

Indiana's sex-offender registry gets updated

New online data to include maps of homes, workplaces

By MIKE SMITH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

People will be able to view Internet maps that detail where convicted sex offenders live in Indiana under an enhanced registry the state plans to make operational Monday.

The Web-based program, www.indianasheriffs.org, consolidates two separate existing registries and can be searched by an offender's name, city, county or zip code. People can view maps covering areas ranging from 20 miles to one mile and see icons showing where offenders live, and in some cases work.

They can click on an icon and see pictures of offenders and get their profile, including home addresses and information about their crimes. It also will indicate the location of where the offender works if that information is known.

Gov. Mitch Daniels said it would be an "accurate, current, user-friendly" site that also will have links to a national sex offender registry run by the U.S. Department of Justice.

"It will mean that in one place, with data as complete as we can make it and maintain it with the help of our friends in law enforcement, any citizen can know what sexual offenders live anywhere near them, work anywhere near them, can trace and track people by name if there's a specific person they're concerned about, and can take self-protective steps," Daniels said.

He said the new registry also would help police be vigilant in trying to prevent offenders from committing more sex crimes.

The current Sheriffs' Association Web site allows people to type in the name of counties, cities and streets, but then it just provides a list of people's names

registered in those areas. It sometimes includes numerous names, and to find out their addresses and other information, people must click on each name.

Another new feature to be administered by the attorney general's office will allow program users to register for e-mail notification when registered sex offenders move nearby. That function is expected to be active soon.

More than 400 personnel from sheriffs' offices were trained on using the new registry during the past month, and sheriffs will maintain the offender records.

Daniels said legislation endorsed by a Senate committee this week would require even more tracking of offenders.

Provisions in one bill would require some sex offenders to register with law enforcement earlier and provide information about where they work or attend school in addition to where they live.

Judge OKs United for return from bankruptcy

By DAVE CARPENTER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO

United Airlines' reorganization plan won final approval by a judge Friday, clearing the way for the nation's second biggest carrier to come out of bankruptcy in less than two weeks.

The ruling by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Eugene Wedoff, after remaining objections to United's reorganization plan were resolved this week, keeps United on a path to emerge from Chapter 11 on Feb. 1 after the largest and longest airline bankruptcy in history.

"Three years ago United Airlines was in danger of dying," he said. After using bankruptcy law to reorganize, "once again it has the potential to be a profitable investment, a reliable business partner and a stable employer."

While Elk Grove Village, Ill.-based United has kept flying throughout the bankruptcy proceedings, the company that exits bankruptcy will be much leaner than the cost-heavy one that began its restructuring on Dec. 9, 2002.

Parent company UAL Corp. has used the protection of federal bankruptcy law to trim \$7 billion in annual costs, including two rounds of employee pay cuts; eliminate more than 25,000 jobs; dump its defined-benefit pensions; and reduce its cost structure.

It also shed more than 100 planes from its fleet, cut some U.S. flights and expanded internationally.

Once the 37-month restructuring ends, the airline plans to spend money this year on improvements, allocating \$400 million for capital improvements such as more check-in kiosks, refurbished airplane interiors, upgraded computer systems and new ground equipment.

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