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We are using our resources to bring you special coverage of the Coronavirus.

Our mission is to be responsive to the needs and interests of the commonwealth and its people, and we are committed to continuing this mission during this challenging time.

PA CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

LIVE Daily, times TBA

PA Department of Health provides a live update on the Coronavirus. Secretary Dr. Levine & Governor Wolf



LIVE M-F, 12 & 8 PM

30-minute update on how the novel Coronavirus is impacting various aspects of life in Pennsylvania

CORONAVIRUS RELATED PROGRAMMING

Added as Recorded

Public affairs programs from around the state covering county updates and Coronavirus-related topics

IF YOU HAVE CABLE, YOU HAVE PCN

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April 14, 2020

Washington Post

[Press 1 for frustration: Customers run into record phone waits as companies grapple with worker safety](#)

Communications Law Blog

[FCC Continues Fines for Improper Use of EAS Signals](#)

Ars Technica

[Your COVID-19 Internet problems might be COVID-19 Wi-Fi problems](#)

Bloomberg

The Lehigh Valley IronPigs will be playing virtual baseball games on "MLB The Show" this weekend with the games televised locally on WFMZ-TV Channel 69 and Service Electric TV-2 Sports. The events will be to celebrate "#HopeningDay," as the Pigs were scheduled to have their 2020 home opener on Friday night before the season was suspended indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"#HopeningDay is our weeklong celebration of support of our community and the IronPigs", IronPigs President and General Manager Kurt Landes said in a news release. "We are excited to be partnering with WFMZ-TV Channel 69 and Service Electric TV2 Sports as they help us promote #HopeningDay by televising a two-game series against the Pawtucket Red Sox. In addition to providing baseball entertainment to our fans, our goal is to bring additional awareness and support to the fight against COVID-19 and to support our local front-line health care employees."

The games are set to take place this Friday and Saturday evening. Friday's game will begin at 8 p.m. while Saturday's contest is scheduled for a 6:30 p.m. first pitch. Both games will also be available at WFMZ.com.

**YouTube Sees 75%
Jump in News Views
on Thirst for Virus
Updates**

**Vice.com
Security Cameras
Are Keeping Track
of Social Distancing
in Public Spaces**

**Hollywood Reporter
NBCU's Peacock
Adds Launch
Sponsors Ahead of
Debut**

**The Hill
Dozens of
progressive
organizations call
on Congress to fund
vote-by-mail efforts**

**Philadelphia Inquirer
Vote by mail: Trump
calls it 'fraud.'
Republican Party
tells PA voters it's
'convenient and
secure'**

**Harrisburg Patriot-
News
Pa. to join with 5
other states to craft
post-coronavirus
plans to get people
back to work**

**Pittsburgh Tribune-
Review
Wolf: 'new normal'
will take time, three
phases of response**

"When the IronPigs called us with this concept, we immediately saw the value to our viewers," WFMZ-TV General Manager Barry Fisher noted. "This has been a difficult time, as almost every past-time event people are used to watching has been canceled. The virtual game is extremely realistic, down to the uniforms and players' faces. Service Electric Cable TV will be adding live local announcers, which will bring another measure of realism to the event. We have no doubt our viewers will find this to be a fun way to spend a few evenings. We are pleased to be working with Service Electric Cable TV and the IronPigs to bring the region these events."

TV-2 Sports Director Mike Zambelli as well as Steve Degler will be on the call for the two games. WFMZ Sports Director Dan Moscaritolo will provide in-game reports throughout the two broadcasts. In addition to the virtual baseball, there are set to be several opportunities for fans to help local coronavirus relief efforts. During the broadcast, a GoFundMe will be available for fans to donate to local healthcare workers. That is in addition to the "In This Together" t-shirts that the IronPigs have had on sale for several days where the net proceeds benefit the local health networks.

Also, the health networks will receive all net proceeds from the team's "Eat like a PIG" deal in conjunction with Valley Prep Meal Prep. Fans can purchase a \$15 ballpark meal bundle that will be delivered to fans prior to Friday night's game. Pre-game coverage by Service Electric TV-2 will be provided prior to each contest. – **WFMZ-TV, Allentown**

The weekend before St. Patrick's Day, a researcher in Squirrel Hill used cellphone location data to figure out that some Pittsburghers were not social distancing. They stayed away from the Steel Plaza T station and Starbucks stores more than usual, but not from Mario's South Side Saloon, according to Konstantinos Pelechrinis, a researcher and professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Computing and Information.

Mr. Pelechrinis is not the only one tracking people's movements to see if they are adhering to social distancing guidelines. In fact, he's one of many. As every country scrambles to find innovative ways to battle the novel coronavirus, many governments are turning to technology to track both the spread of COVID19 and their residents. Using location data — sometimes with residents' consent and sometimes through a mandate — tech companies and governments can track how people move, who they interact with and, consequently, what they could be spreading.

In South Korea, residents receive location-based message alerts when they are near a confirmed case of the virus, so they can look up routes taken by infected patients. Taiwan has activated a system that alerts authorities when someone who is in quarantine leaves home. Israel is tracking patients with digital technology that was previously used for counterterrorism. The trend has raised alarms, even as few doubt the need to battle a deadly virus. "Technology can and should play an important role during this effort to save lives," read a joint statement from more than 100 civil liberty groups worldwide released April 2. "However, an increase in state digital surveillance powers — such as obtaining access to mobile phone location data — threatens privacy, freedom of expression and freedom of association."

Using data in a way that violates people's rights could degrade trust in public authorities, undermine the effectiveness of any public health

response and lead to discrimination and harm against marginalized communities, the statement read. In the United States, government officials have expressed interest in obtaining anonymized and aggregated location data from tech companies, and some of those companies have already started releasing reports based on data they already collect. New York-based mobility data company Unacast ranked how well communities reduced travel distance and nonessential visits using data from mobile phones and their interactions with each other.

As of April 9, Pennsylvania scored a C+. There was a 40-55% reduction in average mobility, a greater than 70% reduction in non-essential visits and a 40-74% decrease in encounters density — a measure Unacast uses to determine the likelihood that two people ran into each other. In Allegheny County, which also scored a C+, there was 55 - 70% reduction in average mobility, a greater than 70% reduction in non-essential visits and less than 40% decrease in encounters density. "It will be interesting [to see] if this data might actually be helpful in letting authorities know when we go back to normal life, what businesses do we open, do we open them all together?" Mr. Pelechrinis said.

For example, he said, a restaurant that draws crowds from all over the state could be a "hot spot" for resurgence of the novel coronavirus. For his own work, Mr. Pelechrinis taps into data from tech companies like Google and Foursquare, an application similar to Yelp that also captures foot traffic in venues.

Using the same type of data he looks at, Google released community mobility reports based on location data from people who had opted in to share their information with the company. In Allegheny County, travel to retail and recreation locations was down 50% as of March 29 compared to the median travel through the month of January. Travel was down 52% to transit sites, 38% to workplaces and 27% to grocery and pharmacy stores. Travel was up 12% to places of residence and 7% to parks.

At Pitt, Mr. Pelechrinis' work revolves around mobility and transportation, with the goal of making cities smarter and more fun. Most recently, his team was tracking the movements of people who opted in when they were on or near the city's bus system to find ways to liven up their commute.

As stay-at-home orders and other travel restrictions were put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19, Mr. Pelechrinis wanted to use his expertise for a different reason: Were people adhering to social distancing guidelines? For that purpose, he said anyone who has a basic understanding of computer programming can access the data. He knows it will be a tough sell to get people to buy in to using their location to track the spread of COVID-19, but he hopes that researchers like himself might have better luck gaining public support than the government or a big corporation. "Everyone wants to have this pandemic go away, so everyone might be willing to help by sharing their data," he said. "But what happens after that?"

Right now, it is unlikely anything as extreme as tracking individual people's movements would happen here, said Rebecca Haffajee, a policy researcher at the Rand Corp. and an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Because the virus is so widespread, there wouldn't be much public benefit at this point, she said. On top of that, the United States provides more civil liberties and privacy protections than many other countries, and the public backlash

alone would be extraordinary. "There is somewhat of a tradeoff in some ways between suppressing civil liberties in the name of public health versus allowing people to do what they want," Ms. Haffajee said. "You can see that we are still not nearly as far along the spectrum in terms of favoring public health over some of those civil liberties."

Under normal circumstances, in order to get an individuals' cellphone data, there would need to be a criminal allegation and a judge would have to issue a warrant. In times of emergency, a state does have more power than usual, Ms. Haffajee said. The government could commandeer property, call in military troops and potentially start tracking the exact movements of someone who is COVID-19 infected — though that would likely be met with lawsuits, she said. "In order to have many of these public health orders work — were they voluntary or mandated — I think you need to have public support and public buy-in," Ms. Haffajee said. "If you don't have that, you're going to start to see people really rebelling and doing dangerous things because they don't want to be controlled in that way."

Zensors, a tech company that spun out of Carnegie Mellon University and has offices in Oakland, thinks it has another option: security cameras. The San Francisco-based company uses security cameras already in place to offer stores, airports and stadiums information about the volume of people in their venue, like where people congregate most or how long will this line take.

Now, instead of using data about customer traffic to determine the best place to set up a retail stand, they are asking: What areas should we clean next? Or, how many people are in a venue right now? "The tech was capable of doing this already. It's just a sense of how you look at it," said Anuraag Jain, vice president of product. "If I could put this in a facility and I could tell you how crowded it is and whether there's a line, if I tell you when is the best time to go there, when is the least crowded, isn't that something you would want?"

Mr. Jain said Zensors doesn't keep a record of any of the images it uses for analysis. As far as his company knows, every individual is just a head in a green jacket. But, he said, venues usually keep security camera footage of their own — a reminder that big businesses began tracking our movements long before cellphones kept a record of our location. - **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

Comcast Business is launching a webinar series aimed at helping businesses of all shapes and sizes navigate the challenges they're facing amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The free, five-part series will feature Comcast Business leaders as well as subject matter experts and industry partners discussing strategies on how to adapt their operations and technology strategies to remain productive and nimble. The first of the webinars, "Leaning in to Support Small Business," will begin Tuesday at 1pm ET. - **Cablefax Daily**

Stay safe



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