

Quarterly Issues Report

WLFI-TV 18

Second Quarter, 2020

Broadcast issues contained in this report:

Agriculture, Business and Healthcare

Crime

Diversity

Education

Transportation and Infrastructure

Lafayette TV, LLC

Lafayette, IN

Agriculture, Business and Healthcare

The Greater Lafayette Area is now deep in the grip of COVID-19. Local hospitals and health departments are handling the influx of new patients with this new disease. Businesses are also forced to deal with the virus, but not all businesses are the same. Tyson Chicken in Logansport is struggling to deal with the exposure.

4-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:36)

Crawfordsville now has a drive through testing facility for COVID-19. The drive through testing sight is located at Crawfordsville high school. The test are only for those who have a note from their doctor saying that they need to be tested. Yesterday the testing sight swabbed 8 people for coronavirus. Right now the Crawfordsville sight is focusing testing on first responders, medical staff and people who fit a strict criteria of symptoms. Montgomery County Health Commissioner Dr. Scott Douglas says they are limiting testing due to a shortage in supplies and ability to transport swabs that are taken.

4-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The Clinton County Health Department is in need of protective masks. They are asking for donations from manufacturers and the community. The department is accepting all CDC-compliant masks. According to Health Department Administrator Rodney Wann, they have already received around 200 masks from Fastenal in Frankfort. And local schools are also helping provide masks, goggles and gloves. Wann says the donations would help supply health care workers and the high-risk population with masks.

4-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

With elective surgeries being canceled several rural hospitals are taking a hit to their bottom line. Franciscan Health has two rural Hospitals one in Rensselaer and one in Crawfordsville. Neither location is large which makes their revenue base much small the campus in Lafayette. A drop in revenue can affect staffing as well as disease management programs that don't fund themselves. Franciscan Alliance Regional CEO Terry Wilson says their rural hospitals have an advantage over others because they are connected to a larger health care network.

4-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

Harrington says they are doing their best to only hold essential court hearings right now. He says most of his staff is working remotely. A small number of staff are physically in the office and available to appear for any emergency court hearings. They are available 24/7 to law enforcement, which is normal procedure. Harrington says a judge in a county south of Indianapolis has tested positive for coronavirus. He couldn't specify which county, but said that judge and their staff are all in quarantine. He says they are working to make sure that doesn't happen here.

4-1 Ran 6 P.M. News (:40)

Drive through testing sites are opening up across the viewing area. Crawfordsville now has a drive through testing facility for COVID-19. The drive through testing site is located at Crawfordsville high school. The test are only for those who have a note from their doctor saying that they need to be tested. Yesterday the testing sight swabbed 8 people for coronavirus. Right now the Crawfordsville sight is focusing testing on first responders, medical staff and people who fit a strict criteria of symptoms. Montgomery County Health Commissioner Dr. Scott Douglas says the goal of drive through testing is to ration equipment and stop the spread of the virus.

4-2 Ran Noon News (:31)

While many stores across the area are sold out of hand sanitizer, one place is stocked. That's because they're making it themselves. The Purdue Pharmacy is compounding hand sanitizer for Greater Lafayette. Pharmacists started creating it two weeks ago after the F-D-A gave approval. Since then, they've made more than 100 liters. The spouse of a West Lafayette High School alum even donated thousands of bottles to put the sanitizer in. Even though it is on sale to the public, the goal of the project is to help those in urgent need.

4-2 Ran 5 P.M. News (:54)

Wabash National in Lafayette has closed the cafeteria at its North Plant after an employee of its cafeteria provider, A-V-I, tested positive for COVID-19. Spokesman Dana Stelsel says A-V-I notified Wabash National that medical professionals believe the exposure occurred outside of Wabash National. Stelsel says that cafeteria worker had not returned to Wabash National since the expected exposure date because the plant was on a scheduled shutdown. The cafeteria was not re-opened when employees returned on March 29.

4-2 Ran 5 P.M. News (:28)

However, this self-isolation isn't only limiting the spread of the disease. For folks with pre-existing mental conditions, the practice may start to affect them as the pandemic continues. Wabash Valley Mental Health America is anticipating an increase of calls due to this. Their president, Brandi Christiansen, says that all centers are prepared to do what they can to help these individuals.

4-3 Ran Noon News (:27)

The Tippecanoe County Treasurer says its office is now accepting online and mailed property tax payments, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Spring installments of 2020 property taxes are due on May 11th. Paper statements were mailed out on April 1st. In addition to online and mailed statements, the city has a drop box located at 20 North 3rd Street and Staley Credit Union on Union Street. You can find a link to 2020 property tax statements on our website, wlf dot com.

4-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

Purdue is freezing merit pay increases. In a Message to the Purdue Community this morning, he said it would be "irresponsible" to go through with the three-percent raises during these "uncertain times." The more careful we are now, the less severe the measures we will have to take later if things do not recover the way we hope they will, so, things we've already put in place, restrictions on travel and purchasing and hiring are going to continue into the next fiscal year. And I'll tell you right now that the pay raises that we intended to make starting in July will have to be postponed indefinitely.

4-3 Ran 6 P.M. News (:20)

Good evening Jeff and to you all at home. What you see behind me is an EMS chase vehicle. This is what health care workers at Phoenix Paramedic Solutions will use to travel to different areas in order to perform a rapid antibody test. Health care workers say it's the next step in ensuring people are safe and to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

4-3 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

Wind Hill Distillery has been making sanitizer for two weeks. The county asked the local business if they could start making it because their first responders were running out. Since the distillery started producing hand sanitizer other counties in the area have also asked for help. Co-Owner of Wind Hill Distillery Tom Clifton says when they saw how much of a need there was they wanted to do something to help.

4-4 Ran 11 P.M. (1:57)

During this unprecedented time medical workers are dealing with a lot of uncertainty and worry. Two local health care professionals spoke with News 18's Marvin Bills about their experience dealing with the impact of a virus that's unforgiving.

4-5 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:30)

The city of West Lafayette is facing challenges with people ignoring social distancing guidelines in public. News 18's Marvin Bills also talked with Mayor John Dennis about the problems the city is facing.

4-6 Ran Morning News (2:02)

Repetition and routine is crucial for patients dealing with dementia and Alzheimer's. While we're under a global pandemic, that can be difficult to achieve. News 18's Micah Upshaw tells us ways care-takers can navigate this temporary normal.

4-6 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:33)

Small businesses are hurting now more than ever. Governor Holcomb has ordered non-essential businesses to remain closed for another two weeks. News 18's Meredith Hackler joins us live now and tells us how Greater Lafayette Commerce is trying to help businesses stay afloat.

4-6 Ran 11 P.M. News (:32)

Kroger is limiting the number of people in its stores to improve social distancing efforts. The company, which includes Payless, will cap the access for customers at any given time to half the fire safety limit. That's one person per 120 square feet. Kroger says it already has technology that gives them a live read of capacity through sensors that count people at the doors. Above that number, customers would have to wait in line to enter. The company is also waiving delivery fees for prescriptions and providing facemasks and gloves for employees.

4-7 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

The tourism industry is taking a big hit as we continue to cope with the statewide stay-at-home order. Right now Prophetstown state park joins all 25 Indiana state parks forced to close their campgrounds. This is according to Governor Eric Holcomb's updated stay-at-home order. This month is typically the start of the season at the Farm of Prophetstown. Farm leaders are usually hosting school field trips and family activities and while the farm and park are two separate entities, Farm of Prophetstown CEO Pamela Dexter says they heavily depend on each other.

4-7 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:31)

IU Health Arnett Hospital is seeing a decrease in its amount of patients. It has seen more COVID-19 visitors but a doctor and a nurse tell me people with major health problems are not showing up. I asked them what attributes to that and how the staff is holding up.

4-8 Ran Noon News (:36)

IU Health Arnett Hospital is seeing a decrease in its amount of patients. It has seen more COVID-19 visitors but a doctor and a nurse tell me people with major health problems are not showing up. I asked them what attributes to that and how the staff is holding up. They are hoping the conversion will improve traffic flow, safety and allow easy access to local businesses. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this is the first virtual public meeting the city of Lafayette has had. The meeting is scheduled for seven o'clock tonight. It will be featured online using Zoom software. For more details about the meeting you can visit the City of Lafayette's Facebook page.

4-8 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

The City of Crawfordsville has created a program to help small businesses in the community. Today Mayor Todd Barton announced the launch of the new COVID 19 Small Business Loan Program. It's designed to bridge a gap for business hard-hit by coronavirus restrictions. Limited funds have been made available through the city's Jobs Creation and Investment Fund. Interested business owners are asked to call Mayor Barton at 765-364-5160. You can also email tbarton@crawfordsville-in.gov for an application or with any questions.

4-8 Ran 6 P.M. News (:32)

Public Health Officer Jeremy Adler says he's not aware of any complete recoveries in the county's 38 positive coronavirus patients so far. 10 of those cases are hospitalized, with two on ventilators. Adler and other county leaders held the first of what will be weekly news conferences to provide updates on the local pandemic response this afternoon. He says Indiana's "surge" is expected to occur on April 16th, with Tippecanoe County's on that date or shortly after. Top doctors at IU Health and Franciscan Health say they believe they're ready.

4-8 Ran 6 P.M. News (2:10)

A local bike mechanic and his business partner recently lost their jobs - following the economic fallout of the COVID 19 pandemic. But as News 18's Marlee Thomas and photojournalist Ryan Delaney show us, they're making the best of a bad situation.

4-8 Ran 10 P.M. News (:43)

The Tippecanoe School Corporation will pay all of its hourly workers through May 26th. The TSC Board of Trustees voted to approve the decision this afternoon. This will include all food service staff and bus drivers. TSC is one of hundreds of Indiana school districts closing its buildings and moving classes online. May 26th was the original end to the TSC school year. Now the district is ending on May 15th. Superintendent Scott Hanback said in a statement "This is a challenging time, you so if the TSC can in some way alleviate the stress and burdens on our classified staff in this manner we're happy to do so. The TSC cannot operate effectively or efficiently without hardworking, dedicated, and trustworthy employees."

4-8 Ran 10 P.M. News (:27)

A local health leader says it's important for parents to talk with their kids about the coronavirus. Dr. Sean Sharma is a health officer with the Fountain-Warren Health Department. He shared a video of him talking with his young boys about the disease. He is surprised at how perceptive they have been to the global pandemic. He is encouraging parents to use facts from places like the CDC to help answer their questions. He believes it's important to keep kids informed.

4-8 Ran 10 P.M. News (:35)

The group has quadrupled its members in the last three weeks and has made more than 3,600 masks. The Facebook group is called Greater Lafayette Sewing Masks. It has 845 members producing 2-ply 100% cotton masks with elastic ear loops. The CDC recently stated the public should wear face coverings to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Jada Houghey created the sewing masks group. She said the mission is to show local health care workers and at risk people the community cares about them.

4-9 Ran 5 P.M. News (:37)

The Indiana Department of Transportation is stepping in to help during this time. The agency launched a temporary program to help truck drivers and small business owners. With permission from the Federal Highway Administration the Indiana Department of Transportation will allow two food trucks at any of the 28 rest stops in the State of Indiana. Food trucks have to apply for a permit provided on INDOT's website. Once approved they can operate at their rest stop of choice from 7am-7pm. Communications Director for INDOT Debbie Calder says this will help address a problem several truck drivers across the country are facing.

4-9 Ran 11 P.M. News (:27)

A local manufacturer is partially reopening to help address the nation-wide mask shortage. Lafayette Venetian Blind will start making N95-compliant masks at their West Lafayette facility on Monday. The company describes this as quote "semi-regular operations." They say they will only reopen and convert a portion of the plant. There will be changes in employees' usual shifts and new sanitization procedures in place to comply with state guidelines.

4-10 Ran Morning News (:32)

A local sign business is looking to the future after it held a promotion giving away free banners. Sign Art Etc made the 'carry-out' and 'still open' signs for restaurants and business around the Greater Lafayette area. Operations Manager Jeff Ward said his company did so well they actually made an additional 20 signs for 20 bucks a piece. As we previously reported the giveaway started March 23rd. Within 2 days the allotment of signs were already made and shipped out. Ward says he and his employees were grateful to help.

4-10 Ran 11 P.M. News (:28)

Both Lafayette and West Lafayette are being more lenient on issuing parking tickets. In Lafayette parking tickets will not be given in the 2 or 3-hour parking spaces. The city will still enforce parking issues in handicap spaces and loading zones. In West Lafayette the same is true. Parking is free except in designated handicap or loading zone spaces. Both cities have cut down on staff during COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor John Dennis says it's in an effort to cut down on 1 on 1 interaction.

4-11 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:28)

Our medical professionals are leaning on the support of their community more than ever. One local teen is providing that support by making sure health care workers have the fuel they need to get through this time. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke to a young lady about her efforts to pay it forward.

4-11 Ran 11 P.M. News (:30)

Indiana University Health leaders are seeking plasma from COVID-19 survivors. It could help reduce mortality and speed up the recovery process in current patients. Survivor plasma provides an anti-body that can work as a healing agent if transferred to someone with the virus. IU Health Doctor Nicolas Barros Baertl says this is a treatment doctors used during the H1-N1 and SARS outbreak. He says using plasma from former COVID patients is an experiment. But he's fairly confident it'll be successful.

4-13 Ran 6 P.M. News (:34)

Tonight, a long term care facility in Newton County is struggling with an outbreak of coronavirus. 21 people there have been diagnosed. Health officials won't identify the place, but they say it's in Lincoln Township, which is the northern part of the county. As News 18 reported on Sunday, the positive number of coronavirus cases in Newton County jumped from 9 to 26. Both the county and state health departments are providing response guidance, testing, and personal protective equipment to the facility. The facility had been under a visitor restriction since early March.

4-13 Ran 6 P.M. News (:34)

Nanshan is laying off more than three-dozen employees at its Lafayette plant. Spokesperson Rebecca Kroeger says it's a "ripple effect" of economic conditions prompted by the pandemic. She says Nanshan is indefinitely laying off 27 Nanshan employees and 14 temporary workers. The plant normally has 200 to 250 employees. Kroeger says 85-percent of Nanshan's products go to the automotive industry. She does say the company received confirmation in early April of an order that will supply parts for ventilators, but that's not enough to make up for decreases in other parts of the economy.

4-13 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:53)

We are all feeling like we need a haircut after a month of social distancing restrictions and an extended stay-at-home order. However hairstylists and barbers are considered non-essential right now. News 18's Anna Darling talked with a hair salon owner in Delphi about how she is handling the changes.

4-14 Ran Noon News (:37)

The Tippecanoe County health department has cancelled all community events through June. That includes all festivals, fairs, carnivals, camps and sporting events. However, the health department says this can be amended or extended depending on what the virus does. This would include the Taste of Tippecanoe scheduled for June 20th. We just spoke with TAF Director Tetia Lee - and she says they are making plans to reschedule. The 'Round the Fountain Art Fair and the Indiana Fiddlers' gathering were already canceled this year.

4-14 Ran Noon News (:28)

The governor is recognizing a Monticello company's efforts to make personal protective equipment for the state. Jordan Manufacturing was featured during the governor's news conference Monday. The company has shifted from making outdoor patio furniture to isolation gowns and masks for healthcare providers. So far, they've produced more than 11-thousand gowns for the state. Owner Pat Jordan says they can produce about 3-thousand gowns and 2-thousand masks per week.

4-14 Ran 10 P.M. News (:34)

A local business owner says he is going to miss out on more than 15% of his revenue in 2020. That's because all Tippecanoe County events with more than 10 people must be postponed or cancelled through June 30th. Health Officer Dr. Jeremy Adler passed the order and said it is to protect the health and safety of all citizens. The Tippecanoe County health department says this includes festivals, fairs, carnivals, camps and sporting events. David Thieme, owner of Thieme and Wagner, says without these events he is going to be missing out on a substantial portion of business.

4-14 Ran 10 P.M. News (:27)

Subaru of Indiana Automotive has extended its Lafayette plant closure through Friday, May 8th. The plant has been closed since March 23rd due to declining demand and supply chain issues caused by the coronavirus outbreak. Today's announcement marks the third extension of the closure. Company officials say plans are currently in place to resume production on Monday, May 11th. SIA says some workers will be required to work during the week of May 4th to prepare.

4-14 Ran 10 P.M. News (:32)

Healthcare workers are having to change their roles to fill the needs coronavirus is creating. IU Health Arnett has a redeployment team. Where people can be put into a new job that is needed while their original job is put on hold. Mallory Hoy is a physician's assistant with the allergy, asthma and immunology clinic. Her normal day-to-day involves meeting with patients in person. While that is put on hold, she volunteered to be redeployed into the hospital. She'll be working with the virtual hub to follow up with recovering COVID-19 patients.

4-15 Ran Morning News (:27)

You can now find the athletic trainers working inside Franciscan Hospital. The trainers have been cleaning the hospital and screening patients at the emergency room entrance. Allowing them to work inside the hospital was a decision Franciscan Health made. They didn't want their trainers to lose their jobs, so they came up with an alternative. Manager of sports medicine, Craig Voll, says Franciscan did what they could to keep the displaced trainers employed.

4-15 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:49)

While hundreds have died from the coronavirus in Indiana, thousands are on the road to recovering from the disease. News 18's Anna Darling talked with a Lafayette man who is one of those survivors.

4-16 Ran Noon News (:22)

As we've previously reported the Tippecanoe County Health Department also canceled public events through June. Several county 4-H fairs such as Tippecanoe County's take place in July. I am working to receive information on Tippecanoe County's 4-H Fair. 4-H Youth Educator Miranda Furrer told me that plans for the 2020 White County 4-H Fair are progressing as normal. Furrer says they were waiting to receive more information from Purdue on how to move forward with 4-H events happening in June. Events such as 4-H Camp, 4-H roundup and 4-H Academy are planning to be held virtually. I spoke with Furrer earlier this morning.

4-16 Ran Noon News (1:15)

Trevor grocery store are one of the most essential businesses during this Covid-19 Pandemic. Grocery stores workers are exposed to thousands of people every single day. While grocery stores have put safety protocol in to action like adding Plexiglas social distancing stickers on the floor and providing masks and gloves for worker's grocery store workers say getting Personal Protective Equipment is hard. That's why Kroger and the UFCW are asking for local and federal leaders to consider them temporary first responders. This would make eligible to receive personal protective equipment from the government. I talked with senator Ron Alting who says private industry should be providing personal protective equipment to grocery store workers... but if they aren't able to he says local and state government should help out. As far as them being considered first responders he doesn't think helping grocery worker should require a title. He says if grocery stores are struggling to provide safety equipment they need to reach out to state and local leaders.

4-16 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

As businesses continue to close the number of unemployment applicants increase. Local unemployment offices are reporting that in the past three weeks there were more than 5,600 initial unemployment claims filed in Tippecanoe County. That's compared to 70 in the same three-week span in 2019. Purdue Labor Economist Tim Bond says even though high numbers of unemployment filers were expected these numbers are on the higher end of the expectation. He says these numbers could increase as applications work through the system. Ultimately this could be a problem for the state budget.

4-16 Ran 6 P.M. News (:33)

An employee of Indiana Packers has tested positive for coronavirus. The company says the employee works on the office side. Their work station has been repeatedly cleaned and sanitized since the news. They will self- isolate for at least two weeks. IPC says there's no evidence that coronavirus can be transmitted through food or food packaging.

4-17 Ran Morning News (:29)

Wabash National says it is shutting down operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to the company's website production will stop from April 20th to May 3rd. The company says hourly and salaried employees will be furloughed during those two weeks. The company also says some departments including sales, warranty, and shipping will remain open to keep trucks on the road.

4-17 Ran Morning News (:22)

Take a look at your screen. You can see the post Indiana Beach made on social media. As you can see the word "permanently" is crossed out. This has Indiana beach fans wondering what is going on. Earlier this week News 18 told you Apex Parks Group, the parks current owner, has filed for bankruptcy. White County leaders are offering a 3-million-dollar incentive to a potential buyer.

4-17 Ran Noon News (:36)

Nan-shan America will undergo a week-long shutdown at its Lafayette plant. That's according to spokesperson Rebecca Kroger. Beginning on April 20th, all associates will be laid off for one week due to effects from the coronavirus pandemic. Kroeger says no employees have tested positive, or been told they had contact with someone who has tested positive. She says the plant-wide shutdown is planned because the suppliers are unable to get materials and the new orders have been slow. As we reported last week, Nan-shan laid off more than three-dozen employees due to a ripple effect from the pandemic.

4-17 Ran 5 P.M. News (:22)

Another Lafayette manufacturer is announcing lay-offs. "Z-F" is indefinitely laying off about 20-percent of its Lafayette workforce. "Z-F" is the former T-R-W plant on North Ninth Street. It makes steering components for commercial vehicles. A spokesman says the company is indefinitely laying off 80 of its 380 employees because of declining demand for its products.

4-17 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

The city of West Lafayette is shifting its funding to support small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. This comes just in time as the nation's Small Business Paycheck Protection Program has run out of money. It's a 349-billion-dollar loan-program designed to assist businesses during tough times. Mayor John Dennis says the city will be using 500-thousand dollars in funding from its Community Development Block Grant. Typically, this grant helps fund infrastructure and sidewalk projects. Dennis says the money will now go toward business payroll and other internal expenses.

4-17 Ran 6 P.M. News (:39)

An update to a story we first brought you Thursday. Indiana Packers has confirmed a second employee has been infected with coronavirus. According to Vice President Human Resources Mark Berry, the person diagnosed with the illness is a second shift employee, and normally works on the processing side of the facility. The company confirmed the case on Thursday night. That person has been off work since April 14th. As we previously reported, the first employee infected with COVID-19 is an office worker. Officials at Indiana Packers say they're contacting anyone who's been close to the employees. They're also having the infected workers self-quarantine for two weeks.

4-18 Ran 11 P.M. News (:30)

The Tippecanoe County Auditor is urging residents to pay their property taxes on time. This is to allow the cash flow to stay steady within the county and make sure salaries are getting paid on time. School, township, library, public transit, city, town and county employees all benefit from the property taxes being filed by the deadline of May 11th. However, Gov. Eric Holcomb has extended the deadline to June 30th without penalty for those who need the extra time. Bob Plantenga says paying by the May deadline is a huge help.

4-19 Ran 6 P.M. News (:40)

Tyson Foods, Incorporated announced today that its Logansport facility will cancel production for Monday. The company says this is for additional cleaning and sanitation efforts. Jim Schmitz is the Vice President of pork production operations. He said in a statement: "While we understand the necessity of keeping our facilities operational so that we can continue to feed the nation, the safety of our people remains our top priority," Tyson says in its press release that the company relaxed its attendance policy to encourage employees to stay home if sick. It says the Logansport facility started protective measures throughout the facility beginning in early March.

4-19 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:38)

Restaurants are starting to work towards getting back open again. Brett Kast talked with the owners of a popular Indiana restaurant that will soon be making its way to West Lafayette.

4-20 Ran Noon News (:24)

This is good news for local farmers, especially after last year. Planting was delayed due to above average rainfall for several months, this year, the USDA estimates both corn and soybean yields to increase by more than 10 percent under normal weather conditions. While yields are forecast to go up, Purdue's Center for Commercial Agriculture Director James Mintert says farmers could still face issues.

4-20 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

Good news for consumers -- Agriculture economists say companies are adjusting well to the way people are shopping now. This means when you go grocery shopping, you shouldn't have a hard time finding perishable foods. That's because food processing companies made a shift after the panic buying phenomena. Companies are now selling foods to grocery stores that would have gone to restaurants. Before the pandemic, there were federal laws prohibiting this reselling.

4-20 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

In the last 6-weeks ER visits at Franciscan Health Lafayette East have dramatically dropped 50%. Its ER went from seeing 135 to 150 patients a day to only about 60 to 80 patients a day. Down the road at IU Health Arnett doctors are experiencing the same problem. IU Health Arnett's ER visits also dropped nearly 50%. Doctors went from seeing more than 140 patients a day to only about 75 patients a day. Franciscan Health Medical Director of Acute Care Surgery Dr. Nathan Huber says patients choosing not to come in for something serious because of COVID-19 could lead to bigger problems.

4-20 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:01)

It's no coincidence this Logansport facility is not closed today. Several plants across the country are closed dealing with COVID-19. Assessing their production lines and safety. We cannot confirm if this plant has any employees with COVID 19, but hundreds of Tyson employees nationwide are confirmed to have it. More than 100 at a plant in Tennessee, almost 200 at plants across Iowa. The plant here in Logansport is specifically closed for deep cleaning and sanitation.

4-20 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

Protests to reopen the economy are happening in cities across the country. As we reported this weekend, a protest of around 200 people happened outside Governor Holcomb's mansion. They are arguing that people need to go back to their jobs soon to save the economy. However, many Americans feel now is too soon. A poll conducted by Gallup shows that only 20 percent of Americans want things to reopen. While 71 percent want to wait and see what happens.

4-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

The State is reporting another 431 coronavirus cases today...but says that will probably rise because of a technology problem. Cass County's caseload rose another 24-percent today up 21 cases to 107. Cass County had tested 124 people as of today. That's compared to 13-hundred tests in Tippecanoe County. State Health Commissioner Kristina Box says testing *is accessible in Cass County. She called the numbers "somewhat overwhelming" and said it could be tied to a factory she declined to name.

4-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Shoppers at the Lafayette farmer's market will notice several changes in safety measures due to COVID-19. The Tippecanoe County Health Department is still allowing the market to be held. But only vendors selling items deemed essential will be allowed. This includes items such as meat, eggs, dairy and whole produce. Only 15 vendors will be allowed at the market. And the number of visitors allowed into the market will be limited to 60 at a time. Farmer's Market Manager Rebecca Jones says keeping social distancing is a top priority.

4-21 Ran 6 P.M. News (:37)

Tippecanoe County Commissioners have approved a contract allowing a local hotel to serve as a COVID-19 quarantine site. The contract allows the Tippecanoe County Health Department to provide services to a person waiting for test results or those with COVID-19 symptoms.

4-22 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Local hospitals are in the planning process of beginning to perform elective procedures again. This comes as the governor said hospitals are now allowed to start performing some elective procedures that were previously postponed or rescheduled due to the virus. Both hospitals in Tippecanoe county say it may be weeks before they start performing them again. The biggest concern is personal protective equipment. While hospitals have an adequate supply currently.. they want to make sure they will still have enough if a surge occurs.

4-22 Ran 11 P.M. News (:27)

A cardiologist at IU Health says the stress of COVID-19 is more severe for anyone with a heart condition. Dr. Bala (ball-uh) says those with heart issues are not more likely to get COVID-19, but should follow stricter CDC guidelines. He also added if anyone is experiencing heart issues they need to come to the hospital. Heart muscles cannot be recovered other than by a heart transplant. Bala says going to the hospital is the safest thing to do when having heart complications.

4-22 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:16)

The Tyson plant in Logansport announced this evening it is shutting down voluntarily and indefinitely. The meat processing plant said it is doing this so its 2,200 employees can get tested for COVID-19. Meanwhile there have been no confirmed cases of the illness from the facility. News 18 has reached out to a Tyson spokesperson, about this but they did not respond. As we previously reported the plant was closed Monday for deep cleaning and sanitation. Employees will continue to be paid during the closure.

4-23 Ran Noon News (:31)

Purdue officials say the Union Club Hotel renovations will be finished by the first home football game in September. The hotel is now booking stays starting for Tuesday September 8th. The hotel has been closed since June for the more than \$30-million-dollar project. The renovations involve a complete overhaul of all guest rooms and the lobby. A restaurant, bar and coffee counter will also be added. You can head to WFLI.com to book a stay. Purdue is currently scheduled to host Memphis for the first home football game on Sept. 12.

4-22 Ran Noon News (:21)

Brian Watkins thought he was dealing with symptoms of the flu. But after a few days of dealing with fatigue and a fever, Watkins started to notice new symptoms. He noticed he had shortness of breath and tightness in his chest. That's when Watkins knew he had to go to the hospital.

4-23 Ran 5 P.M. News (:41)

Harrison Steel in Attica has also closed as a result of the pandemic. Fountain-Warren Health Officer Sean Sharma says the company closed to all but essential workers last night. Doctor Sharma says the Health Department started noticing an increase in cases about ten days ago. He worked with Harrison Steel's owners to recommend a suspension of production. Sharma says there are "approximately ten cases" of coronavirus associated with the plant including employees and people identified in contact tracing. Harrison notified employees yesterday that the shutdown will last through May fourth. The company will pay full and part-time employees during the shutdown.

4-23 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Several small businesses are hoping a second round of the Paycheck Protection Plan can help them keep their businesses afloat. Michelle Donahue is the co-owner of Jackson Hewitt Tax solution franchise in Lafayette and surrounding areas. Neither she or several of her small business clients have received any relief from the paycheck protection program. She says they applied for the program as soon as they could and stayed in contact with their bank regularly... but before they were able to receive any funding the program was out of money.

4-23 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

Indiana Beach is opening back up and this time it is with a new owner. The amusement park was bought by Gene Staples with Indiana Beach Holdings LLC. This according to Monticello Mayor Cathy Gross. The nearly 100-year-old park updated its Facebook page saying quote "We're Back." There is not an exact date yet when the park will be opened but the hopes are sometime in 2020. As we previously reported, the owners of Indiana Beach closed the park back in February. The owners at the-- Apex Parks Group -- filed for bankruptcy. Gross says she's thankful Indiana Beach has new ownership.

4-24 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

Meat and dairy processing plant workers are battling their own internal COVID-19 outbreaks. As more and more of these companies are closing nationwide, what does this mean for consumers? Agricultural experts say food safety is not an issue. Jayson Lusk with Purdue University says right now there are no studies that show the virus can be transmitted through food. He says shoppers are more likely to see the impact on the shelves. Prices are expected to increase and meat may be packaged in larger quantities. Lusk says overall, shoppers shouldn't worry.

4-24 Ran 5 P.M. News (:46)

Indiana Packers is suspending operations at its Delphi facility. The company announced today it is doing so in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 cases in Cass county and surrounding communities. IPC said to date it has 15 positive cases of the illness. The closing will be completed in phases over the next several days. And at most will suspend operations for two weeks. The global pork processing plant said all of its employees will be paid during the closure.

4-24 Ran 11 P.M. News (:27)

The town of Flora is giving small businesses loans of up to \$10,000. It is intended to support those who have been affected most by the COVID-19 outbreak. Jake Adams is a town councilor in Flora. He says the money comes with a 1% interest rate fixed for 5 years. To be eligible the business must be within Flora town limits and be current on all taxes and have good credit. Adams says it's important for businesses to apply if they need it so the local economy stays strong.

4-25 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:27)

A Lafayette space-themed brewing company has officially launched its business today. Unfortunately, the stay-at-home order, has changed the owners' grand opening plans. News 18's Micah Upshaw tells us how they're adjusting.

4-26 Ran 6 P.M. News (:41)

Health officials in Montgomery County are reporting an isolated cluster of COVID-19 cases at a long-term care facility. 14 residents at Ben Hur Health and Rehabilitation have tested positive for the virus. That's located on the south side of Crawfordsville. 26 residents were tested on Friday after multiple people developed fevers on Thursday. Health officials say residents who tested positive for COVID-19 have been put into isolation. Ben Hur staff have made contact with family members. Health department staff will work with Ben Hur staff to conduct contact tracing. The new cases bring Montgomery County to 47 positive cases since the first case was recorded in March.

4-27 Ran 5 P.M. News (1:25)

People are moving time spent in their house to their backyard as the weather warms up. Now many people are wondering if a common summer time foe could spread COVID-19. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with an entomologist from Purdue who says it's highly unlikely.

4-27 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

Cass County has the third most cases of COVID 19 in the state at 1,025. Only Marion and Lake Counties have more cases. The Cass County Health Department and the Cass County Commissioner's Office have declared a public health emergency. An executive order has also been issued by Logansport Mayor Chris Martin to limit the spread. It limits the number of people allowed into an essential business and only one person per family is allowed into a business at a time. Martin says people should be wearing masks any time they go out.

4-27 Ran 10 P.M. News (:29)

Five Hundred Thousand Dollars is up for grabs for small businesses in West Lafayette. West Lafayette was given the half a million dollars for businesses impacted by COVID-19. The community development block grant awards up to 10-thousand dollars for businesses with 5 or less people and up to 15,000 for more than 6 employees. Mayor John Dennis says there have already been more than 70 applicants. He adds small businesses need to fill out the form if they need any help.

4-27 ran 11 P.M. News (1:49)

Cass County is also home to a plastic molding company which is now stepping up efforts to protect those on the frontlines of the coronavirus. News 18's Anna Darling talked with the owners of the family business about what they're doing, and why they decided to take action.

4-28 ran 6 P.M. News (:39)

The Governor also announced a new, free testing site in Lafayette. It's part of expanded testing efforts across the state. Twenty new sites will be open within a week. And 50 will be open in the next 2 weeks. Dr. Lindsay Weaver is the Chief Medical Officer for the Indiana State Department of Health. She says this is possible because of a partnership between the ISDH and OPTUM Serve. Weaver laid out who can get tested.

4-28 Ran 6 P.M. News (:21)

Simon Properties is planning to reopen several malls soon, including the Tippecanoe Mall this weekend. General Manager Tangela Boyd-Conley confirmed they were on the list. Right now, Indiana's stay-at-home order is expected to last through Friday, but there will likely be continued social distancing demands for businesses when they first reopen.

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

Local hospitals are preparing to slowly start offering elective surgeries again. Vice President of Medical Affairs for Franciscan Health Lafayette East Dr. Daniel Wickert says Franciscan Health Lafayette will have a governance committee of physicians who oversee which cases should and can be done. IU Health has made similar plans in making sure there's enough PPE and ensuring patient safety. Orthopedic Surgeon with IU Health Arnett Dr. Pete Seymour says the hospital is putting the people who need surgery the most at the top of the list.

5-3 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:13)

Owner of Wea Creek Orchard Perry Kirkman says even though the weather has been a bit bipolar his crops have held up. "Planting it hasn't really affected us at all I think we've been fine there." He says the drastic change in weather has caused his farm to lose peaches this year but overall they've pushed through on planting other crops such as apples, one of the things the orchard is commonly known for. Kirkman says this pandemic has also put a strain on weddings taking place at the orchard.

5-4 Ran Noon News (:24)

Indiana Beach is opening its campgrounds to seasonal campers. Indiana Beach says it will be stepping up the cleaning and disinfection process to keep people safe. They also said they would be keeping pools and playgrounds closed at this time. The campground will remain closed to the general public until Stage 3 of Governor Holcomb's plan. The plan is scheduled to go into effect on May 24-th.

5-4 Ran 6 P.M. News (:35)

The city of Frankfort also released some information on reopening today. It says Clinton County commissioners will lift the Travel Advisory today, and some postponed city services will get back to normal. The Frankfort Street Department will resume bulk item collection today and fire inspections will resume by appointment. But May 11th city meetings will still be held virtually. The mayor warns people should note loosening restrictions doesn't mean all danger has passed. She says people should still practice social distancing, wear masks, and wash their hands frequently.

5-4 Ran 10 P.M. News (:34)

Local tourism and hospitality businesses are taking a big hit right now due to the coronavirus. Especially because many events and festivals that bringing in revenue are not happening. One of the biggest money makers for Tippecanoe Count is Purdue's commencement. Thousands of people come to town and stay in hotels, spend money at restaurants and shop at local stores. Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette estimates about two to three million dollars is brought in just that one weekend. The Whittaker Inn is a local bed and breakfast that was counting on having a full house.

5-5 Ran Noon News (:29)

The Tippecanoe County Health Department has received a grant for 100-thousand dollars to help with COVID-19 relief. The money will be used to help people who have COVID-19, but do not have the financial resources to help them during self-isolation. The grant will allow the health department to drop off food and medication to COVID-19 patients. Health Department Administrator Khala Hochstedler says they have been dropping off supplies to COVID-19 patients regularly.

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

Huber says the person is in work release. He could not comment on where the person works. He also could not comment on if the inmates are being held on lockdown in the building. He says the participant is currently in isolation and isn't a threat to anyone else. And they have increased the amount of cleaning and disinfecting inside. He says they are in close communication with local and state health leaders.

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

The West Lafayette Farmer's Market is returning tomorrow - with new restrictions due to the pandemic. The Tippecanoe County Health Department is limiting the types of vendors that can participate. Only whole food vendors will be allowed to sell products at the first few markets. This includes items like, fruits and vegetables, meats, dairies and pet food. Food trucks, bakeries and craft vendors are not allowed to participate. The goal is to follow social distancing guidelines by limiting the number of sellers outside at once.

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

Franciscan Health is looking to virtually support new mothers amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The hospital is offering a free question and answer video chat session every Wednesday. It's led by a registered nurse. Franciscan leaders recognized new mothers have been opting to leave the hospital sooner due to stricter visiting rules. Unfortunately, many mothers miss out on getting that extra day to talk with their nurse. Support group instructor Jacinta Langley says mothers are finding it helpful.

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

The Saab aerospace facility being built here in west Lafayette officially has its general manager. Robert Ulibarri completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Purdue. The factory is currently under construction near the Purdue Airport. It's expected to be complete by the end of the year. Ulibarri most recently served as general manager for industrial automation at Eckhart USA, based in Columbus, Indiana. He says this will be a factory of the future and is something he's excited about leading.

5-5 Ran 10 P.M. News (:41)

The Tippecanoe County Health Department is making changes to its COVID-19 plan. It is doing this to make sure it lines up with the Gov. Holcomb's plans. Residential and day camps are closed until May 24th. Rec sports leagues can start on June 14th. Fairs, festivals and sporting events are allowed to begin July 4th. Social gathering will follow social distancing guidelines.

5-5 Ran 10 P.M. News (:28)

A popular sports bar is closing its doors because of the coronavirus. The Stacked Pickle posted a final thank you on its website and social media. In part it said "Unfortunately the loss of several significant sporting events and a month and a half of business, combined with on-going restrictions and the uncertain duration of this crisis, left us unable to find a viable financial path forward." The restaurant started in 2010 and has a location in West Lafayette and many in Indianapolis.

5-5 Ran 11 P.M. News (:30)

Donate Life Indiana has teamed up with local boy and girl scout troops to promote organ donation. They approached the Sagamore Council to get the education program started in the local Scouts BSA troops. They then rolled out the program with the girl scouts. The scouts earn a patch once they've completed the activities. Ben Blumenberg is the C-E-O of the Sagamore Council. He says Donate Life Indiana's mission goes hand-in-hand with theirs.

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

Indiana Packers will resume limited operations at its Delphi facility tomorrow. The company says 301 employees and contractors who tested positive will stay in quarantine. That represents about 13-percent of their workforce. Those who tested negative will return to work, provided they are still not showing any symptoms. The company says they've completed a deep cleaning and had Carroll County's top health official, Doctor Jordan Dutter, tour the facility Wednesday. He reviewed all the initiatives to ensure the safety of the plant's workers.

5-7 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:49)

One woman in Carroll County says she received her stimulus check, but noticed something was odd about it. Penny Richards' bank refused to cash it and now she's left stuck wondering what to do. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with her today. He shares what the IRS says people should do in this situation.

5-8 Ran Noon News (:33)

Camp Tecumseh in Carroll County announced late yesterday afternoon that in the wake of the Covid - 19 pandemic it is in the camper's best interest not to hold Summer programs. Camp Tecumseh would normally see thousands of kids over the course of the Summer in their day - camps and overnight camps. CEO Scott Brosman said in a video that in the camp's nearly one - hundred-year history there has never been a summer camp cancellation. But even with the closure he says camp and campers will be okay.

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

Wild Bird Shoppe in West Lafayette is closing after 18 years amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Owner Judy Gasvoda says she sold the property back in February. Gasvoda says COVID-19 wasn't the reason she decided to close her business and sell the property. With the world changing due to this pandemic she says she isn't sure how her small business would have thrived in the new normal. Gasvoda says she'll miss the customer connection.

5-8 Ran 10 P.M. News (:34)

New safety measures are in place at the Tyson Plant in Logansport. Along with Indiana Packers they are back up and running today amid coronavirus concerns. At Tyson, the union asked for a safer work environment. It has added Plexiglas to separate workers from each other and have increased social distancing in the plant. Even with these increased safety measures the spread of COVID-19 is still a concern. James Dworkin is a union expert from Purdue. He says this global pandemic will likely change how union contracts for meat packing plants are negotiated in the future.

5-10 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:39)

As this pandemic continues many farmers are pushing through and finding ways to cope while also hoping the weather doesn't create an obstacle. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with workers at the Wea Creek Orchard about the impact they've had.

5-10 Ran Noon News (:30)

Starting today restaurant and bars may open at 50% capacity but bar seating will have remained closed. Bills joins us live at a local restaurant that is planning to open its doors today. Marvin how are they preparing?

5-10 Ran 5 P.M. News (:38)

Barber Shops are quickly filling up as they reopen for the first time in two months. Local places like Razor's Edge and (lay-nees) Lanie's say they were booked from open to close. The businesses are among the personal services that have been allowed to reopen today as part of the second stage of the state's Back on Track plan. But they are still taking safety precautions to stop the spread of COVID-19. Lanie's is requiring all customers to wear masks. And both salons are requiring employees to wash their hands and sanitize stations between each haircut. Razor's Edge owner Darci McKinney says she is expecting a high amount of customers over the next few days.

5-10 Ran 11 P.M. News (:22)

One local establishment in particular got the attention of passers-by this afternoon. Harry's on Purdue's campus had a long line of people waiting for their turn inside. As required, seating is greatly reduced. But people who contacted News 18 about the line were generally critical that those waiting outside were rarely keeping their distance or wearing masks.

5-12 Ran 5 P.M. News (:26)

The city of Lafayette has chosen the local businesses that will receive funding through the small business assistance program for COVID-19 relief. 18 businesses that meet the criteria have been selected. Two of those are Lafayette Brewing Company and Dragon's Bane Tattoo & Body Piercing. Both businesses were closed the entire time the shutdown was in effect. The owners say this money will help them get back on track.

5-12 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

Harry's Chocolate Shop in West Lafayette is increasing its safety measures after re-opening on Monday. According to multiple witnesses, opening day brought lines long-enough to raise safety concerns. Today and moving forward, customers will notice spray painted marks on the sidewalks. That's to indicate the distance in-which people should stand while waiting in line. Inside the bar-restaurant are separation ropes and more social-distancing signs. Owner Mary T. Cook says they expected a lot of people -- but nothing like what they saw.

5-14 Ran 5 P.M. News (:50)

The restaurant closed earlier this week. In a statement sent to us by the fast food chain, the company says the restaurant was immediately closed after discovering workers tested positive for the illness. The company says it will have a professional cleaning service sanitize the building in accordance with CDC guidelines. Workers who have been in close contact with employees who tested positive have been told to self-quarantine for two weeks. In the statement, McDonald's says quote:

5-14 Ran 6 P.M. News (:32)

Tyson Foods says it's cutting prices on many of its meat products for three days. The company says it's in response to rising prices at the grocery store for most products. As we've reported at length, Tyson has struggled amid coronavirus. It faced major outbreaks among employees at several of its processing plants, including Logansport. The company says the price cuts of 20 to 30 percent will last through Saturday. Grocery prices increased two- point- five percent last month - the biggest increase from one month to the next in more than 45 years.

5-15 Ran 5 P.M. News (:29)

IU-Health leaders tell us in the past two weeks -- the hospital has seen its largest number of COVID-19 cases since the pandemic started. But society re-opening has sparked concerns. Professor Joe's Sports Pub and Pizzeria is one restaurant that opened this week. Owner Joseph Wenig tells us he understands the safety concerns. But he believes Governor Eric Holcomb's regulations for restaurants is solid. His business is following all the required rules plus they've added additional steps.

5-18 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

Franciscan Health is looking for people who have recovered from COVID-19 to donate plasma. The hospital is taking part in a national study organized by the Mayo Clinic. The study is investigating the effectiveness of convalescent plasma in treating COVID-19 patients. Convalescent plasma is blood plasma collected from people who have already recovered from the virus. Dr. Taylor Ortiz an Oncologist at Franciscan health is overseeing the study. He says the hospital is looking to expand its study because early results have shown plasma could help patients recover sooner.

5-18 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

That's the case for Lake Shore Drive-in theater in Monticello. It saw a spike in customers after opening for the season this weekend. Owner Earle McLachlan says the drive-in had 300 cars for a single movie-screening. He says that's a hundred more than normal. Like bars and restaurants, drive-ins are also required to function at 50-percent capacity. says Lake Shore Drive-In reached that limit. He believes this is a telling sign for the rest of the season.

5-18 Ran 11 P.M. News (:40)

Governor Eric Holcomb and state health commissioner Dr. Kristina Box made the announcement at today's press briefing. They didn't say where the child is from to protect the patient's privacy. Doctors are still trying to learn about the illness. But they know many children who have the syndrome have also tested positive for the novel coronavirus or they have antibodies showing that they were previously infected. Dr. Box says the illness is rare, even among children exposed to coronavirus.

5-19 Ran 11 P.M. News (:32)

GE aviation is planning major cuts to its workforce amid the coronavirus pandemic. In a press release, the company says it expects to cut it's workforce by about 25- percent globally. That's some 13-thousand jobs. The company is making no announcements about where the cuts will be made geographically. GE Aviation has a plant in Lafayette that manufactures the relatively new LEAP Jet engines. The company says the cuts spring from reduced air travel demand due to the coronavirus, which they say is about 80- percent lower than before the epidemic.

5-19 Ran 11 P.M. News (:41)

Event organizers have canceled this year's gen con due to COVID-19 concerns. The loss could be a blow to Indianapolis - but attendees do have an alternative option. The organizers have announced plans for Gen Con Online which is a free-to-attend virtual convention experience featuring live streaming content, remote gaming, and other online programming. According to their website, attendees who have bought badges for Gen Con 2020 will receive information on rolling badges over to 2021 or getting a refund. Gen Con is one of Indianapolis's largest events of the year ... and is the largest tabletop gaming convention in the United States. Last year, approximately 70 thousand people attended.

5-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:28)

The Lafayette Family YMCA is getting ready to open its facilities back up, but it will be in phases. CEO Paul Cramer says the reopening will be under the guidance of the Tippecanoe County Health Department and CDC. The Y will start operations on June 1st. Phase 1 is from June 1st-July 5th, The Lafayette Family YMCA amenities are limited to healthy living center, cardio spaces, gym, track, minimum group fitness classes as well as continuing with the virtual group fitness options.

5-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

A recovered COVID-19 patient is seeing family and friends again after being on a ventilator for 23 days. Rob Kochon was Tippecanoe County's first positive case of COVID-19 and was welcomed home by his whole family and neighborhood with signs, smiles, and hugs. The 68-year-old was diagnosed with the coronavirus while he was in Florida back in March. He spent 23 days on a ventilator before he recovered from the virus. Katie Schmidt is one of Rob's 6 children. She says the family wanted to make sure her dad was welcomed home in a big way.

5-22 Ran 10 P.M. News (:34)

All of Indiana's state-operated inns, campgrounds and cabins are reopening today - just in time for the Memorial Day weekend. The state's Department of Natural Resources says all of its campgrounds, property-operated cabins, camper cabins and inns would reopen today under the eased restrictions approved by Governor Eric Holcomb. The state agency has more than 77-hundred camping sites around the state. It resumed taking camping reservations online Thursday morning. By early Thursday afternoon, about 70 percent of those sites had been reserved for the weekend.

5-22 Ran 10 P.M. News (:19)

Lafayette Parks and Rec say it is in serious need of lifeguards. With the season kicking off, the pools cannot operate without this essential position. Lifeguards must be at least 15 years old and American Red Cross Certified. Starting pay is \$10.25 an hour. A link to apply will be posted on our website later tonight on WLFI.com.

5-24 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:52)

Parkwest Fitness in West Lafayette is open for business as Indiana moves into Stage 3 of re-opening the economy. Owner of Parkwest Fitness Steve Shook says it's an exciting move. "We are very excited. Not only from the stand point of allowing people to get back in and workout." Shook says opening the gym is good from a community stand point. "Parkwest is more than just a place to workout for people. It's place of community, place to get support, acknowledgment and recognition."

5-25 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

Tippecanoe County's first opioid quick response team is expanding. The state has stepped in to provide additional funding to Phoenix Recovery Solutions. It will allow the organization to reach residents in six surrounding counties. Those counties include Benton, Newton, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, and Carroll. Addictions Program Director Jason Padgett says this expansion came at great time. As isolation is encouraged under this pandemic, substance abuse has increased. They've adjusted their services to mainly virtual communication for the time being.

5-26 Ran 6 P.M. News (:32)

The Lafayette Family YMCA is just a few days away from reopening after being closed for more than two months. And several changes have been made to promote safety. Employees will be required have their temperatures checked before each shift. Guests will notice social distancing guidelines posted across the facility and instructions on how to properly clean equipment after use. Staff will also clean equipment every twenty to thirty minutes. Vice President of Operations Sharon Thompson says safety is their number one priority.

5-27 Ran 6 P.M. News (:35)

The Montgomery County Health Department is working with a company in Crawfordsville to manage a cluster of COVID 19 cases. The health department says it screened 144 employees at Acuity Brands Lighting after positive cases were confirmed in two production departments. 15 of those employees tested positive. Those employees have been placed in isolation. Contract tracers have also identified people with close contact to the infected employees and they are now quarantined. The health department says social exposure outside of the workplace may have contributed to the cluster.

5-30 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:18)

The City of Lafayette announced earlier this week that nine local businesses would receive up to \$10,000 through a Community Development Block Grant. It's all in response to COVID-19. "Small businesses really are the fabric of our community and some of our restaurants and those places have been hit harder than any place else by this shut down and the stay at home orders."

5-30 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:18)

The City of Lafayette announced earlier this week that nine local businesses would receive up to \$10,000 through a Community Development Block Grant. It's all in response to COVID-19. "Small businesses really are the fabric of our community and some of our restaurants and those places have been hit harder than any place else by this shut down and the stay at home orders."

6-1 Ran 6 P.M. News (:24)

Some large cities where protests are taking place are also worried about the impact the gathering could have on the coronavirus pandemic. New York City is asking people to stay home once again. They set up contact tracing, but that could be made useless amid the protests. And some Miami beaches that had been open are closing again. Health experts are still keeping watch for a second wave potentially this fall.

6-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:28)

The Tippecanoe County Health Department announced today the county's first COVID-19 cluster at the Rosewalk Village nursing home. County Health Officer Dr. Jeremy Adler says an employee tested positive for the virus last Thursday. He said a strike team was deployed. All residents were then tested. 16 residents total have the disease. 14 are currently in isolation. Two are at the hospital. There is still only one employee who is positive at this time.

6-4 Ran Morning News (:28)

In a response to earlier protests and any future ones, Tippecanoe County health officials are asking residents to keep practicing safe habits. As of Wednesday, Tippecanoe County has 421 confirmed coronavirus cases. Health Officer Dr. Jeremy Adler says people should keep COVID-19 guidelines in mind while attending peaceful protests. People should continue to follow social distancing guidelines when possible at a protest. And people should also be wearing masks.

6-4 Ran 5 P.M. News (:21)

There's some new executive changes over at Subaru Automotive of Indiana. Fumiaki Hayata has been appointed as Chairman and C-E-O. Ryota Fukumizu has been appointed as President and Chief Operating Officer. And Scott Brand has been promoted to Executive Vice President and Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Social Responsibility.

6-4 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

The Indiana Office of Tourism Development is helping Hoosiers find things to do while the COVID-19 pandemic continues. They've released their 2020 list of locations that involve outdoor activities. One spot on the list is dedicated to the Pete Dye Golf trail. It's a collection of golf courses throughout the state designed by the late Paul Dye Junior, who is also known as Pete Dye. Two of them sit right next to Purdue's campus on Cherry Lane. Noelle Szydlyk, Director of Planning and Development, says it's important for people to get out into nature during the pandemic.

6-4 Ran 10 P.M. News (:29)

Purdue Extension is helping solve the milk shortage while supporting local food banks and pantries. In part with the USDA, Purdue Extension has partnered with Prairie Farms to deliver milk to any nonprofit. Lauryann Thieme is an educator with Purdue Extension. She spearheaded the program in Delaware County. Thieme says the organization has helped food banks and local nonprofits in 4 counties so far. But she would love to reach as many people as possible.

6-5 Ran Morning News (:32)

New this morning - J-C Penney says it is closing 154 stores nationwide in what it is calling the first phase of its efforts to shrink its footprint. It does not include the store at the Tippecanoe Mall in Lafayette. The based retailer said it could take about 10 to 16 weeks to complete the closures. J-C Penney filed for bankruptcy protection last month, making it the biggest retailer to do since the coronavirus pandemic forced non-essential stores to be shut down temporarily. The closures include their store in Kokomo and Indianapolis.

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

Research at Purdue suggests that coronavirus cannot spread easily through pool water directly. But this is only if the pool water's chemical is correct. Ernest Blatchley is a professor in Purdue's college of environmental engineering. He studies how chlorine in swimming pools reacts to contaminants such as body fluid. He says there isn't much data on how this specific coronavirus spreads. However, he says this novel disease acts very similarly to other coronaviruses. And previous research on other coronaviruses shows correct amounts of chlorine will keep the virus from spreading in the water.

6-8 Ran 5 P.M. News (:36)

Starting next week Monday, IU Health Arnett will ease visitor restrictions. Visitors will have to be 18 years of age and older. They will be screened as they enter the building and will be required to wear a facemask provided by the hospital. Only one visitor will be allowed per patient. However, they will not be allowed to see patients who are COVID-19 positive. Patients in emergency departments, ambulatory surgery centers, outpatient clinics and medical offices will be allowed visitors on a case by case basis. While IU Health is easing restrictions, Franciscan Health is still waiting to do so.

6-8 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:42)

A Lafayette based children's mental health program is seeing a shift in its patients. "Changes" Mental Health workers are finding more kids struggling with depression and anxiety. It is believed to be linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. News 18's Micah Upshaw tells us how this facility is helping kids cope.

6-8 Ran 10 P.M. News (:32)

According to the park's blog, Follow the Pack Tours and Howl Nights will need to be booked in advance on the park's website. It's also strongly recommended that all visitors over the age of 2 wear a face covering. Face coverings will be required for visitors over 2 years' old who participate in a guided tour. And all buildings except the restrooms will be closed. Wolf Park's whole blog is on our website right now at WLF dot com.

6-9 Ran 11 P.M. News (:31)

Greater Lafayette Commerce is helping keep businesses afloat amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization was awarded 5-thousand dollars from The Duke Energy Foundation. The electric company has donated at total of 200-thousand dollars toward small businesses. It is being split among 40 economic development organizations in Indiana. Ten local businesses will benefit from the grant. Each getting a total of 500-dollars. Greater Lafayette Commerce leader Andrew Antonio encourages business owners in need to apply.

6-10 Ran Noon News (:30)

Tate and Lyle is investing 75 million dollars to their Lafayette South Plant. The investment is being made to bring more sustainable production methods to the facility. A new natural gas-fired combined heat and power system will be built. It will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and eliminate coal from its operations. The new system will also greatly reduce the amount of water used at the plant daily. Plant Manager Travis Montoya says the upgrades will also benefit the community.

6-10 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:15)

Movie Theaters and Entertainment venues will be allowed to re-open this week under stage 4 of the re-opening plan. While some establishments won't be opening others say being able to open now came in the nick of time.

6-11 Ran 5 P.M. News (:27)

Franciscan Health is expanding its virtual care thanks to a recent award. Franciscan has seen an increase in telehealth services due to COVID-19. Due to that increase, The Federal Communications Commission's COVID-19 Telehealth Program is awarding Franciscan Alliance's over nine hundred and twenty-nine thousand dollars. The funds will allow Franciscan to help purchase laptops, tablets and webcams. The funds are part of the CARES Act that was passed by congress.

6-11 Ran 10 P.M. News (:40)

Franciscan Health's Lafayette Outpatient Therapy has some new equipment to help patients get back on their feet. The therapy center recently installed the Vector Gait System. The equipment is a state of the art rehabilitation system that is designed to give patients confidence and safety for maximized therapy. The vector allows patients to try therapy that they wouldn't normally be able to do by holding them up at all times due to its safety harness and weight support capabilities. Michael Doherty a physical therapist and athletic trainer at Franciscan he says the new technology has given his patients confidence to try therapy they'd normally be apprehensive to do.

6-13 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

Lafayette Farmers' Market leaders are working toward getting back to functioning at full capacity. Today kicked off Stage Three of the market's plan toward re-opening. Some lifted restrictions include allowing bakeries, beauty and hot-food vendors to participate. Next week, the market will be adding events like a blood-drive and a free-corn giveaway. Crowds of people are starting to grow each week according Market Manager Rebecca Jones. She says safety will stay at the forefront as more restrictions are lifted.

6-14 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:10)

Owner of The Pint in West Lafayette is making changes that'll impact employees for the better. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with the owner about a new rule he says is long overdue. It's an idea owner of The Pint Pat Hagmaier has had for a long time, paying his servers an hourly wage.

6-15 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Health leaders are finding most patients are contracting the virus through family and coworkers. Right now, 20 to 29 year olds are the leading age group carrying the virus. 22.8-percent of them have been diagnosed with the infection. County Health Administrator Khala Hochstedler says it's unclear why this is. She says it could be related to the types of jobs the demographic is working. While this age group doesn't generally get as sick as older age groups is still encouraging safety.

6-15 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Alting will serve as the Senate Vice-Chair on a summer study committee that will focus on black and minority health. The committee will take on the task of researching the disparities in health care among minorities in the state of Indiana. Senator Alting says now is the time to take action when it comes to minority healthcare considering so many minorities were disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

6-15 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

One local business is expanding and investing over a million and half dollars in to the community. Highway Safety Services is a full service provider of traffic safety devices and pavement markings. The company is expanding on an 11-acre site thats located on County road 500 east which is just north of U.S. 52. The site will have a new 20-thousand square foot building with both office space and an equipment yard. Tippecanoe County Commissioner Tom Murtaugh says having a local highway safety company expanding will benefit the community with future road projects.

6-16 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

O'Rear's Pastry Shop has had a rough time to getting their business back open. In this weeks always together always local we'll share how they are getting back on track. The pastry shop closed down in December of last year with the hope or relocating to West Lafayette. They were in the process of selling the building to another owner, but the plans fell through. The shop wasn't able to open back up until after February and not long after that the stay at home orders were put in to place. Now that things are getting back to normal they are hoping their customers will start coming back.

6-17 Ran Noon News (:35)

Purdue University Global says more than 1,800 people have registered for its free contact tracing course. The National Association of County and city Health Officials says the state of Indiana does not meet the standard for contact tracers. The organization says Indiana needs around 2,000 contact tracers to safely track down COVID-19 cases. As News 18 previously reported, Purdue University Global is offering the free class until the end of September. Melissa Burdi says all places of work should employ contact tracers. Out of those 1,800, 400 have received a certificate of completion.

6-18 Ran 11 P.M. News (:13)

Eli Lilly says it has a potential treatment for COVID-19. The company is launching a global study to learn how effective it is, and they're starting with a patient in Indianapolis. Kelly Reinke learned how it could work.

6-23 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

The city of Lafayette announced the final three businesses that will be receiving Community Development Block Grants for COVID-19 recovery. The city is awarding the grants to businesses that were impacted by the pandemic. This brings the final total to 45 small businesses that have received the C-D-B-G funds. Travel Girl was part of the first group of businesses to receive the funds. Director of Operations Gregory Ellis says the funds have helped them continue to grow their business - and keep employees on the payroll.

6-24 Ran Noon News (:41)

The plant would be built just west of Logansport, in the Cass County Agribusiness Park. Tonight, developers are inviting the public to have meeting about the plant. They plan to hold a brief presentation about the plant and present some of the technology that would be used within the facility. A question and answer session will also be held so the public can voice their concerns and have any questions answered.

6-25 Ran 11 P.M. News (:26)

The city of Lafayette has approved a recommendation to grant Subaru of Indiana Automotive a ten-year tax abatement. With the tax abatement, S-I-A is committing to an expansion project worth about 160 million dollars. The company plans to expand the plant and build two new facilities. The expansion will create 350 full-time permanent jobs. The construction of the new facilities will start in July, and is expected to be completed in December of 20-23.

6-26 Ran Morning News (:24)

Battle Ground Residents are paying it forward as a business shuts its doors. "The Eye Opener Cafe" is now officially closed and will be moving to Lafayette. Members of the community gave the owner -- Cathy Dale -- a farewell card along with a donated pool of funds to help her with the move. Michael Owens is a fireman at the Tippecanoe Township Local Fire Department. He says Dale has been a big help to the community.

6-26 Ran 6 P.M. (1:48)

For many it was like homecoming. "It's an emotional day and a relief." It's a special day for Savannah Asbell. She's always wanted a VIP pass into Indiana Beach. So her mother surprised her. Indiana Beach workers held a ceremony in celebration of the park re-opening. Then VIP guests such as Susie Hendrichs were admitted into the park. She says when the beach closed it was heartbreaking. "I was really disappointed. It was horrible. I felt like something had been taken away."

6-26 Ran 10 P.M. News (:29)

In total Cass county has seen 9 coronavirus- related deaths. Tonight, the Cass county coroner confirmed to us three of those were connected to the outbreak at Tyson. They were not able to confirm if all three were active Tyson employees, but nationwide at least 238 "frontline workers" have died of coronavirus. That includes industries like healthcare, retail, and food production. Now the United Food and Workers International Union wants more coordinated standards to protect workers.

6-29 Ran Noon News (:20)

Our top story this midday- The Tippecanoe County Health Department has confirmed there are new COVID-19 cases at Rosewalk Village in Lafayette. As we've previously reported sixteen residents and one employee tested positive for COVID-19.

Crime

A bank robber that committed a litany of bank robberies across the viewing area sees his day in court. He receives a stiff punishment. A local YouTube crime watchdog who has been warned for getting in the way of law enforcement gets arrested for obstruction of justice. Peaceful protests surrounding the death of a Minneapolis man turns violent seeing LPD and Tippecanoe County Sheriff looking for two people who tried breaking into the courthouse.

4-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

The serial bank robber who robbed multiple banks across Tippecanoe county will serve 40 years in prison. Joseph Kruger is claiming his gambling addiction is what lead him to rob several area banks throughout the fall of 2019. He was on parole from federal prison in Illinois when he came to Tippecanoe county and committed the crimes. The state asked for a 46 year sentence. The defense asked for 30 years. Judge Steven Meyer said what Kruger did was horrible and dangerous to this community.

4-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:38)

An Elkhart man is facing charges after he allegedly committed multiple burglaries at in West Lafayette. Police say the crimes happened at apartments located at 1225 West State Street. Authorities say 21-year-old Oliver Bwalya stole many items including a credit card, text books, laptops, video game consoles and even a handgun. The series of alleged crimes happened from October of 2019 to January of 2020. When officers spoke with Bwalya, Bwalya allegedly said he was part of a group that would burglarize apartments, then later sell the stolen items. Bwalya's charges include Corrupt Business Influence, burglary, theft and theft of a firearm.

4-7 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

Non-profits in the area are increasing their services -- and with it comes a need for more funding. That's why the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette is now speeding up its Rapid Response funding program. Non-profits can apply for funding and the foundation will be giving money within 24-hours. During regular times, this could take weeks. The Community Foundation often helps fund a non-profits internal operations. But under these new circumstances, it'll help fulfill their external needs.

4-7 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

Starting next week, hourly workers at Subaru of Indiana Automotive -- who aren't required to do essential work -- will not get paid. A statement to Associates today says it's in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The statement says SIA has given full pay for three weeks to all Associates, including most temporary workers, but that's no longer sustainable amid health concerns, declining demand and supply chain problems. Beginning next Monday, April 13, hourly workers who aren't being paid will qualify for unemployment benefits.

4-7 Ran 10 P.M. News (:27)

IU Health Arnett Hospital says it has seen less patients in its emergency room. More COVID-19 patients yes...but those with major health problems are not showing up. Sherrie Mcilvain is a nurse in the ER. She says people should not be afraid to come to the hospital. According to Indiana's stay-at-home order going to the emergency room is essential. Mcilvain says many people are using the hospital's virtual system but the numbers are lower than usual.

4-8 Ran 5 P.M. News (:28)

Around three fifty this morning, LPD Officers were called to the 1400 block of Elizabeth Street. Someone reported that eight to ten shots were fired. Officers did find damage to the apartment, including a broken window. They also found multiple shell casings outside. Police say no one was injured. Anyone with information can call the LPD or the WeTip hotline at 800-78-CRIME.

4-8 Ran 6 P.M. News (:28)

Lafayette police are investigating after multiple shots were fired into a Lafayette apartment. Around three fifty this morning, LPD Officers were called to the 1400 block of Elizabeth Street. Someone reported that eight to ten shots were fired.

4-10 Ran 6 P.M. News (:20)

Local YouTuber Brian Wilkins is speaking out tonight after receiving a citation for violating the governor's stay at home order. Now Wilkins plans to take legal action against the city for what he says was a violation of his rights. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with Wilkins today.

4-10 Ran 11 P.M. News (:37)

Lafayette police are investigating a second shots fired call at the same apartment complex within two days. Just before 4 this afternoon, police got a call from a woman saying a man fired multiple shots at her in the 38- hundred block of Wembley Drive. That's the Cambridge Estates apartment complex. Police found a car and some neighboring houses had been hit. The woman was not hurt. They believe the incident started as a domestic dispute.

4-13 Ran 5 P.M. News (:44)

A bicyclist is recovering and a man is behind bars after a hit-and-run crash on Teal Road. Police believe the driver was high on drugs at the time. About 6:50 Saturday evening, officers were called to the 3200 block of Teal Road. Police say 29-year-old Jordan Stribling was hit while riding a bicycle. The driver sped off and left Stribling with serious injuries.

4-15 Ran Noon News (:35)

A Lafayette man is behind bars for an alleged inappropriate relationship with a child. Police first learned about the relationship back in December of 20-19. Daniel Keck, was 32 years old at the time. Police found messages between Keck and a 15-year-old discussing getting married when she turned 16. Officers also found messages indicating their relationship started in May of 2019. Prosecutors say video and pictures on social media showed Keck and the girl being intimate. Keck faces numerous charges including possession of child pornography and sexual misconduct with a minor.

4-15 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

Prosecutors have also filed charges against a Lafayette man who they say was caught with more than four pounds of spice. According to court documents, police pulled over David Keglovits around seven o'clock Friday night. The officer smelled what he believed to be spice in the car. Prosecutors say he found a backpack containing 1900 grams of spice. Keglovits is charged with dealing in a schedule 1 controlled substance, two counts of possession of a controlled substance and being a habitual offender.

4-15 Ran 11 P.M. News (:22)

Natalie's Second Chance animal shelter says one of the animals killed in an early morning arson was their mascot, Penelope Grace. You may have seen Penelope on News 18 before - she appeared with Matt Haarms, who volunteers for the shelter, to raise support. A Facebook post said Penelope and another dog were killed in the fire. Two other dogs and both people in the home made it out.

4-21 Ran Morning News (:33)

Just after 1:20 this morning, police were called to the 600 block of North 6th Street for an unwanted guest. You can see a map on your screen. That's the location of the building containing the Tippecanoe County Health Department, coroner's office and TEMA.

4-24 Ran 11 P.M. News (:25)

The State Department of Corrections is now housing elderly male inmates and those with underlying health conditions at a juvenile facility in Logansport. Juvenile intake has been moved from the high street location to the juvenile treatment facility on State Road 25, according to Logansport's mayor. The D-O-C told the city none of the inmates being moved have symptoms of coronavirus, and none were convicted of a sex offense.

4-25 Ran 6 P.M. News (:54)

Lafayette troopers got the call around 6 o'clock Friday evening. A vehicle was reported stolen from the Luke Gas Station at State road 26 and I-65. Sergeant Sean Schaefer saw the stolen car at the 163-mile marker going south bound. After activating his lights, he says the vehicle started weaving in and out of traffic at a high rate of speed. It exited onto State road 28.

4-27 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

Tippecanoe County Court Appointed Special Advocates say they've notice an increase in removals of children from homes since the Stay at Home Order has been in effect. CASA has continued its advocacy for children through virtual online visits and phone calls. In January, Tippecanoe County CASA announced it only had 4 children on its waitlist that were in need of an advocate. Now - that is no longer the case. Deputy Director Steven Flowers says it's important to pay attention to your surroundings at this time, since children are no longer in school being monitored by education professionals.

4-27 Ran 6 P.M. News (:33)

Police in Remington have released details of a Saturday shooting. They were called to a Family Express gas station off I-65 where two males were suffering from gunshot wounds. Twenty-four-year-old Emmanuel Ampadu died on scene and twenty-five-year-old Jonathan Thomas was taken to a hospital in Indianapolis. Investigators learned the shooting happened near NAPA Auto Parts in Remington, where their victims reportedly met with another group for an unspecified transaction. Four men in that group are being held at Jasper County Jail, pending formal charges.

4-29 Ran Noon News (:30)

An update to a story we brought you last night on News 18 at 11. A man has been arrested in connection to a stabbing at Union Place apartments. According to Lafayette police, a fight broke out between Mamadou Dem and Emit Kelly near Union Street and North 13 street. Dem was arrested for battery with a deadly weapon and he is now in the Tippecanoe County jail. Kelly was taken to the hospital. At the last update, his injuries were said to be non-life-threatening. Police say Dem stabbed Kelly in the shoulder.

4-30 Ran 5 P.M. News (:37)

Police say Lorenzo Smith was driving near the State Street Bridge in Lafayette with a woman in the passenger seat. The woman said she tried getting out of several times, but Smith kept pulling her hair to get her back in the vehicle. The woman says she managed to get out of the car and tried to run, but Smith got out, then started to strangle her. The woman says she blacked out for a minute. She has been taken to a local hospital for treatment. Smith faces criminal charges of kidnapping, domestic battery, strangulation, and criminal confinement.

5-7 Ran 6 P.M. News (:42)

Once again, a man accused in a West Lafayette stand-off last year is changing his plea. Dustin Borders faced 11 felony charges and a misdemeanor for the February 2019 incident. Prosecutors initially said he held his girlfriend hostage in a bathroom and tried to shield himself behind her. That woman spoke on record with WLFI at the time, saying she was in the bathroom with him of her own accord. Borders was initially going to go to trial, but eventually he agreed to a guilty plea for two counts. Then in January, he revoked that plea and planned to go to trial again. It's unclear which charges are included in the guilty plea this time. We expect to learn more when he is sentenced. The hearing is set for May 20th.

5-8 Ran 11 P.M. News (:44)

Three people are going to jail after Lafayette Police served a search warrant at a home near Brady Lane Church. This happened in the 2400 block of Brady Lane. That is within a block of the church. The SWAT team was called in to assist. LPD says the warrant was served around 5:40 this evening. Anthony Rogers, Melissa Feagans and Jacob Reynolds were all taken into custody and booked into jail on preliminary drug charges.

5-8 Ran 11 P.M. News (:29)

A Lafayette woman is in jail tonight on auto theft charges - and the vehicle in question was an ambulance. Prosecutors say Wanda Rodriguez was waiting for a taxi at IU health yesterday. A security guard says shortly after noticing Rodriguez, he saw one of the ambulances start to drive away. He was able to stop it before it left the parking lot and get Rodriguez out of the driver's seat. The Tippecanoe County Jail says Rodriguez is in custody, but they have not yet been able to take her mugshot.

5-13 Ran 11 P.M. News (:40)

Tippecanoe County prosecutors have filed charges over an apparent fraudulent check ring. The Tippecanoe County Jail says Trey and Tyren Barnes are brothers. A third suspect, Troy Barnes, has not yet been booked into the jail. Investigators say the three of them would have various accomplices or acquaintances open bank accounts in summer of last year. They would then deposit fraudulent checks at ATMs, and withdraw cash before the mistake could be caught. Court documents site more than twenty such incidents, plus other schemes involving gift card purchases or cash back requests. All three suspects face multiple counts of fraud, forgery and theft.

5-15 Ran Noon News (:40)

Lafayette Police are still looking into why a teenage boy was shot Thursday afternoon. We've reached out to authorities on any updates on the investigation, and they couldn't tell us anything at this time. The shooting happened in the 1000 block of Tippecanoe Street. This is on the north side of Lafayette about a mile away from the Tippecanoe County Courthouse. Lafayette police arrived on scene around 4:40 in the afternoon Thursday.

5-25 Ran Morning News (:29)

Developing this morning, Lafayette Police are investigating a shots fired incident. It happened last night in the area of 7th and Hartford streets. You can see that area on your screen now. Police asked people to avoid the area and stay indoors for over an hour during the investigation. Right now, it is unclear if there are any victims or the nature of the shots fired. We've reached out to officers to get more info but have not yet heard back.

5-28 Ran 10 P.M. News (:48)

Back on November 4th of 2019, an officer was sent to a hotel in West Lafayette after getting a report of finding 4 boxes of marijuana -- which were shipped to the hotel. According to court documents, the boxes were shipped from California and addressed to a fake name. Authorities say Andrew Daniels and Trevor Higgins drove to the hotel in an Escalade to pick up the boxes. After confronting the two men, police discovered Daniels was using the fake name that matched what was on the boxes. Police say they searched the escalade, where they found firearms and more drugs. They both face charges including possessing and dealing marijuana. Daniels faces an additional charge of synthetic identity deception.

6-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:22)

LPD Officers made several arrests at last night's protest. Four people were arrested for Disorderly Conduct and Resisting law enforcement. Two were arrested at Best Buy for Burglary. The Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department is also investigating a shot fired incident. A deputy was on the balcony of the courthouse when someone shot near the deputy and damaged a window.

6-2 Ran 5 P.M. News (:26)

One local business in Lafayette feels they were targeted when a fire was started Sunday evening. Santa Fe Motors has been in business for 15 years. On Sunday a car was set on fire inside the portion of the building the owner is adding on. Francisco Leyba is the owner of Santa Fe Motors. He recently retired from Wabash National. He is now working on adding a repair shop to his dealership. Which he says could take longer now than before due to the fire.

6-3 Ran 5 P.M. News (:28)

Local law enforcement is working together to create a task force to investigate the vandalism done during Sunday's protest for racial injustice. As we've previously reported, thousands of people showed up for that peaceful protest. However, things escalated around 10 o'clock Sunday night between protesters and police.

6-5 Ran Noon News (:28)

Lafayette Police are working to learn more about a possible shots fired incident. LPD responded to a disturbance call shortly before 3:30 this morning at Riehle's Bar. The bar is located at 1301 Union street in Lafayette. Police say one person reportedly fired 8 to 10 shots at a vehicle in the parking lot. Officers did locate a vehicle in the area with multiple bullet holes, but authorities are still investigating. At this time no arrest has been made.

6-12 Ran 11 P.M. News (:40)

A man is in jail after the SWAT team was called to his home. It happened on 2300 block of Butler Street in Lafayette. The suspect 26-year-old Tyren Barnes was wanted on three active warrants. One for Burglary another for Theft and a third for Fraud on a Financial Institution. He was spotted at the Tippecanoe Mall by Lafayette police. He left the mall in a vehicle which police pulled over. Once the traffic stop was taking place Barnes fled from police to his home on Butler street.

6-18 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

Lafayette Police have arrested a man after receiving a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children regarding regarding the distribution and possession of child pornography. On Wednesday, LPD arrested 38-year old Scottie Anthrop on a preliminary charge of child exploitation. A search warrant was also served at an address in Lafayette in connection to the case.

6-24 Ran 5 P.M. News (:40)

A Lafayette Man is now facing charges for allegedly uploading child pornography. According to court documents, Scottie Anthrop uploaded multiple images and videos of naked girls who appeared to be under 12 years old. Authorities say the uploads happened at least four separate times throughout 2019. Lafayette Police served a search warrant at Anthrop's home on June 18th of this year. Anthrop was also arrested. According to police, Anthrop admitted he had traded images of child pornography, and possessed thousands of images and videos -- some including toddlers. Anthrop faces a total of 12 felony charges of child exploitation and possession of child pornography.

Diversity

Protests are occurring all across the United States to try and bring justice for George Floyd and Lafayette is no exception. Multiple religious' leaders team up to work to help end genocide around the world. Health care workers working in the trenches battling COVID-19 are showered with food and gifts from all religious organizations around Lafayette.

4-1 Ran Noon News (:32)

A local religious leader teamed up with a state representative to bring new meaning to the month of April. April is now "Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month" in the state of Indiana. Rabbi Michael Harvey from Temple Israel has been working on this for about a year. State Representative Chris Campbell worked to pass the resolution. April has several tragic milestones in it. Including the Rwandan Genocide and Holocaust remembrance days. Rabbi Harvey says even though we are facing a health pandemic, other tragedy still occurs in the world.

4-1 Ran 11 P.M. News (:26)

The Islamic Society of Greater Lafayette is helping out workers at Franciscan Health East. They brought out a food truck to the parking lot, donating over 300 meals to the workers. They are providing both vegan and non-vegan meals. The meals are being prepped outside and then brought into the cafeteria to adhere to social distancing. Joni Deno, Franciscan's Food Service Manager, says that the whole hospital staff appreciates the gesture.

4-2 Ran 6 P.M. News (:20)

For the first time since it was founded in 1973, organizers are canceling Lafayette's annual "Round the Fountain Art Fair." It had been scheduled for Memorial Day weekend. Organizers say they're already planning for the return in 2021. Artist registration will open on January 1st.

4-4 Ran 6 P.M. News (:28)

The 48th Indiana Fiddler's Gathering is canceling this year's event. The music festival was scheduled for June 26-28th in Battle Ground. The organization has updated its website with the announcement. Saying "We would love nothing more than to keep the tradition alive, but the safety of our guests and community is our foremost priority. Please stay tuned for ways to stay engaged with I-F-G until we meet again."

4-5 Ran 6 P.M. News (:26)

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners monthly meeting is tomorrow morning at 10. But the meeting will be online. Commissioner Tom Murtaugh says they will stream the meeting on Facebook and on their YouTube channel. Questions and comments from the public can be sent through email. People can also submit during the live stream in the chat section. Murtaugh says this is a form of social distancing and something they'll continue to do during this time.

4-5 Ran 6 P.M. News (:35)

Mayor John Dennis says the City of West Lafayette is also limiting the opportunities for public gatherings. The city council meeting will take place tomorrow at six-thirty but the meeting will be through a conference call. Mayor Dennis says he has been using this same method for staff meetings every day and hasn't had any problems. He says it will be a structured format. The conference will be able to hold up to one-hundred people. The council will only handle and discuss important matters. Mayor Dennis says this a form of making sure business is taken care of while also making sure people are safe.

4-6 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:30)

Lafayette Transitional Housing continues to make strides protecting those who experience homelessness. News 18's Marvin Bills shows us how the organization has turned its focus to a specific group of people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

4-6 Ran 11 P.M. News (:30)

Vickie Gillam turned her cancer sanctuary into a social distancing sanctuary...open to everyone. It's full of bright colors, vibrant flowers and a sense of calming. There is a bench and places to sit. As we reported in September Vickie is a breast cancer survivor. Vickie says the sanctuary is used for people to be upset, to be sad, to laugh to express whatever emotions you may be feeling.

4-7 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

The Tippecanoe school corporation has expanded its remote lunch program, in an effort to get food to as many families as possible during the coronavirus pandemic. Starting Monday, April 13th, the school district is adding new drive up sites at battle Ground middle school and Wainwright middle school. Locations are already set up at the Tippecanoe County Public Library Wyandotte branch, Romney Meadows apartments and point west mobile home community. The food is free for all TSC students from kindergarten through high school. They are first come, first serve from noon until 1 PM.

4-7 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

Trinity Life Ministry is still providing addiction recovery services to men in Lafayette and Crawfordsville. However, the non-essential business closure is having an impact. Trinity Life runs the "Lost, then Found" thrift store on the south side of Lafayette. Profits from the store go towards Trinity's addiction transformation programs. But the store is currently closed due to coronavirus restrictions. Philip Gabriel is the executive director for the ministry. He says the future is uncertain, but he has faith in the community.

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

The month of April is a time where multiple religious' organizations celebrate their faith, but this year those celebrations are being held differently. Today is the first evening of Passover and Sunday being Easter. Both synagogues and churches have had to adjust the way their congregation's worships. Both Temple Israel and River City Church will be streaming their services on both Facebook and YouTube.

4-10 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:09)

What a gracious gesture by our community. Both hospitals say to show up by 6:30 then at 6:45 the service will start with Waymaker by Michael W. Smith. All cars will tune into 106.7 and turn the blinkers on in their cars. Participants have also been asked to remain in their vehicles to abide by social distancing rules. Lisa Decker with Franciscan says doctors are worried people will not maintain the social distancing guidelines.

4-11 Ran 6 P.M. News (:31)

One Lafayette church is helping continue Easter traditions despite the stay-at-home order. Immanuel United Church of Christ typically holds its annual candy-egg hunt on Easter weekend. But this year's event was cancelled due to the state-required social distancing rule. Instead of letting all the candy go to waste, children's church leader Tari Seeger is giving it all away. She created a take-home Easter Egg kits for families to perform their own Easter egg hunt at home. She hopes families use this time to connect and reflect.

4-18 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:45)

Almost Home Humane Society is making its mission to protect animals from abuse and abandonment more important than ever. But like many organizations this pandemic is creating several obstacles for shelters.

4-22 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

Today is the 50th celebration of Earth Day. And this week is an important mile stone for the West Lafayette Climate Strike group. It's been one year since the high school group came together. They are continuing to fight for environmental justice on a local level. They join thousands of other young people around the world advocating for climate change. And they are still finding ways to share their message despite the stay at home order. Annabel Prokopy is one of the students who started the student-led group.

4-24 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

A Lafayette car dealership is making sure COVID-19 patients aren't alone during this time. The General Manager of Defouw Chevrolet and BMW Lafayette, Grant Gernhardt, is extending a helping hand to that battling COVID-19. His family is donating ten tablets to Franciscan Health Lafayette East. The tablets will allow patients to connect with their family who otherwise cannot see their family due to restrictions and social distancing. Gernhardt says in times like this family, friends and taking care of the community is what's most important.

4-24 Ran 5 P.M. News (:28)

Both the cities of West Lafayette and Lafayette are concerned due to the loss of sales tax and income tax. Both cities say the extension on when property taxes are due... will also affect the cities overall budget. Lafayette Mayor Tony Rosworski says that so far they have lost around 2 million dollars due to the shutdown. The mayors the hardest part about planning for the future is that they aren't sure how long this shut down will last or what the over impact is going to be.

4-25 Ran 6 P.M. News (:39)

A local restaurant group is providing lunch and dinner to medical workers at IU Health Arnett. The Christodoulakis family owns The Bryant, Red 7 Kitchen, and Cafe Literato. Today 300 various sandwiches were from Literato Cafe. The group also partnered with Freckles Graphics to create T-shirts that say "Tippecanoe United." All of the proceeds will go to Food Finders Food Bank.

Owner John Christodoulakis says hunger is a big problem during this pandemic. Co-owner Emanuel Papadogiannis says coming together as a community will help greatly during this time.

4-26 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

Nine colleges within Purdue University are helping cut down on food insecurity within Tippecanoe County. The school's raised a total of more than 82-thousand dollars. This money will help Food Finders Food Bank fund nearly 250-thousand meals for families in need. Purdue's College of Agriculture started this fundraiser ten years ago. But this is the first time College of Ag leaders decided to make it a friendly competition between the schools. Fundraiser Chair, Melissa Funk says this decision came at a good time.

4-27 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Some tell News 18 they are seeing it with job cuts and no new ways to make money. In addition, they're finding they don't qualify for state or federal funding. Leaders with Greater Lafayette Immigration Allies lay this is only part of it. Undocumented communities are also more vulnerable to contract coronavirus through the jobs they work. Vice President Monica Casanova says she's worried for those working to survive.

4-27 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

Mental Health America is offering a free virtual suicide prevention training course on Tuesday April 28th. It will start at 10 a-m and end at 11. They will be teaching warning signs to look for a Question-Persuade-Refer skills. These are three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Erin Perdue is the director of education and engagement for MHA. She says the calls into their crisis hotline have gone up 112 percent from March to April. She says just like C-P-R training; this will give people tools to help in a crisis.

5-1 Ran Noon News (:36)

The money will go into the COVID-19 response fund. This fund is currently helping with critical services like food and childcare. The 1- point- 3-million-dollar grant came from the association of Indiana United Ways. The association is distributing several grants, thanks to a 30- million-dollar gift from the Lilly Endowment. More than a dozen local businesses already contributed to the response fund. This has allowed them to distribute about 130- thousand dollars already.

5-1 Ran 5 P.M. News (:31)

The statewide social-distancing rule is raising concerns among Indiana veterans. Since the law went into effect, veterans say their mental health care needs are not being met. Many counselors have been forced to work from home - but without the technology necessary to do their job. One Lafayette veteran says this has left him without counseling for two months. Case manager Christina Howard says this counseling can mean life or death for some vets. She's asking the government to do something.

5-4 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

Stage two for re-opening parts of the state begins today. Governor Holcomb emphasized that local leaders may choose to keep stricter guidelines in place. Leaders in Tippecanoe County say they are following suit with the governor's plans. Commissioner Tracy Brown says local leaders are looking at the safest ways businesses can slowly re-open. To date, Tippecanoe County has 181 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Dr. Jeremy Adler with the Tippecanoe County Health Department says it's important that people stay conscious as shelter-in-place orders are lifted.

5-4 Ran 5 P.M. News (:26)

The Census is well under way across the country. So far 60 percent of people in Tippecanoe County have responded. According to the census website, the state of Indiana has a 61 percent response rate. In West Lafayette, 52 percent of people have responded. In Lafayette, that number sits at a little more than 61 percent. County officials say that while those numbers are good, it's important that everyone fills out their census as soon as possible.

5-4 Ran 11 P.M. News (:30)

The ARC of Tippecanoe county is keeping in touch with its members. For the foreseeable future, it'll be hosting an activity and art pickup twice a month. The organization says it is committed to helping people with developmental disabilities. The ARC set up shop in the Tippecanoe mall parking lot and hands out bags full of activities. This allows members to remain active in the community even from home. Executive Director, Milissa O'Hern says they're trying to reestablish a schedule for its members.

5-4 Ran 11 P.M. News (:29)

More than 60 scientists and professors are offering families help during the coronavirus pandemic. Purdue professor Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth lent a hand in the 10-week initiative ""Families Tackling Tough Times Together. It's meant to diminish stress levels and increase positivity. Every week there are new ideas and resources for parents, kids, and young adults to keep their minds stimulated. MacDermid Wadsworth says the unknown with this pandemic is causing people a lot of stress.

5-7 Ran 6 P.M. News (:28)

The Lafayette Housing Authority is getting extra funding to help with the battle against COVID-19. LHA helps low income families, seniors and people with disabilities with federal housing assistance. Executive Director Michelle Reynolds says the agency has seen an increase in the number of vouchers since the pandemic began. Reynolds says the 148-thousand dollar grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development will go toward improvements at LHA headquarters.

5-7 Ran 10 P.M. News (:28)

The Lafayette Housing Authority is getting extra funding to help with the battle against COVID-19. LHA helps low income families, seniors and people with disabilities with federal housing assistance. Executive Director Michelle Reynolds says the agency has seen an increase in the number of vouchers since the pandemic began. Reynolds says the 148-thousand dollar grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development will go toward improvements at LHA headquarters.

5-9 Ran 6 P.M. News (:21)

Tensions were high today in Benton County as protesters surrounded the courthouse. The protest was in response to the cancellation of a race event that was supposed to happen today at Daugherty Speedway Track. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with protesters who say it's a violation of their rights and others who say staying home is the right thing to do.

5-9 Ran 6 P.M. News (:26)

It's prom night at Nine Irish Brothers in Lafayette. From six to nine p-m, the pub will be giving a 10-percent discount to anyone dressed in prom attire. This is to celebrate high school seniors who missed out on prom due to COVID-19. Manager Sarah Cox says this was a great opportunity to uplift everyone during this time. Not only do seniors get a chance to not let their prom outfits go to waste. sBut she says it's also an opportunity to keep the restaurant a float.

5-12 Ran Noon News (:15)

Happening right now - The Working Hoosiers Vote Coalition is handing out absentee applications ballots to voters in greater Lafayette. News 18's Meredith Hackler Joins us now from Food Finders Food Bank where those applications are being handed out.

5-13 Ran Noon News (:29)

If you've been looking for ways to help support your local businesses through this hard time look no further. Greater Lafayette Commerce and Q - 106 point 7 teamed up today in the Buy a Card, Save a business radio - a - thon. Jim Stone has been on the air since seven this morning talking with local business owners about how the COVID - 19 shutdown has affected their businesses. Being right down town on Main Street, they have seen first-hand the impact this shutdown has had on local business.

5-16 Ran 6 P.M. News (:29)

Casino workers from across the state converged on Downtown Indianapolis yesterday. Right now, casino's are set to reopen during phase 4 of the governor's reopening plan. That would begin on June 14th. The casino workers say that should only happen if the proper safety plans are in place. Taylor Cox is a bartender at the Indiana Grand Casino in Shelbyville. He claims he's been told masks for all employees will be required, but they'll be optional for guests. That is making these workers concerned.

5-16 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:44)

Just like many humans are missing social-interaction right now -- therapy dogs are also feeling a little lonely. Some local hospitals have had visitor restrictions in-place since mid-March. Unfortunately, it's times like these where furry friends are particularly needed. News 18's Micah Upshaw tells us more.

5-18 Ran Noon News (:39)

Many future Summer festivals are in limbo in the wake of the COVID - 19 crisis. New this midday - one of the Summer's largest is going digital. The Tippecanoe Arts Federation announced today that this year's taste will be online. The virtual - taste will take place on June twentieth from four o'clock till ten on Facebook live. Virtual taste - goers will be able to watch multiple local music and entertainment acts from the comfort and safety of their own homes. While the event is free TAF is encouraging anyone who can to make a free - will donation. This is TAF's largest annual fundraiser. You will hear more about this year's virtual taste tonight on News - 18 at five and six.

5-18 Ran 6 P.M. News (:28)

Volunteers from Duke Energy helped honor those who have served this morning. They planted 28-hundred flags at the Indiana Veteran's Home in observance of Memorial Day. The 10 volunteers worked for more than an hour, placing flags across the entire cemetery. This is the third year Duke Energy has partnered with the Indiana Veteran's Home to do so. Duke Energy's State President Stan Penigar says they are happy to be able to honor those who have served amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

5-18 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

Local faith leaders are taking a stand after Ku Klux Klan fliers were found around Battle Ground over the weekend. Several of the fliers encouraged recruitment and provided an application to join the KKK. Many say they are appalled such actions are happening in their welcoming community. The Interfaith Leaders of Greater Lafayette are asking the community to join them in putting together a video of people spreading messages of acceptance. They want to make sure the voice of love is louder than the one of hate.

5-22 Ran Noon News (:33)

The Indiana special Olympics won't hold its usual games in Terre Haute next month. But now, they're working on an alternative. Instead of one weekend in person, they're doing five weeks of virtual fitness challenges - with opening ceremonies still on June 12th. The challenges will be things athletes can do at home, or in parks, while socially distanced. Each one will earn athlete's points or prizes. Details of the challenges will be announced soon. The group says it was important to them, and the athletes, to set an example of resilience and adaptability.

5-23 Ran 6 P.M. News (:17)

Tippecanoe County residents are demanding action for renter's rights. This afternoon, a number of community activists gathered at the courthouse. They're asking Greater Lafayette leaders to create a plan to protect renters during this pandemic. News 18's Micah Upshaw shows us how.

5-26 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:41)

Couples everywhere have had to scrap their wedding dreams because of coronavirus. News 18's Anna Darling talked local couples about what it was like having to cancel their plans. "It was very stressful" Amber and Zechariah Hockenbary met while working at Pappy's sweet shop at Purdue. And after a year together they got engaged on the pedestrian bridge over the Wabash River.

5-28 Ran Noon News (:26)

Many local places of worship are not reopening their doors yet. Even though Governor Eric Holcomb's Back on Track Indiana plan allows them to do so since May 8th. As News 18 previously reported, churches like First Christian Church and Second Baptist church are encouraging their congregations to meet virtually. Temple Israel Rabbi, Michael Harvey, says he is in the same boat. His temple is not reopening its doors for the foreseeable future.

5-29 Ran 6 P.M. News (:46)

That includes here in Lafayette. Police say they're prepared if any demonstration would turn violent, like it has in Minnesota. The department has a team in place that handles civil disturbances should they erupt. Chief Patrick Flannelly of the Lafayette police department says the last time he remembers wearing riot gear was in 1999 when the Purdue Women's Basketball team won the national championship. He says that's a perfect example of a large group of people coming together with good intentions that got out of hand.

5-29 Ran 6 P.M. News (2:09)

Other community leaders are already working together to ensure that demonstrations here will never get to that point. Law enforcement and the local NAACP have already been in contact. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with them about the message they are sending out to the community during this time.

5-29 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

Sadie Harper Scott says we need to fight for what is right as a community. Scott is the president for the NAACP for the West Lafayette/Lafayette Branch. She is working with local law enforcement to create a town hall style meeting where the community can discuss these controversial issues. Scott adds actions speak louder than words but there's power in communication.

5-30 Ran 11 P.M. News (:42)

Tomorrow at 8-pm, community members will be marching from the Tippecanoe County courthouse to the Lafayette Police Department. This event joins a number of protests erupting across the nation right now. Organizer Kaja Jones says she wants this protest to stay peaceful. She says the goal is to share a call to action for more required social-training for new officers. She also wants this protest to encourage police to protect and serve the African-American community. We'll hear more from Jones during a live interview tomorrow on News 18 at 6.

5-30 Ran 11 P.M. News (:20)

Protests are also happening all around Indiana. These photographs are from today in Crawfordsville. Dozens of protestors wearing masks held signs and walked through the downtown area. They carried signs saying "everyone counts or no one counts" Based on these photos, there was no police response and no acts of vandalism.

5-31 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

We reported last week that Lafayette Police is preparing for any type of violent protests that may break out in the area. The department has team in place that handles civil disturbances should they erupt. Chief Patrick Flannelly of the Lafayette police department says they only get involved in protests if laws are being broken or violence starts to take place.

5-31 Ran 6 P.M. News (:23)

Protests are also happening in other parts of our viewing area. These photographs are from yesterday in Crawfordsville. Dozens of protestors wearing masks held signs and walked through the downtown area. They carried signs saying things like "everyone counts or no one counts" We confirmed with someone who attended the protest that there was no police response and no acts of vandalism.

5-31 Ran 11 P.M. News (:34)

Protestors are still at the Tippecanoe County Courthouse and things started out peaceful. Leaders of the group that we spoke to at 6 o'clock say they left and sent their people home around 9:30. They said what happens after 9:30 is not associated with their fight against racial injustice. Our team on the ground has confirmed that tear gas has been thrown into the crowd. News 18's Micah Upshaw and Marvin Bills have been following the protest since our show at 6 o'clock. They are at the protest right now. They join us with what is going on now and what they see.

6-1 Ran Morning News (:25)

Our community is taking in the effects of last night's protest. They started around 7:30 p.m. and went into the late hours of the night. WLFI has been covering this since 6 p.m. on Sunday. Law enforcement continues to patrol Greater Lafayette and even more are watching over the Tippecanoe County Courthouse. News 18's Jordan Burrows just spoke to Tippecanoe County Sheriff Bob Goldsmith.

6-1 Ran Noon News (:35)

Around 11 p.m. teargas was used by the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's to break up the crowd. Sheriff Goldsmith says this was after a brick went through the entrance and people graffitied the exterior of the courthouse. Majority of the protest was peaceful but once night fell this group of protesters became unruly. Goldsmith says he believes this group was not associated with protests earlier in the day. He says he and his department are all in for the protests and making sure people have their message heard. But at the end of the day he has a job to keep people and frankly buildings safe.

6-1 Ran Noon News (:32)

The scheduled protest was supposed to start at 8PM. But there was confusion as several different groups starting branching off to march at 7PM. Several local leaders were in attendance at the protest giving speeches and listening to the concerns of the public. Around 10PM that's when things began to escalate. I was here last night and large groups of people were at the courthouse. Even after that several people were still gathering and chanting. West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis says being violent and causing destruction is unacceptable.

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

This boost in building comes after local companies have stepped up to give matching grants this year. The most recent from Spartan Trails Foundation in Lafayette for 150-thousand dollars. Abby's grandparents Eric and Diane Erskin have been spearheading the park project since 20-18. They say these company funds came at a great time, while we're in the midst of a pandemic.

6-1 Ran 11 P.M. News (:60)

He confirmed that there were people spray painting the walls of the Tippecanoe County Courthouse, that shots were being fired and things being thrown at the building last night. He also says they are investigating some instances of explosives being thrown by people in the crowd. He says yesterday is just the beginning for them. LPD has received several unconfirmed reports of gatherings tonight that have the potential to become violent. And that his officers will be around town, and they are ready to neutralize any crime that may happen in the next week.

6-2 Ran Morning News (1:42)

Thank you, Jordan. Police were prepared for another evening of protests Monday night as several hundred people gathered downtown. They continued to protest for a call for action against racial-injustice and police brutality. We spoke with several of those gathered here Monday night about the message they are trying to spread.

6-4 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

The Salvation Army in Greater Lafayette is making strides to create multiple discussions on racial injustice. The local organization is hosting a community event next Thursday to talk about the adversities black and brown people face in America. Lieutenant Rachel Johnson says the event is open to anyone. But sessions will be led by minorities who will share their stories and have open discussions. Johnson says this event will give people in the black community the chance to share their experiences and will give others attending an opportunity to listen and learn.

6-4 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:37)

The Salvation Army in Greater Lafayette is making strides to create multiple discussions on racial injustice. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with organizers about how they plan to have sacred conversations with the community on race, culture and reconciliation.

6-5 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

The Black community of Greater Lafayette is on a road toward recovery. This comes as racial-injustice protests continue across the nation. At six tonight, a group called "The Collective" is hosting a healing session online. Black community members are encouraged to discuss their feelings on what's taking place nationwide. A counselor who specializes in racial trauma will be leading the video-chat. Group leaders say the goal is to process and grieve the black lives lost at the hands of police. They'll also be working toward a solution to combat racial-injustice at a local level.

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

As we previously reported Indiana Beach was bought by Gene Staples, a Chicago businessman. Staples is currently partnering with Monticello local James Emmett who is well known in the disability community. Indiana Beach says they want to be an employer of choice for those with disabilities. To work towards that goal James Emmett has purposed a 50-person disability inclusion initiative. For more information about Indiana Beach's hiring initiative head to our website WLF1 dot com.

6-6 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:43)

Greater Lafayette protestors say they're going to keep protesting as long as racial-inequality continues. This afternoon, hundreds gathered outside the Tippecanoe County Courthouse. Organizers say they just want to be heard. News 18's Micah Upshaw shares their message.

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

Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski says de-funding the police department in the City of Lafayette would mean cutting community outreach programs and laying off a significant number of officers. Agencies wouldn't be able to afford things like equipment, training and hiring officers. West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis says there are other avenues police can explore such as training and policies. If funding was cut resources would be limited and in return it would be difficult to make changes that benefit the community. Mayor Roswarski says it isn't a wise decision.

6-11 Ran 10 P.M. News (:28)

For the first time in Indiana's history, the state is recognizing Women Veterans Day. It is celebrated every June 12th. Indiana has a rich history of female veterans. The first female U-S marine came from Kokomo. Tabitha Bartley is currently running as a democrat for Indiana Senate District seven. She is also a former Marine. She says her time serving has prepared her well to take on the Indiana Statehouse. She says wants to honor the women veterans in our community in a special way.

6-12 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

Local black business owners hope that the nationwide black lives matter movement will help bring more light to what they offer our community. One business owner is Felicia Livingston. She owns Onyx Styling and Braiding Salon. It has been a staple in Greater Lafayette for nearly 16 years. Although she serves a majority of African-American clients -- she says her salon is open to everyone. Livingston is one example of the various business owners making their mark in Greater Lafayette.

6-12 Ran 5 P.M. News (:39)

Indiana Beach is scheduled to open within the next two weeks. But before they do new owners are working to supply people with disabilities a job. James Emmet & Co. is a local agency in Monticello that specializes in helping those with disabilities find a job. The agency held a job tour today with other local organizations who have clients that may benefit from this opportunity. Indiana Beach currently has 300 job positions available. The goal is to fill 50 of those positions with people who have a working barrier and have trouble finding work. Disability Consultant for James Emmet & Co Jennifer Ousley says this will be a great step for many people in the community.

6-16 Ran Noon News (:34)

Marlee, I'm standing on 3rd street where some protesters are gathering. This is a community lead protest but a leader of a local black advocate group did confirm that more people will be gathering to march at 2pm. I'm standing here with Twila Canion, she is one protester who's hoping to share a message with Mayor Tony Roswarski, Twila what is that message? Tell me why you've personally decided to protest? What do you hope comes out of it? This protest is expected to start at 2pm. We will keep you updated on our WLFI Facebook and twitter.

6-16 Ran 11 P.M. News (:30)

The Purdue Board of Trustees says it will work to establish a racial inequality task force this fall. The trustees discussed this at the meeting held last week. The discussion was started by Student Trustee Noah Scott. According to a press release, Provost Jay Akridge says ideas and input will be gathered through the summer. The goal is to formally launch the task force early in the fall semester. Sophomore Jordan Harris thinks these steps towards addressing systemic racism on campus could have happened sooner.

6-17 Ran 5 P.M. News (:35)

Purdue students say they want to hear directly from university leaders about the Black Lives Matter movement currently sweeping the nation. The university put out a statement in early June in the wake of George Floyd's death. However, students want to hear something directly from President Mitch Daniels. News 18 obtained a list of all 131 R-1 Doctoral Universities in the U-S. Purdue was the only one without a direct statement from its president, provost or other leaders. Black student union vice president Christian Nichols says this is hard, because he sees Purdue as a leading institution.

6-18 Ran 11 P.M. News (:20)

West Lafayette School Corporation Alumni are petitioning the district about changes they feel need to be made to better support students of color. I talked with the alumni who put together the petition. They say this isn't an attack on the character of the community but rather a challenge for the district to be part of a national solution.

6-19 Ran Noon News (:39)

A new report is highlighting the gaps in services available to the L-G-B-T-Q plus community in central Indiana. It looks at everything from issues with healthcare to discrimination in the work place. According to the survey conducted by the Damien Center and their partners...L-G-B-T-Q plus Hoosiers are struggling. Out of the 682 individuals who participated in the survey, nearly one-third rate their overall healthcare as fair or poor. For those identifying as transgender...half of them felt the same way. The survey also revealed 38 percent don't even feel safe "being out" at work. Also only 28 percent believe the work culture in central Indiana is L-G-B-T-Q plus friendly.

6-19 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:50)

If the Chief Justice of Indiana acknowledges that there's a problem, there is a problem. Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush released this statement touching on the issues of racism within the justice system. Part of it includes a call to actions for courts across the state. Lawyer Kirk Freeman of Kirk Freeman Law in Lafayette says to fix the problem, we have to start by diagnosing it.

6-19 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:52)

That kneeling was a symbol of George Floyd's death. That amount of time was how long a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck causing him to unconscious and later die. This was an emotional event enlightening everyone on institutional racism. Don't let me fool you we have got a lot of work to do but we are making the steps to create a more diverse environment. Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Mallori Walker leads the diversity and inclusion council at IU Health Arnett. She says it's her job to rid of any of the aforementioned racism in her work place.

6-20 Ran 6 P.M. News (:23)

The first ever virtual Taste of Tippecanoe is underway. This virtual event comes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Three local food trucks are working to safely provide food to people participating. The food trucks are located in three in different neighborhoods in Lafayette.

6-21 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:25)

Local leaders in Tippecanoe County have set a date and are preparing to hold a town hall with the community. During the event elected officials will hear from the public on racial injustice. News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with the Greater Lafayette NAACP President about the event and why having this event is crucial during this time.

6-22 Ran Noon News (:33)

Pride Lafayette has announced this year's OUTfest has been cancelled. In a statement on social media, the group says safety is their biggest concern. Pride Lafayette said, quote "We do *not want to be a reason that a spike in covid would occur. We hope you all understand that this was *not a decision that was made easily" end quote. The annual event aims at brining awareness to the L-G-B-T-Q community here in Greater Lafayette. The group says there will be some virtual events held later this year.

6-22 Ran 5 P.M. News (1:17)

Our top story at five -- More than 50 million Americans could face food insecurity by the end of the year. That's according to projections in a new study released by Feeding America. As News 18's Balint Szalavari reports, the increase is linked to projected increases in poverty and unemployment due to the coronavirus.

6-23 Ran 5 P.M. News (:44)

Dayton Clerk-Treasurer Michelle Frewerd has filed a lawsuit against the Dayton Town Council. According to court documents, the town council intentionally failed to give funding to the Clerk's Office for the payment of attorney salaries. During a regular Town Council meeting in February, Frewerd is said to have reported that she retained legal counsel. During the meeting, she requested 12 thousand dollars for attorney fees for the year. But the council denied the request, granting only 600 dollars for legal counsel. A second request was made for the remaining funds in May, but was also denied by the Council. The lawsuit requests the remaining funds to be paid during the Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

6-25 Ran 5 P.M. News (:45)

Good evening to you all at home. I am at the Gazebo which is located near the Monticello courthouse. People are preparing to hold a peaceful demonstration at six o'clock. AD LIB Organizer London Griesey says tonight's goal is to get the message across peacefully.

6-27 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:33)

Several organizations in the State of Indiana are finding new ways to serve its community during this pandemic. This includes The Boys & Girls Club in White County
News 18's Marvin Bills spoke with workers at the Boys & Girls Club in White County about the provisions they've made that will become permanent.

Education

School started back up after a hiatus, but class looks a little different. Instead of in-class instruction most kids went back virtually. Not all classes are math and English, extra-curricular classes are still being held as well. Online guitar lessons from one of Greater Lafayette's best guitar teachers helps keep his students fresh. One of the largest universities in the state begins making plans for fall classes.

4-1 Ran Morning News (:27)

For many students, classes will look a little different today. Thousands of students in the Tippecanoe, Lafayette and West Lafayette school corporations head back to class online this morning. E-learning comes as all public schools remain closed through May 1st as part of the Governor's declaration. Coming up about 6:45 this morning, T-S-C Superintendent Scott Hanback will join me in studio to talk about what the school year will look like moving forward.

4-1 Ran 10 P.M. News (:45)

West Lafayette Community School Corporation started e-learning today. The school corporation took an extended spring break so that teachers could prepare. WLCSC joins hundreds of school district across the state moving to e-learning. Melissa Luebbe's son Henry is in first grade at West Lafayette Elementary School. She says her son is looking forward to seeing his classmates and teacher through the computer. And she says she's not worried about her son falling behind in his education because of this restriction.

4-2 Ran 10 P.M. News (:23)

One local musician is continuing to teach guitar lessons to his students. Instead of doing them in person he is teaching them virtually. Kyle Bledsoe is well known in the community for his guitar skills. He plays multiple gigs a week. Due to the shelter in place Kyle's gigs were canceled and due social distancing his guitar lesson were as well until Kyle decided to start teaching virtually.

4-4 Ran 6 P.M. News (:34)

All three school districts in Tippecanoe County will be ending the year early on May 15th. Tippecanoe School Corporation was originally supposed to end on May 22nd. Lafayette School Corporation was supposed to end May 19th. And West Lafayette community School Corporation was supposed to end May 21st. An announcement was posted on the TSC website on Friday. Saying "Based on the Executive Order and guidance from the Indiana Department of Education, the three districts will continue providing remote learning every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday until Friday, May 15."

4-6 Ran Noon News (:34)

Conferences and events scheduled in May are also canceled. A decision on whether classes and events can continue in July will be made by May 15. Also, Freshman orientation -- or STAR -- will be held online this year beginning May 11. Purdue officials say they are thankful for the patience and understanding of everyone through this challenging time.

4-8 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:29)

Researchers at Purdue are looking for solutions as the number of COVID-19 continues to rise. As News 18's Balint Szalavari reports, they are developing new technology that can help detect the virus. Once designs are created, the Office of Commercialization helps get them patented. They are then made available for market production.

4-9 Ran Morning News (:28)

Commencement at Purdue University is a little more than a month away. And this year, will look much different for Boilermaker graduates. The coronavirus has moved the ceremonies online, but one thing that will not change is Purdue President Mitch Daniels' yearly address. Daniels drafts his spring commencement speech every year over winter break. The theme he planned to address this year? Loneliness. And that's something he says -- coincidentally -- still applies.

4-9 Ran 5 P.M. News (:26)

Ivy Tech is organizing a COVID19 relief fund for its students. The fund's goal is to help those who have been affected by the outbreak. In particular, it will provide relief to students who have lost their job due to it being deemed non-essential. The funds will be matched by two board members out of Indianapolis, pulling from a \$500,000 pool. Director of Development, Rhonda Overman says the fund was designed specifically with the students in mind.

4-10 Ran Noon News (:38)

Purdue University is allowing 144 College of Pharmacy students to graduate early. This is in an effort to help with a potential shortage of pharmacists due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to Purdue, this makes the university one of the first in the nation to certify its entire class of eligible pharmacy students. The certification will also offer an early jump to the health field. The students will be eligible to work as graduate pharmacists until fully licensed. There are as many as 6,000 pharmacists in Indiana.

4-10 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

Tippecanoe School Corporation teachers are finishing week two of e-learning today. And they say it has come with some challenges. The corporation has incorporated virtual learning in the classroom for the last 10-years. But this is the first time teachers have had to plan full-lessons remotely. For Hershey Elementary 4th grade teacher Jocelyn MacLaverly, the week starts off with a virtual class meeting on Monday, followed by lessons throughout the week. She says right now she's learning to find a balance.

4-13 Ran Morning News (:26)

Leaders are hoping to raise at least five thousand dollars to benefit all the teachers in their district. The money will be given as gift cards to the 160 teachers at the elementary, intermediate and junior/senior high school. They can then use that money to buy supplies for their virtual classrooms. Education Foundation Director Crystle Helderman says the teachers can use the gift cards to better their virtual classroom experience.

4-14 Ran Morning News (:33)

A new coronavirus task force is underway at Purdue University. They're working to safely plan for the opening of campus once the coronavirus pandemic is over. So will Purdue return to normal this August? That's a question Purdue President Mitch Daniels says he can't answer. But he does say this fall's college experience will be unlike anything anyone has ever witnessed. Daniels says incoming freshmen are still accepting their offers for the fall. He says they're hoping students will be able to come back to campus by then. However, he says don't hold him to that.

4-17 Ran 6 P.M. News (1:18)

Jeff, here inside the college of Veterinary Medicine is the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. That's where hospitals will now be able to send their COVID-19 swabs to be tested. This increase in testing in the state - is something local health care experts say will be needed moving forward.

4-20 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

The university senate voted on several important resolutions today. One was regarding the civics test President Daniels has been pushing. The resolution would require students to pass a civics literacy test in order to graduate from Purdue. Several senators voiced concern for forcing such a high-stakes exam on students. And questioned why the university was forcing knowledge that should have been learned in the K through 12 systems. The senate voted down the resolution with 51 opposed, 28 in favor and two abstentions.

4-20 Ran 10 P.M. News (:32)

The senate also debated if Purdue should make standardized testing optional for admission. Those in favor say the SAT and ACT limits the pool of diverse applicants. Others say these tests are imperative to gauge ability in students looking to enter the STEM courses Purdue offers. IU-Bloomington officially became a test-optional university at the beginning of this year. Its applicants will not be required to have the tests starting in August. The senate voted against this resolution, with 39 opposed, 28 in favor and four abstentions.

4-21 Ran 11 P.M. News (:60)

Purdue President Mitch Daniels is announcing some of the "big changes" he had promised on campus for the fall semester. Students will return in person, but Daniels says the school will be handling potential coronavirus challenges quote "aggressively and creatively." Daniels prefaced these ideas by saying quote "The approaches below are preliminary, meant to be illustrative of the objectives we will pursue. View them as examples, likely to be replaced by better ideas as we identify and validate them."

4-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (1:16)

During the coronavirus pandemic, some Purdue students have been working on the front lines. News 18's Marlee Thomas caught up with some of them to find out more about what they're doing and what their goal is.

4-27 Ran Noon News (:37)

Purdue University will continue to operate under its current coronavirus restrictions through the end of June. That's according to Vice President of Human Resources Bill Bell. Purdue says regardless of when Governor Eric Holcomb's "stay-at-home" order is lifted, employees who can work from home should keep doing so until then. The university has had the restrictions in place since March 13th. All non-essential in-person events are canceled through June and all classes beginning in May and June are being done online. The university says two students who tested positive for the virus in March have recovered.

5-1 Ran Noon News (:20)

Twin Lakes Athletics has announced on twitter there will be no T-L-S-C sponsored youth sports camps over the summer. This is in response to Indiana's Department of Education call to keep schools closed until June 30-th. In years past, T-L-S-C has sponsored camps for tennis, football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, soccer, wrestling and golf.

5-2 Ran 6 P.M. News (:34)

Clinton Wilson will begin his new role starting on July first. This isn't the first time Wilson has overseen a school within the Tippecanoe School Corporation. He also served as a principal at Clinton Prairie Elementary School for two years. Former Wea Ridge principal Michael Gabauer has moved on to pursue other career interests according to TSC. Superintendent Scott Hanback is excited for Mr. Wilson's return. The school board will officially approve Wilson's transition as principal next Wednesday.

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

The Purdue Board of Trustees is moving forward with several measures to prepare the university for a return to on-campus classes in the fall. The University plans to test all students and staff who show symptoms once they are back on campus. It will designate areas which will serve as quarantine sites for students who test positive. Purdue will also have a 90-day supply of critical equipment like personal protective equipment in stock at all times. The University is also changing how the semester will work. Students will come to campus in August - and they will not have a fall or Labor Day break. When they leave for Thanksgiving break, they won't return. Instead, they will finish their last two weeks of instruction remotely.

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

Imagine getting a history lesson from the historical public figures who've lived it. That's a reality for more than a hundred Central Catholic students right now. History teacher David Cornelius has been hosting video chats with famous figures for his students. Today, they're hearing from the great nephew of Harriet Tubman. This is how Cornelius is trying to keep students engaged as they finish school remotely. He says this activity has been a great way to take advantage of having to teach lessons through technology.

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

Colleges across the nation are deciding to lay-off university workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Now many Purdue University staff and faculty members are left wondering if they're next. Purdue President Mitch Daniels says university lay-offs would depend on student population in the fall. He says less student turn out will result in keeping less workers on staff. Daniels is choosing to keep a positive outlook on what's to come. He says right now they're mainly focusing on preparing the campus for staff and students to return.

5-12 Ran 11 P.M. News (1:22)

Through it all, you kept going. Purdue's message to the 2020 graduating class. A class that is having a virtual commencement...the first in Purdue history...because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I talked to students who were chosen to address their peers during graduation. They will tell you how they stayed resilient during an unparalleled time.

5-14 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Graduating Purdue students are finding ways to celebrate their success in the middle of the COVID-pandemic. 23-year-old Jalen Rice didn't have the opportunity to walk across the stage for graduation due to COVID-19. With hard work and dedication Rice pushed through and managed to graduate and become the first African American on record from Purdue University to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Nuclear Engineering. He says it's uplifting during this time knowing that after trial and error he accomplished something he had his mind set on.

5-18 Ran Noon News (:36)

The coronavirus pandemic has caused hospitals around the world to operate differently. Faculty at Purdue's Krannert School of Management and IU's Kelley Business School are working together to help hospitals adjust. The faculty are working with 16 IU Health hospitals across the state to make operational decisions. Using data from the hospitals, assistant professor of supply chain at Krannert, Pengyi Shi can predict how COVID-19 will affect each hospital. Shi looks at the data provided by the hospitals and identifies if they will have enough PPE, ICU beds and nurses for any surges she predicts.

5-18 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

Ivy Tech Lafayette is changing its date for 2020 commencement. It is doing this to make sure it does not interfere with any activities on Purdue's campus. The new date is Saturday December 12th at 2 pm. This will be at Loeb Playhouse inside the Stewart Center. The original date was May 10th. Tom McCool is Ivy Tech Lafayette's communications director. He says the college does not limit the amount of people who can attend commencement. That's great news for families since Loeb Playhouse seats more than 1,000 people.

5-22 Ran 6 P.M. News (:32)

Purdue University Global is offering a class aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19. The new course will teach contact tracing principles to anyone in the public who signs up. Contact tracing is the process of identifying people who may have come into contact with an infected person. The course will take six to eight hours to complete. Those who successfully finish will receive a certificate of completion. Dean and vice president-elect for the School of Nursing Melissa Burdi says this is important knowledge as the state re-opens.

5-27 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

Ivy Tech Community College will be opening up campus this fall, but will give students the option to take classes virtually. Starting in August classes will be offered in person online and with a hybrid options. Students will be able to make the decision week to week if they feel safe attending class in person. This gives them the flexibility to still receive credit for their class if they or a loved one is diagnosed with COVID-19. The community college will also issue masks to all students and employees.

5-28 Ran Noon News (:25)

Both the Tippecanoe and Lafayette School Corporation say they have to wait until Governor Eric Holcomb gives them a timeline. They note the sooner, the better but time is running out. Both schools are supposed to start on August 11th. L-S-C Superintendent Les Huddle says planning for the upcoming year has been a struggle.

6-5 11 News (:60)

The three local public schools in our area are responding to Indiana's guidance on reopening schools. Indiana Department of Education leaders released a document suggesting out how schools can safely and properly open in August. The document says playground should close, schedules should be staggered and recommends mask wearing. This is the beginning of getting doors open at schools and administrators say families can expect more detailed information by mid-July.

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

Today Tippecanoe School Corporation published its online graduation ceremony. McCutcheon and Harrison High school seniors were recognized through a pre-recorded video. The virtual ceremony started with words from the class leaders, followed by statements from the valedictorians. Teachers spoke, the student choir sang and each senior was recognized by picture. McCutcheon class leader Joel Jarrett is reminding his class to stay united despite the distance.

6-8 Ran 10 P.M. News (:29)

The Lafayette School Corporation is inching closer to finalizing plans for the upcoming school year. LSC held a meeting today discussing ways to keep all students, faculty and staff safe. Superintendent Les Huddle says all the public schools in the county are working together. But adds each school may have different needs and restrictions. LSC is meeting with the Tippecanoe County Health Department on Wednesday to seek guidance for how it can open schools safely.

6-10 Ran Noon News (:20)

Purdue's provost is asking students to assume personal responsibility to protect the university. Jay Akridge says practices and protocols must be followed around campus to ensure safety for the gold and black. He says it is important for Purdue to protect the most vulnerable members of the community.

6-10 Ran Noon News (:35)

Students in Indiana will return to school in the coming months, but what that looks like will vary widely across the state. State Superintendent of Schools Jennifer McCormick addressed teachers and administrators during a webinar on Tuesday. She emphasized the "freedom" local leaders have to determine how their schools will reopen and operate during the coronavirus pandemic. McCormick says that with many schools starting by early August, some expect to hold all, or most classes online. Others, especially in rural areas, plan to return to the "brick and mortar" setting as soon as possible.

6-12 Ran 10 P.M. News (:33)

Indiana's public universities may see a 103 million dollar cut in state funding. It's part of Governor Eric Holcomb's plan as his administration is reacting to significant drops in tax collections due to the pandemic. State Budget Director Zac Jackson sent out a memo this week which proposes a 7 percent reduction in the state's public college funding for 2020 to 2021. Holcomb's office says higher education makes up 8 to 10 percent of the budget. The governor says they are asking higher education's establishment to take a budget cut to help protect K-12 education.

6-17 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

Public universities across the state could see more than 100 million dollars in state funding cuts. State leaders announced plans to cut funding last week after seeing drops in tax collections amid the pandemic. Under the plan, funding would be cut by seven percent for 2020 and 2021 to Indiana's seven public colleges, including Purdue. The university would see a total reduction of three-point-two million dollars after offsets covered by the federal CARES Act. Treasurer Chris Ruhl says the university's recently approved budget planned for such a cut.

6-22 Ran Morning News (:27)

Purdue University is continuing to prepare for the fall semester. And new this morning - part of those preparations include providing kits for each student. Purdue President Mitch Daniels says each student will receive a kit with health supplies when they arrive to campus. The kits will be distributed as part of the normal orientation process for all students.

6-22 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Purdue President Mitch Daniels says new changes are coming to campus to deal with COVID-19. Many of which will be implemented by the start of the school year. Daniels said there will be changes implemented throughout campus in residence halls, dining facilities and classrooms. All students will receive a kit with medical supplies when they return to campus. Some of the supplies in the kits will be a mask, hand sanitizer and thermometers even with the changes taking place, Daniels is reminding students to look at the bigger picture.

6-23 Ran 6 P.M. News (:49)

We start with breaking news tonight - Purdue University has expelled a student accused of making racist comments online. Purdue says President Mitch Daniels announced Maxwell Lawrence's immediate expulsion. Lawrence is accused of making racial-slurs to a group of black students in a private group message. He also posted a TikTok video earlier this month, where he pretended to run over protestors in his car.

6-25 Ran 5 P.M. News (:48)

New Developments on the plan for schools tonight - education leaders have confirmed *all schools in Tippecanoe county will be returning to in- person classes this fall. The news comes in a joint statement from Tippecanoe, Lafayette, and West Lafayette schools, as well as all four private systems in the county. All academic calendars will be unchanged. The safety plan includes visitor restrictions, enhanced cleaning, and scheduling flexibility to allow social distancing in class rooms. Also, all students will be required to have a mask, although they will not be required to wear it at all times. There will be specific settings, including on buses, where it will be required. The schools say further details will be given to families within the next two weeks. We will follow those updates as they come in.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Many of the road projects that had previously been put on the back burner are slowly getting the green light. So drivers in the Tippecanoe County area need to be on the look-out for lane restrictions. Two large athletic stadium projects are both receiving their new high definition video boards. Even though the courthouse is closed due to vandalism the county office building is opening back up slowly for election related procedures.

4-2 Ran 6 P.M. News (:35)

INDOT is expected to start lane restrictions on 231 over the Wabash River soon. Crews are performing minor maintenance on the bridge. Spokesperson Debbie Calder says the restrictions should only be up for a few days. It's part of a larger project covering several bridges in Tippecanoe County, including a few on North Sagamore Parkway. Calder says those lane restrictions will be removed soon.

4-3 Ran 6 P.M. News (:40)

Basketball hoops are coming down at some public spaces in Tippecanoe County. This is at the Fairgrounds this morning. They've been a problem in some areas since the Governor first issued his stay-at-home order. This is video we took at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds on Monday of this week. We had another viewer email us about people playing basketball there again last night. We also had several people tip us off that a group of college-age people were playing "Beer Pong" near campus in West Lafayette on Thursday evening. Mayor John Dennis is asking people...if they see gatherings like that...call the police.

4-6 Ran 11 P.M. News (:15)

An alert for Benton County. The town of Boswell is under a boil order until further notice for a water main break. Cases like this can sometimes take multiple days for the necessary tests to come back clean. News 18 will keep you posted.

4-7 Ran 5 P.M. News (:40)

Reliable Wi-Fi in Benton County is hard to come by. That's why the county's internet provider Watch Communications has opened up a free WIFI hot spot for people to use during the stay at home order. Watch Communications provides internet services for mostly-rural areas in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky. As of right now, the company has 45 free WIFI hotspots in the process of being set up. Another 25 are up and running for people to use. The new free hotspot in Benton County is located at the Benton County Fairgrounds. Watch Communications CEO Gregg Jarman says the company is creating these hot spots because more people need to access the internet than ever before.

4-13 Ran Noon News (:27)

Storm season is among us and one Dayton family is feeling its effects. Just after five this morning, this tree took out half of the Ekola family's detached garage. According to the Tippecanoe Emergency Management Agency, winds were blowing around 60 miles per hour. Brooke Ekola says she and her husband woke up to a loud bang that sounded like thunder. Fortunately, no one was in the garage at the time. But she says that's usually not the case.

4-13 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

In a series of YouTube videos Brown expresses his dismay over CityBus' social distancing guidelines during this time. He outlines what he calls "simple provisions" management could make so that the public and workers are safe. Brown is trying to follow suit with other cities who are doing things like decreasing their routes to essential trips only. He says right now several of his passengers on the bus are joy riding and it's hard to practice social distancing if people are sitting in close quarters. He says he's risking his job to spread an important message.

4-14 Ran Noon News (:45)

New this midday - a traffic alert to pass on to Interstate 65 drivers in Tippecanoe County. Two upcoming ramp closures will impact traffic. Starting at seven o'clock Wednesday night, crews will close the I-65 northbound exit ramp to State Road 38. It will remain closed until six o'clock Thursday morning.

4-20 Ran Noon News (:37)

The Purdue University Airport will get a share of more than 96-million dollars going to assist Hoosier airports. The funding comes from the recently passed CARES Act due to the coronavirus. More than 65 Indiana airports will get funds from the package. Purdue will get 69-thousand dollars in assistance. The airport is the second busiest in the state behind Indianapolis International. More than 117-thousand aircraft fly out of Purdue annually. The university says it is still determining the best way to use the funds.

4-24 Ran 5 P.M. News (:26)

The City of Lafayette has announced that construction work will resume on Loeb Stadium. Workers are set to resume the project on Monday. As we previously reported, the city halted construction on the project on April 3rd. The City said they continue to prioritize the health and safety of the Greater Lafayette community. Extra precautions will be taken at the Loeb Stadium construction site and workers will adhere to CDC guidelines.

5-5 Ran Noon News (:25)

A traffic alert for drivers in Carroll County. Starting today, your daily commute might look a little different. A portion of U-S 421 will be closed for a bridge deck overlay project. Crews will begin working on the bridge just a few miles south of the State Road 18 junction. INDOT expects the project to wrap up by mid-June. In the meantime, drivers are being asked to detour through State Road 18, 75, and 26.

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

A public works campus is coming to Lafayette. The project will combine many of the city's public works departments. This includes the Lafayette Street Department, sanitation and parks central maintenance departments. The campus is being built on a 15 acre site along McCarty Lane across from CAT Park. It will also feature a new salt dome for the city. City Engineer Jeromy Grenard says the facility will help centralize the departments.

5-5 10 P.M. News (:29)

A three-point-five-million-dollar project will relocate a historic downtown Lafayette structure. But you've probably never seen it, as it is underground. Crews will be relocating a more than 100-year-old section of the Pearl River Sewer. The project will remove the brick arch sewer and replace it with a new, smaller main pipe. Work will be completed along 7th Street between Main and South Streets. Lafayette Renew Superintendent Brad Talley says more than two thousand feet of piping will be placed.

5-13 Ran Noon News (:45)

Marlee, public concerns are focused around potential chemical emissions from the zinc plant. But Cass County Commissioners say they are working with Waelz Sustainable Products, the company that would bring the plant to the county. In a statement, Commissioners tell News 18 they are working with WSP to ensure the plant meets emissions regulations set by the EPA.

5-13 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

Local leaders say they have a plan to reopen government buildings in Tippecanoe County. The goal is to start reintroducing some employees to these buildings with a partial reopening to the public on May 26th. West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis says his city is at an advantage to better control contact with people at the old Happy Hollow Elementary School. Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski says some city operations will move electronically permanently. He adds this is to keep people safe should there be another surge before we have a vaccine.

5-15 Ran Noon News (:20)

A traffic alert for drivers this midday. Crews are starting work on State Road 55 between State Road 16 and U-S 24 today. INDOT wants drivers to be aware that the road will be closed for the next five days. Crews are putting in a pipe liner. If you drive that stretch of road, crews are asking you to follow posted detours to avoid any issues.

5-15 Ran 10 P.M. News (:31)

The study is being made possible through Biobot. The company is based in Boston and specializes in wastewater epidemiology. People who are positive for the virus shed a portion of it when they go to the bathroom. David Henderson the utility director of West Lafayette says that waste ends up in their plant and the samples they take can help track how many people are infected with the virus.

5-18 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

A new ordinance is allowing the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's office to enforce traffic laws in apartment complexes. Officers will be able to ticket drivers if they are caught speeding or driving through stop signs. The department was previously unable to issue tickets in apartment complexes as they are considered private property. According to Sheriff Bob Goldsmith, they will now be allowed to issue traffic violations in apartment complexes that sign up. He says complexes can sign up through the County Commissioner's Office.

5-19 Ran Morning News (:32)

Businesses across the state have reopened their doors to the public. New this morning, the West Lafayette Public Library is no different. The library is looking at slowly re-opening to the public. During the first phase of starting to reopen, the library is offering curbside contactless pickup services. Starting this week, the curbside pickup will allow customers to pick up books, DVDs and other items the library offers.

5-19 Ran 5 P.M. News (:27)

They are following Governor Eric Holcomb's Back on Track Plan. On May 24th, the state will begin the third stage of reopening the state. Gyms and athletic facilities like basketball courts and tennis courts will also open. And in Lafayette, community pools such as Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool are scheduled to reopen this weekend. Lafayette Parks and Recreation's Director of Operations John Minor says they will still encourage social distancing.

5-19 Ran 5 P.M. News (:33)

The Lafayette Board of Works gave the go ahead for work to begin this morning. Improvements include increasing the size of the island and upgrading bridges. The amphitheater will receive a new audio system and include more shaded areas. According to Parks and Recreation Superintendent Claudine Laufman, the lagoon's last major upgrade was in the 1970's. She says it was finally time for an update.

5-20 Ran Noon News (:38)

Bryce Gibson the Manager of Development at city bus says so far in 20-20 they have seen a decrease in revenue of over 21 percent. For the month of April, the transportation system saw a 67.29 percent decrease in revenue. Gibson says they will be using the 11.1 million dollars in funding to sure up their budget and invest in more sanitation products. Currently city bus has added Plexiglas to all of their buses and inside their station. They also use disinfected foggers every night on each bus. The transportation service expects their revenues to drop even more in the coming months since they are funded by both property and income taxes.

5-21 Ran 5 P.M. News (:36)

The city of Lafayette is re-opening city hall - with modified hours. Starting Tuesday, May 26th, hours will run from eight a-m to noon and then two to four thirty p-m, Monday Through Friday. Between noon and two each day, all public areas will be cleaned. On June 14th, city leaders will re-evaluate. If there hasn't been a surge in cases, normal hours will resume on Monday, June 15th. Until then, if you're going to city hall - you're asked to use the south entrance and wear a mask. Only one person will be allowed for each family or business. This does not include the utility billing office. That remains closed to the public until further notice.

5-21 Ran 10 P.M. News (:45)

Lafayette Parks is now changing its plan for the department after Holcomb's new stage 3 guidelines. Playgrounds were supposed to open tomorrow, but that has been pushed back to an unknown later date. Basketball courts and other sports courts will reopen Monday, May 24th along with the dog park. As we previously reported Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool are opening Monday as well. A breakdown from Lafayette Parks and Rec is as follows.

5-21 Ran 10 P.M. News (:30)

Indiana State Police say the number of crashes have decreased since the pandemic began. They say part of this is due to the stay at home order. During Governor Eric Holcomb's press conference on Wednesday Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter reported more than 20,000 less crashes this year to date compared to last year's number of 80,000. Driver Carol Owens says she is benefiting from the decrease. Her insurance is sending her a \$100 rebate. ISP Superintendent Doug Carter says he hopes this trend continues.

5-25 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Swimming pools in our area are increasing social distancing measures. The State of Indiana is now in Stage 3 of Governor Eric Holcomb's Back On Track plan. Dozens of families spent time outside today as community pools in Greater Lafayette opened. Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool in Lafayette are open at 50% capacity. Sitting areas at both locations are socially distant... and workers are disinfecting frequently touched areas every 20 - 30 minutes. Pool Manager Emily Norris says she is happy families are enjoying the long weekend safely.

5-26 Ran 5 P.M. News (:27)

State Road 26 at Newman Road is closing for 45-days starting next Monday. This closure is for the road between U-S 231 and Sharon Chapel Road. The city of West Lafayette is adding a round-about and an extra traffic lane. Director of Development Erin Easter says that area was due for improvements. This project is part of the Newman Road Underpass project that began in March. Easter says a month and a half road closure isn't bad for a project like this.

5-26 Ran 6 P.M. News (:30)

A 17 point 3-million-dollar multi-use investment will soon be coming to downtown Lafayette. The city announced The Ellsworth project this morning. The project will construct a five story building to the southwest corner of 5th and South streets. It will feature 97 loft apartments, a rooftop garden and dog park. Two thousand square feet of commercial space will be available on the first floor and 40 public parking spaces will also be made. Mayor Tony Roswarski says the project will help further develop the city.

5-26 Ran 10 P.M. News (:27)

State Road 26 at Newman Road is closing for 45-days starting next Monday. This closure is for the road between U-S 231 and Sharon Chapel Road. The city of West Lafayette is adding a round-about and an extra traffic lane. Director of Development Erin Easter says that area was due for improvements. This project is part of the Newman Road Underpass project that began in March. Easter says a month and a half road closure isn't bad for a project like this.

5-28 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

The City of Lafayette is moving forward with plans to build a new police station in Downtown Lafayette. The new station will be across from city hall in what is now being used as a parking lot. The plan is to build a new modernized police station along with a new parking garage that will include an extra 350 spaces for downtown parking. Mayor Roswarski says they haven't made plans for what they will use the current police department for once the new space is completed. He says building a new space for local law enforcement is a part the city's evolution.

5-28 Ran 5 P.M. News (:30)

Construction is also set to resume next week on the Sagamore Parkway Bridge over the Wabash River. On or after Monday, crews will start working on the steel structure of the westbound bridge. INDOT says crews will start work under the bridge. During that time - traffic on North River Road under the bridge will be down to one lane.

5-28 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

The Indiana Department of Transportation says on or after Monday night, crews will work on demolition on the east side of the northbound bridge. Drivers will still have two lanes in both directions. The work is expected to last for about two weeks. It's part of a larger project that also included widening both bridges over the Wabash River and a deck replacement on Swisher Road over the interstate. The project is expected to wrap up in the spring of 2021.

6-1 Ran Noon News (:40)

In Newton County - a portion of State Road 55 is closing today. INDOT says the road will be shut down between State Road 16 and County Road East 700 South. Crews will be painting the bridge over Iroquois River. The official detour will follow State Road 16, U-S 41 and State Road 114. INDOT says painting is one of the preservation techniques they use to extend the life of bridge structures.

6-1 Ran Noon News (:23)

According to County Commissioner Tom Murtaugh, the closure is to allow workers to repair areas damaged during Sunday's protest. Workers will clear the spray paint from the building. Windows shattered during the protest will also be boarded up. The Courthouse will reopen Tuesday morning.

6-3 Ran Noon News (:29)

Starting Monday, June 8th, lane closures will be happening for U.S. 24 from County Road 300 East to Railroad Street in Monticello. U.S. 24 will be down to one lane during daylight hours for the paving project. INDOT urges drivers to stay alert and follow traffic directions carefully- as flaggers will be directing traffic. The project is expected to be completed in the beginning of August.

6-3 Ran Noon News (:23)

And a project that will impact drivers in Warren County is getting underway. INDOT says the U-S 41 bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks will be reduced to one lane in each direction beginning on, or after next Monday. The bridge is located just north of Attica. During the lane closures, crews will be overlaying the bridge deck. Work is expected to last through July 31st.

6-4 Ran Morning News (:36)

You may notice something new at Armstrong Park in Lafayette. New this morning, the park received a new musical playground for children. The "Harmony Park" playground includes four different musical instruments for children to enjoy. The Lafayette Kiwanis Club funded the equipment by giving the park over 15 thousand dollars. Each piece is weatherproof and designed to give multiple sound qualities. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the playground is currently *not being used. However, Marketing Manager of Parks and Recreation, Samantha Haville says when the restrictions are lifted the equipment will be ready.

6-4 Ran Noon News (:20)

A traffic alert for drivers in Tippecanoe County - the intersection of County Road 500 North and County Road 50 west is closing next week. Starting Monday, construction crews will shut down the intersection. It's expected to reopen on August first. During that time, Rieth-Riley crews will be working on an intersection improvement project.

6-4 Ran Noon News (:20)

And coming up in Jasper County - a portion of U-S 231 will be closed between State Road 110 and State Road 14. The closure is for a small structure replacement. The Indiana Department of Transportation is encouraging drivers to find an alternative route. The closure will begin on Monday. It's expected to wrap up on June 12th.

6-5 Ran Morning News (:20)

And coming up in Jasper County - a portion of U-S 231 will be closed between State Road 110 and State Road 14. The closure is for a small structure replacement. The Indiana Department of Transportation is encouraging drivers to find an alternative route. The closure will begin on Monday. It's expected to wrap up on June 12th.

6-5 Ran 10 P.M. News (:29)

The Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office is preparing in case of another wave of protestors this weekend. They put up fencing along the courthouse in downtown Lafayette. This evening crews spent hours making sure there was more lighting and protection around the courthouse. As we have been reporting it was tagged with vulgar graffiti and the sheriff's office said someone threw a brick through the public entrance. Sheriff Goldsmith says there is no timeline on how long the fencing will be up.

6-8 Ran Noon News (:28)

A traffic alert to pass along as you plan out your week. State Road 114 in Jasper County will be closed from I-65 through Rensselaer starting today. Crews are working on a concrete patch job in the area, before resurfacing can start. The road is expected to be open by this Saturday. IN-DOT says future closures will be needed for concrete patching in downtown Rensselaer and for the resurfacing project. Crews are asking drivers to use I-65 and U.S. 231 to avoid the road project.

6-9 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Frankfort leaders are looking to annex the space west of State Road 28 near the I-65 exit. They believe the project will help with economic development in the city. Mayor Judy Sheets says, they'd like to use the space to build attractions like housing or restaurants. But they're interested in seeing what the community wants. Starting July 14th, the city will be conducting weekly meetings to hear from residents. Sheets says she understands the hesitation that can come from a project like this. She's encouraging people to give input.

6-9 Ran 10 P.M. News (:32)

Purdue University says it is changing its cleaning operations throughout campus to stop the spread of COVID-19. The facilities operations director says disinfecting will take place consistently during the day. As part of the school's cleaning schedules, all touch points must be sterilized around the clock. This includes door handles, elevator buttons and stairway railings. There will also be self-service cleaning supplies available in all classrooms. Ryan Gallagher says the custodial staff may cause delays.

6-10 Ran 6 P.M. News (:29)

Columbian Park zoo is opening this Sunday. Leaders at the park say the staff and animals have missed having families stopping by to learn about the wildlife in the past few months. Caitlin Laffery is the assistant director for the zoo. She the zoo will also be reopening at half capacity. And they are asking people to enter at the gate closest to the gift shop so they are able to keep track of patrons visiting. Laffery says they are taking extra precautions to make sure people who visit the zoo stay safe.

6-11 Ran 5 P.M. News (:29)

An update to a story we've been following since last September- Construction remains on schedule for installing the booster station tank at Murdock Park. As we first reported, the 1.6-million-dollar project started last year. The goal of the project is to provide water, as a backup, to the customers currently using the Columbian Park Booster Station. The tank will hold three million gallons of water and will be able to pump six million gallons a day. The project is expected to be completed in August.

6-12 Ran Noon News (:30)

The Indiana Department of Transportation will begin work in Fountain County starting Monday. The bridge on U-S 136 over the Wabash River will be down to one lane. That's just west of Covington. Crews will be working on a bridge deck overlay. While the construction is taking place, there will be a traffic light controlling traffic over the bridge. There will also be three nighttime closures of the bridge. These will happen at 9 p-m on June 15th, June 23rd and June 30th. Work is expected to be complete in mid-September.

6-12 Ran 11 P.M. News (:24)

A traffic alert for drivers in Carroll County. The Indiana Department of Transportation says one lane in both directions will close on State Road 25 between U-S 421 and State Road 218. This will start on Thursday, June 18th. INDOT says crews will be replacing a concrete panel and updating a box culvert. One lane in each direction should remain open during the projects. Work should be completed by mid-July.

6-13 Ran 6 P.M. News (:28)

Playgrounds have officially reopened in Indiana this weekend. Dozens of Greater Lafayette families are taking advantage of it today. This is part of Governor Eric Holcomb's Stage Four plan toward re-opening the state. Park-goers say they couldn't wait to come and enjoy the park's amenities today. Happy Hollow Park had families walking the trails, using the volleyball net and playing on the playground. Kids and parents say they're happy to enjoy their local park again.

6-15 Ran 5 P.M. News (:32)

Columbian Park entered phase three of its Memorial Island project today. The now five-year long plan aims to update Memorial Island, with suggestions from local veteran groups. The stage will be overhauled, including a new lighting and sound system. The land south of the stage will be expanded for future events. The lagoon will be drained and cleaned later this week. Columbian Park plans to relocate the marine life too. Park Superintendent Claudine Laufman says it was time to give the center of Columbian Park some much needed attention.

6-16 Ran 5 P.M. News (:34)

The new video board at the south end at Ross-Ade stadium is well on its way to be up and running. This is drone video shot by WLFI's licensed drone pilot Steve Clark on Purdue's West Lafayette campus today. The board will be the first High-dynamic range board in college football and will provide a significantly sharper picture and richer color. It will be positioned 30 feet closer to the field than the old board, situated at the back end of the south end zone patio. Purdue President Mitch Daniels is hopeful the board will get to be used in the upcoming Football season.

6-18 Ran Noon News (:34)

The City of Lafayette will hold its final meeting over the future of the 3rd and 4th streets downtown virtually. As News 18 previously reported, the city has been thinking about converting the streets into two-way streets. Both of them currently go one way. The city was awarded roughly 90 thousand dollars to complete a study on the project. This is the last opportunity scheduled for the public to learn about the study and add input.

6-18 Ran Noon News (:29)

Third street in West Lafayette will be closed to vehicle traffic next week. Take a look at your screen... third street between Martin Jischke Drive and University street will be closed. The closure is being done to make way for the new pedestrian mall. North-south traffic at Martin Jischke Drive, Russell Street and University Street intersections will be maintained. Third street will still be open for pedestrians, bicyclists and emergency traffic by the fall semester.

6-22 Ran Noon News (:20)

A traffic alert for drivers in White County - a portion of U.S. 421 will be closed starting today. IN-DOT will be working on U-S 421 between U-S 24 and Jefferson street in Monticello. Crews are reconstructing that stretch of road. The project is set to wrap up mid-September. Road crews are asking drivers to avoid the area and seek other routes.

6-23 Ran 5 P.M. News (:29)

Construction will soon begin on Loeb Stadium's new video board. The 578-thousand-dollar project will be completed by the Fair-Play Corporation. The board will stand 24 feet tall and is 43 feet wide. It features more than 1 million pixels, allowing for high resolution video to be played. The board will enhance the in-game experience during baseball games. Lafayette Parks Department Director of Operations Jon Miner says the new video board will be one of the highlights of the new stadium.

6-24 Ran 6 P.M. News (:32)

We have a traffic alert for drivers in Warren County. A portion of State Road 63 will soon be down to one lane. The Indiana Department of Transportation says starting next Monday - or after - the state road 63 bridge over Opossum Run will be down to one lane. That's located nearly two miles *north of U.S. 136. You can see the location here on your screen. INDOT says crews will repair the bridge and overlay the deck. Work is expected to be completed in mid-October. INDOT is encouraging drivers to use caution and drive distraction-free through the work zone.

6-29 Ran 5 P.M. News (:20)

Purdue University is expanding its efforts to limit the spread of the coronavirus. This morning, the university announced it will be opening the new Protect Purdue Health Center for the upcoming school year. News 18's Balint Szalavari joins us live from Purdue. Balint, what can you tell us **about** the new health center?