb's plan to reopen Indiana, all three pools have been operating at 50 percent this summer.

7-30 Ran 5 P.M. News (1:54)

This year there's no baseball because there's no field. Instead of grass .. gravel. No players rather construction workers. But if you're driving on South Street in Lafayette you'll notice progress on the new venue. Sports 18's J-D has an update on the future ballpark.

7-30 Ran 10 P.M. News (:30)

Dee Lucas has lived in Battle Ground for a year and a half. She says since moving to the area her water quality has been poor. Lucas says she went through her home cleaning filters and even went as far as draining her hot water heater twice to fix the issue to no avail. She says it's a problem that needs to be resolved. There is currently a petition in regards to the water quality in Battle Ground. Dozens of people have already signed it. On News 18 at 11 on CBS we'll hear from the chairperson for the Water Conservancy Board in Battle Ground.

7-31 Ran Noon News (:40)

The third quarter campaign was put on by the Tippecanoe County Traffic Safety Partnership. That includes West Lafayette, Purdue and Lafayette police. As well as the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office. During April, May and June officers stopped over 200 vehicles. They made 22 arrests for various misdemeanor *and felony charges. Officers also gave out 34 tickets and 173 warnings to drivers. The campaign was made up of more than 170 hours of federally funded patrols. Agencies that participate in this effort are funded by grants through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

8-3 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:14)

Both parks departments in Greater Lafayette say they have seen an increase in people using the local trails and playgrounds. I talked with the departments to see if this is a trend they think will continue once the pandemic is over.

8-3 Ran 11 P.M. News (:24)

A traffic alert for drivers in Cass County. State Road 16 is set to close starting Monday, August 10th. The closure will stretch from U-S 35 to State Road 17. During the closure, crews will apply a new driving surface to the roadway, which seals cracks and provides waterproof protection. The road is expected to re-open on Friday, August 14th. The official detour will follow U-S 35, State Road 25 and State Road 17.

8-10 Ran Morning News (:31)

The Lafayette Police Department is preparing for students to return to school. The department is *one of 200 law enforcement agencies in the state conducting overtime patrols. The overtime patrols are part of Indiana's Stop Arm Violation Enforcement program. The program was developed by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. LPD officers will be looking for school bus stop-arm violations. School resource officer for the Lafayette Police Department, Mark Roberts, says he hopes this will be beneficial.

8-11 Ran 6 P.M. News (:28)

This comes after yesterday evening's strong windstorm. On your screen are photos of some areas hit hardest. Our Precision 18 meteorologists say winds were blowing as strong as 70 miles per hour. The storm hit Tippecanoe County around 6:15. It lasted about 30-minutes. The Tippecanoe Emergency Management Agency reports no structure damage. dsHowever, there were a number of large fallen trees on major roadways.

8-11 Ran 10 P.M. News (:56)

A new trail is coming to Salisbury Street and Grant Street in West Lafayette. Earlier tonight West Lafayette Redevelopment held a meeting for the urban planning and architecture company to share plans for the trail system. The company shared with residents how construction would happen and what could be impacted. The trail will be centrally located within the city extending from Purdue University to the West Lafayette Wellness and Aquatic Center. Landscape Director Eric Lucas says the goal is to connect residents to a wide variety of places and businesses.

8-13 Ran Noon News (:28)

City Bus is receiving 1-point-2-million dollars in federal funding. The money is being used to expand their compressed natural gas fueling station. C-N-G is a low-emission alternative to diesel fuel. With this money, City Bus aims to replace *four of their diesel buses with C-N-G fueled ones. General manager, Martin (Senate) Sennett, says this will keep fuel cost low.

8-14 Ran Noon News (:27)

The Indiana Department of Transportation announced the road will close for a small structure replacement. This will take place on the bridge located between U.S. 41 and north County Road 200 West. The road is expected to be closed through October 9-th. The official detour will follow U.S. 41.... State Road 26, State Road 55, State Road 3-52 to U.S. 52 and back.

8-14 Ran Noon News (:23)

And a traffic alert for drivers in Cass County. State road 16 between State Road 17 and Shawnie Court will be closed. You can see that area right here on your screen. The closure will take place for seal coating on Monday. Weather permitting, State Road 16 is expected to reopen on Friday August 21-st. The official detour will follow State Road 17, State Road 25, U.S. 35, State Road 24 *and U.S. 31.

8-14 Ran 5 P.M. News (:20)

The City of Lafayette says to expect some parking and pedestrian closures at Columbian Park. This comes as crews continue to work on Phase 3 of the Memorial Island project. Closures will take place as crews expand construction fencing. Crews will also need to close down certain areas as they work on a new grand entrance to the park.

8-16 Ran 6 P.M. News (:31)

NIPSCO is issuing an Abnormal River Condition Warning for Like Freeman in White County. The company says surface elevation levels measured at the Oakdale Dam are down. They are measuring below the Federally required minimum operating level of 610.10 feet. This morning the surface elevation taken near the face of the dam was measured at 610.04 feet. DNR is warning the public to be mindful of their surroundings on the lake. Submerged objects may start to appear that could be dangerous to boat operators, swimmers and tubers.

8-17 Ran 10 P.M. News (1:37)

After several years of planning White County is welcoming a new highway department. I spoke with the highway superintendent about this new building. He says the new building will be a huge upgrade. The new building will be ready and open by the end of this month.

8-19 Ran 10 P.M. News (:27)

Manager of Development for CityBus Bryce Gibson says the company will continue providing hand sanitizer on buses. Gibson says buses will also have a six-foot do not cross line. The line will be six feet behind the driver. The company is also working to provide sanitizing wipes on higher ridership routes. Gibson says these are provisions that will help keep workers and riders safe as fall and winter approaches.

8-21 Ran 10 P.M. News (1:29)

The City of Logansport is celebrating a small victory after competing for the All-America City Award. It's a community recognition program given by the National Civic League and nearly 30 cities compete. I spoke with the former mayor of Logansport who applied for the award. He shares why being a part of this competition was so important for the city.

8-24 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The COVID-19 pandemic means fewer people working and driving. That's tough for county budgets that rely on income and gas taxes. Tippecanoe County is estimating a 1-million-dollar drop in revenue from income taxes. Money from gas taxes is also down. Auditor Bob Plantenga says that's because fewer people are working, driving and taking vacations. The county is holding off on raises for most its employees next year. But Plantenga says he still needs to cut 2.6 million dollars off next year's budget.

8-25 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

Purdue's Transportation Coordinator says these scooters are more important now than ever. Right now, scooters and buses are the only two university provided public modes of transportation. The city's only bike sharing company Zagster, ended its operations nationwide earlier this summer. With less ways to get around conveniently, the university is hoping these scooters help students who travel far for class. The university and SPIN have worked to create Covid-19 safety measures for the scooters. This includes signage on the scooter requiring users to wear a mask while riding.

8-26 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

According to the Duke Energy Power Outage map, thousands are still without power. As you can see on your screen, the outages are largely focused on the South Western parts of the county. Duke energy says the outage was caused by an object coming into contact with power lines. We're working to get more details on the cause. The company says the power is expected to be restored at around 7 o'clock tonight.

8-27 Ran 6 P.M. News (:45)

The city bought several condemned properties in 2003 in hopes of attracting development. But nearly two decades have passed without securing an investor. Officials began accepting proposals in April asking 180-thousand dollars for the 2.3 acres. But they eventually agreed to sell the property for one-thousand dollars. That's because state law allows it to be sold less than the public offering price after 30 days without a proposal. Local developer Jeff Rider declined to be interviewed, saying it's too soon to disclose his plans for the development. But Economic Development Director Dennis Carson says several structures will offer a mix historic and modern designs.

8-30 Ran 6 P.M. News (:40)

INDOT is also installing Intersection Conflict Warning systems across the state. The systems will help improve safety at intersections that don't have a light signal and are only controlled by stop signs. One will go in Montgomery County near Darlington. This will be where State road 47 meets County Road North 625 East.

9-7 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The airport's aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle is almost 20 years old. It's in serious need of replacement. The airport is purchasing a new truck. Thanks to a grant of more than seven-hundred-thousands dollars from the federal government. The Purdue Fire Department responds to roughly eight-to-ten incidents every year and the most recent incident was actually Saturday afternoon. Airport director Adam Baxmeyer says the aviation program is seeing the largest incoming freshman class in history.

9-7 Ran 6 P.M. News (:35)

Governor Eric Holcomb announced last week that Tipmont REMC will get more than 5.7 million dollars. It's part of the Next Level Connections Broadband Grant Program. The money will help households, farms, businesses, and anchor institutions in Tippecanoe County and neighboring counties with broadband. Tipmont serves Tippecanoe, Montgomery, Fountain, Clinton, Carroll, White, Benton and Boone Counties.

9-8 Ran 10 P.M. News (:35)

The Lafayette City Council ratified the sale for redevelopment on South Eighth Street. Owner of the construction company over the project Jeff Rider says he wants the project completed in less than five years. Workers are expected to start in August next year. As we previously reported the city bought several condemned properties in 2003 in hopes of attracting development. The construction company Triple R LLC. proposed a \$12 million project in the area. Economic Development Director Dennis Carson says the city is excited to offer a mix of historic and modern designs.

9-15 Ran Noon News (:25)

An outage occurred around 5:30 p-m. More than 6-thousand people lost power on Lafayette's north and East sides. It was caused by a bird flying into the local substation. South Street to Creasy, and towards McCarty lane, was without power. One local resident says she was getting something to eat when she noticed the outages.

9-18 Ran Morning News (:45)

As we've previously reported, the project was scheduled to wrap up sometime in 20-21. However, Senior Construction Project Manager, Kristi Brown, says they'll be wrapping up this winter. The project began with a roundabout at State Road 26. Next was a new overhead railroad bridge. It was installed with a "hydro-slide" which allowed workers to move it in place. Brown says sliding the bridge in was a *big asset to this part of the project.

9-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (1:15)

The TIF would have extended Yost Road from State Road 38 north to Haggerty Lane. The Dayton town board voted to table the project for two years. 80 percent of the project would have been funded through a federal aid and the other 20 percent would have been funded by the town of Dayton. Now that the town of Dayton has voted to table the project for two years the county has decided to move their portion of the Yost Road TIF district in to a different district. Since the project is on hold the TIF isn't generating any revenue so the county says it didn't make sense for them to continue to keep their portion of the TIF there. However the surveying work for this project has already been completed and since the town pulled out they will have to pay for all of the surveying work that's been done.

9-22 Ran Noon News (:55)

Today dozens of people around the country will partake in bicycling. It's an environmentally sound form of transportation. It's also part of an event called "bike to work day". Mayor John Dennis says Greater Lafayette has participated in this event for over a decade. Every year bicyclist gather at the Meyer's Pedestrian Bridge. Just recently the City of West Lafayette received a bronze award for being a bike friendly city. Mayor Dennis says this year is significant because of COVID-19. He says many people have been at home for months. This event is a great reason for people to get out.

9-23 Ran 6 P.M. News (:31)

Awarded by the Indiana State Department of Health, the grant will allow the city to develop a community-wide master plan. The plan will focus on increasing pedestrian and bicyclist safety and driver awareness. West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis says the city wants to make walking and biking more viable options. West Lafayette was also awarded the Bicycle Friendly Community Bronze Level Award from The League of American Bicyclists last fall.

9-25 Ran 5 P.M. News (:45)

The plan is to extend Park East Boulevard from McCarty Lane to State Road 38. It will be done in two phases. Phase one will take the road from Haggerty Lane to State Road 38. A traffic signal will be added at that intersection. The second phase will extend it from McCarty to Haggerty. City Engineer Jeromy Grenard says it will help traffic flow on Creasy Lane and Veterans Memorial Parkway.

9-25 Ran 5 P.M. News (:50)

These ADA-accessible vans cost around 30-thousand dollars. It just so happen that one viewer who read our story had a van to give away. The story not only caught the attention of that viewer but also an Indiana based wheelchair manufacturer. Braunability is located in Winamac and it specializes in all things wheelchair mobility. The viewer gave Braunability workers the car and they fixed it up free of charge. This week they surprised Breanne with her car. Her mom Jami Butler says this whole experience is life-changing.

9-28 Ran Morning News (:55)

Chairman for the Battle Ground Conservancy District Andrea Agree says the current water tower is several years old. The board said it is cost effective to have a new tower built. The project will cost 2.3 million. That includes building and refinancing a current water tower. Back in 2019 residents saw an increase in rates up to 56%. That was to improve infrastructure. People are concerned that will happen again. Agree says the board doesn't anticipate needing to adjust rates. She says there's a surplus from the rate increase last year along with a healthy 2021 budget that'll pay for this project.