

# Indiana medical errors report released

Governor Mitch Daniels and state health officials Tuesday released the first preliminary report of the Medical Error Reporting System (MERS), designed to provide reliable data on medical errors and improve patient safety. According to preliminary data, 77 medical errors were reported for 2006. Seventy-two events happened at hospitals, and five events occurred at ambulatory surgery centers.

Indiana joins Minnesota as the only other state with a medical error reporting system based on the National Quality Forum serious adverse reportable events. MERS requires hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, abortion clinics, and birthing centers to report to the Indiana State Department of Health any of 27 serious reportable events in these categories: surgical, products or devices, patient protection, care management, environmental and criminal.

"Any avoidable death or injury is a tragedy, and we want Hoosiers to be the safest citizens in America. Many mistakes are simple to prevent. The data we get from this report will help reduce the frequency of medical errors by revealing causes and identifying statewide trends," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

A 2000 report by the Institute of Medicine suggested that between 44,000 and 98,000 people die each year in U.S. hospitals as a result of medical errors.

State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe, M.D., said as awareness of reporting requirements increases, the number of medical errors in future reports

will increase. "We are requiring health care providers to report errors not to punish them, but instead, to help to improve patient safety," Monroe said. "This kind of transparency will help to create a health care culture that looks beyond blame and supports patient safety through collaboration and responsibility."

According to the report, 23 reported events were stage 3 or 4 pressure ulcers acquired after admission to the facility. Other reported events include:

- \* Twenty-one events of retention of a foreign object in a patient after surgery.
- \* Nine events of surgery performed on the wrong body part.
- \* The remaining 24 events fell in the remaining categories, which can be found in the report on the State Department of Health Web site.

"One patient harmed is one too many," said Kenneth G. Stella, president of the Indiana Health & Hospital Association. "Today's first report on serious adverse events identifies weak-

nesses in care systems and processes, and it helps set an accelerated agenda for change. Gathering the data is only a first step in the improvement process. Each reporting hospital has studied the causes for the system failures and begun work to prevent their recurrence - not just in their facilities but in every hospital."

"Indiana's new reporting system centers on a basic tenet of health care delivery - preventing harm to patients," said Betsy Lee, director of the Indiana Patient Safety Center. "The system provides a catalyst for greater engagement of all health care stakeholders in the critically important work of re-designing health care processes to protect patients."

"To achieve the best possible patient safety system and one that continuously improves, Hoosiers need a statewide network to identify, understand, and address medical errors," said Joseph Pekny at the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering at Purdue University. "The Indiana MERS will

help provide the data needed to address medical errors in a timely, evidence-based, and effective manner."

Each facility is required to report an event, as well as the facility where the event occurred, and the quarter and calendar year of the event. MERS only collects data on the number and category of reported events. It does not collect specific information about the event; distinguishing between events that result in death and serious disability; events that result in less than death or serious disability; "near misses;" and root cause analysis.

Facilities have approximately six months to review and report events, giving them until June 30, 2007. The final report will be issued in August 2007. On Jan. 11, 2005, Governor Daniels issued Executive Order 05-10 requiring the Indiana State Department of Health to develop and implement MERS. The report is available at [www.statehealth.in.gov](http://www.statehealth.in.gov).

## Fee adopted for building near CFOs and CAFOs

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

The Carroll County Area Plan Commission decided a small detail of the recently amended zoning ordinance needed to be addressed which was not addressed during adoption. The amended document allowed for a pre-application fee to be charged, but there was no ordinance to support it.

However, the group adopted the fee ordinance, effective immediately, at the Feb. 27 meeting.

The ordinance provides for a \$25 pre-application permit fee for confined feeding op-

erations or concentrated animal feeding operations. The ordinance was designed to notice new home builders of planned CFOs and CAFOs and will prohibit construction of a residence within 800 feet of an operation without obtaining a variance.

**Land Use Plan**  
Focus group meetings for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan will be held March 19 through 23.

County zoning administrator Dale Huffer said he will develop a list of participant groups. Huffer will also coordinate group meetings with Ground Rules, Inc. of Indianapolis, the firm hired to de-

velop the county-wide plan. For information, contact APC at (765) 564-4468.

**Other business**  
Jeff and Krista Watson were given a favorable recommendation to re-zone land on SR25 north in Deer Creek Township from Urban Residential to Local Business.

Watson said the land has been used for business for many years, but not zoned appropriately.

Delphi City Council will be asked to give formal approval to the re-zoning request.

The next meeting will be March 27 at 7 p.m.

## Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor responding to articles and events in the news. They must include the author's name, address and telephone number. The letter writer's name and city/town will appear in the paper - no exceptions. Letters must be 400 words or less in length. Please send your letters to: [editor@carrollcountycomet.com](mailto:editor@carrollcountycomet.com); Letters to the Editor, Comet, P.O. Box 26, Flora, IN 46929 or P.O. Box 179, Delphi, IN 46923; or fax 574-967-3384 or 765-564-2010. By submitting a letter or opinion article, the author grants the Comet the right to publish, distribute, archive or use the work in print, electronic, on-line or other format.

## Give FDA authority over tobacco products

If our government leaders are really serious about lowering health care costs and reducing unnecessary diseases, a very important step would be the passage of long overdue, bipartisan legislation granting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authority over tobacco products.

Tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. More than 400,000 people die from tobacco-related diseases each year. And the price tag for coping with those issues is more than \$96 billion in health care bills each year.

Despite all the harm they cause, tobacco products are still exempt from health and safety regulations that apply to other products such as food and drugs. The FDA can regulate a box of macaroni and cheese or a tube of lipstick, but not a pack of cigarettes.

Earlier attempts by the FDA to assert authority over the manufacture and sale of tobacco products have been thwarted in Congress by special interest groups. This year an attempt will be made to correct that oversight with legislation enabling the FDA to neutralize some of the tobacco industry's attempts to win over new smokers. Such legislation is important to our national interest and should be supported.

If you agree with this stand of the American Lung Association and its Indiana affiliate, we hope you will contact your Congressional representatives and encourage their support of legislation to give the FDA more authority over tobacco products. Tobacco use is addictive and harmful to public health; it needs to be cut back.

Nancy L. Turner,  
President & CEO,  
American Lung Association of Indiana

## Experience Works searches for Indiana's Outstanding Older Worker

Experience Works, the nation's largest training and employment organization for mature workers, is searching for

Indiana's outstanding older worker. Experience Works Prime Time Awards program is part of Experience Works' national effort to raise awareness of the contributions made by older individuals and to break down barriers associated with the hiring of all older workers. Outstanding older workers from every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will be honored in Washington, D.C., and in their home states for their contributions to the workforce and local communities. This year's search is being sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care, an outstanding employer of older workers in 2006.

Nominees or applicants must be 65 years of age or older, a resident of Indiana, currently employed, and working at least 20 hours each week for pay. The honoree must be willing and able to travel to Washington, D.C., in October for the Prime Time Award events. The visit will include meetings with congressional representatives, a tour of the city's landmarks, and the awards banquet and ceremony. Honorees have an opportunity to meet, share their stories, and celebrate their accomplishments. Family, friends or colleagues can send in a nomination, or older workers can self nominate.

The search for America's Oldest Worker for 2007 is also under way, as is the search for outstanding employers of older workers. Last year, 104-year-old Waldo McBurney, beekeeper and author from Quinter, Kansas, was named America's Oldest Worker.

An online nomination form or a printed nomination form can be accessed at [www.experience-works.org](http://www.experience-works.org). The deadline for nominations is May 1.

Experience Works is a national, nonprofit organization that provides training and employment services for mature workers. Established in 1965,

Experience Works reaches more than 125,000 mature individuals in all 50 states and Puerto Rico each year. Home Instead Senior Care is the world's largest

provider of comprehensive companionship and home care services for seniors.

For more information visit [www.homeinstead.com](http://www.homeinstead.com).

## Sewer From page 1A

The council approved purchasing a John Deere mower with heavy-duty, 62-inch deck from Jackson-Lee-Pearson with a trade-in cost of \$2,115.

No decision was made regarding whether or not to replace the town's bucket truck. Estimated cost will be \$98,288.

## Levee From page 1A

tion process to plan land use in and around the city now.

Hampton urged residents and business owners in Delphi to participate in both the county and city planning processes.

Delphi Municipal Airport manager Brian Stirm reported fuel sales at the airport took a weather-related dip last month.

Stirm said the third annual Transportation Festival will be two days in June over Fathers' Day weekend. He said planners are attempting to engage all local business owners in the celebration.

Stirm said a "parts bus" for the trolley was purchased with donations for \$1,200.

A re-zoning request by Krista and Jeff Watson for land along SR25N was approved unanimously.

## NOTICE

### TO LOT OWNERS AT MAPLE LAWN CEMETERY

Please remove all flowers and/or arrangements that have been placed on the grass which you want to save.

Everything left after Saturday, March 10th will be discarded.

DO NOT place new flowers and/or arrangements at the cemetery until after May 23rd.

## Obituaries

### Wayne L. Sheagley

Services for Wayne L. Sheagley, 78, of Kokomo, were held Friday at Neptune Funeral Home, Burlington. Pastor Ron DeGraaff officiated and burial was at Ball Hill Cemetery, Cutler.

He died at 3 p.m. Feb. 27, 2007, at St. Joseph Hospital, Kokomo.

Born Dec. 30, 1928, in Carroll County, he was the son of William Penn and Lilly Blanche Bosworth Sheagley.

He attended Cutler High School and later Moody Bible Institute.

Mr. Sheagley was employed at Allegiance Wire Co. in Flora for 23 years.

He was a member of the Moran Charity Baptist Church.

For over 50 years he placed a Bible verse each week in the *Carroll County Comet* and its predecessor, the *Hoosier Democrat*.

Surviving are two brothers, George Sheagley and Fred Sheagley (wife: Carolyn), both of Kokomo, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Jesse W. Sheagley, and a sister, Blanche Warren.

Memorials may be made to the Moran Charity Baptist Church.

### Paul S. Austin

Paul S. Austin, 85, of Flora, died at 6:30 a.m. Monday, March 5, 2007, at Milner Community Health Care Center in Rossville.

Born April 8, 1921, near Rossville, he attended schools in the Rossville area and then graduated from high school later in life.

He married Glenna Mae Wade on Jan. 12, 1947, in Ohio. She preceded him in death on July 21, 1993.

Mr. Austin was a retired accountant and a member of the Flora Old German Baptist Brethren Church.

Surviving are a son, Ronald Austin of Lafayette; a daughter, Linda Austin of Flora; and two brothers, John Austin (wife: Ana) and Joe Austin (wife: Beverly), both of Lakeland, Fla.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Flora Old German Baptist Brethren Church. Burial will be at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora. Visitation will be from 3 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m. today, Wednesday, at Reinke Funeral Home in Flora.

## Other Death Notices

**Janice Ann Taylor Munson**, 62, of Kokomo, died Feb. 28, 2007, at St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis. Born March 22, 1944, in Indianapolis, she had been a parochial school teacher, owned and operated a preschool. She was a member of St. Patrick Church, Kokomo. Surviving with her husband, Eugene "Gino" Munson are two daughters, Beth Ann Burns of Flora and Gina Wolff of Lafayette; five brothers; and six grandchildren. Services and burial were held Monday in Kokomo.

## Corrections

The state funding for the Carrollton Bridge construction was deposited into the cumulative bridge line item when it was received. It was incorrectly stated in last week's *Comet* it was deposited into county general.

In last week's *Comet* in the article about the Feb. 21 Camden Town Council meeting, Carroll County Emergency Management Director Justin Darling was quoted as saying that the county does not have an emergency plan for shelter in Camden. Darling was not at the meeting and that statement came through a council member who had spoken to him. Darling said that what he told Camden was that he would assist them in meeting their needs if they deemed that they needed to set up an emergency shelter.

**BALL HILL CEMETERY CLEAN UP DAY**  
Sat. March 17, 2007  
Clean-up Day starts at 9 am.  
Those wishing to keep decorations, please, remove them by March 14.

**BAIL BONDS**  
**JOE MOSS, AGENT**  
**765-564-2226**

## Abbott Funeral Home Monument Sale

March specials on all  
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Custom engravings  
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