

# If you are ill...stay home!

## Residents are urged to be like scouts and get prepared

By **Debbie Lowe**  
 Staff writer

Although it is called the "swine" flu in the national media, the current strain of influenza that has taken the lives of roughly 151 people in Mexico, is a combination of swine, avian and human flues. It is viral in nature and infects the nose, throat and lungs. It can lead to dangerous complications such as pneumonia or dehydration and can make chronic problems, such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease worse.

According to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), one case of the illness was confirmed in Indiana Tuesday. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security announced the state's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) became

active at that time. It was reported that 91 cases in the North American continent have been confirmed. U.S. residents were urged on Monday to not travel to Mexico because Mexico City seems to be ground zero for the malady.

Given there is no preventative vaccine available, international, national, state and local officials recommend prevention. The World Health Organization (WHO) said Tuesday containment of the situation is now the goal, given the illness has spread to Europe and other areas of the globe. The focus should be to minimize the effects of the flu, which it considers to be very close to be determined a "pandemic."

However, ISDH warned it is too early to be classified as a pandemic. Pandemic is defined by the WHO as

"the global outbreak of influenza." Carroll County Health Department nurse Hope Kinzer said all citizens should take the normal precautions, as they would with any other form of flu, to avoid contracting it. She said the incubation period for the new strain seems to be between one to three days.

Information in a handbook provided by the county health department for individuals and families called, "How You Can Be Prepared for a Flu Pandemic," directs citizens to take universal precautions to prevent contracting the flu. Precautions include washing hands frequently and avoiding contact with infected individuals.

Symptoms of the current form of flu are similar to those of other strains of flu. They include a cough,

fever, fatigue, headache, sore throat, stuffy or runny nose and muscle aches, lethargy, lack of appetite, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

"Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze," Kinzer said. "Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve rather than your hands if a tissue is not available."

If a person displays symptoms, it is recommended they remain at home to avoid contaminating others. State officials noted the current flu virus is only spread from human-to-human and is highly contagious.

"We advise Hoosiers to stay calm and practice normal precautions to avoid influenza and other respiratory diseases," Indiana State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe M.D.

said. "If you have milder symptoms of influenza, we advise you to stay home and contact your health care provider for advice. If symptoms become severe, such as high fever, trouble breathing, or inability to keep down fluids, seek medical care."

ISDH added parents should remember to not administer aspirin to young children with flu-like symptoms. She said parents should contact their health care provider for treatment advice.

In the event of a pandemic outbreak of the flu, Kinzer said the county will enact an emergency plan. Medication distribution "pods" will be established to allow infected individuals to obtain treatment drugs in a manner in which as to not come

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## County is approved for federal assistance

Comet staff report

Carroll County homeowners, renters, and businesses who experienced damage from severe storms and flooding from March 8-14, 2009, may seek assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Recovery Center in Monticello, according to Dave McDowell, director of the Carroll County EMA.

The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is located at 315 N. Illinois St., Monticello, and will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., beginning today (Wednesday).

Residents may call FEMA to pre-register or just go to the

DRC. McDowell said residents should go as soon as possible. It is uncertain how long the DRC will be open, but DHS officials say it will be open through this weekend, at least.

Registration can be made online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers are available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time, seven days a week.

FEMA individual assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover unin-

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## Absentee voting begins May 18

By **Debbie Lowe**  
 Staff writer

There will be a special election June 16 for residents in Deer Creek, Tippecanoe, Jackson, Liberty, Madison and Rock Creek townships. Residents will vote whether to allow the Delphi Community School Corporation to proceed with a \$13 million building renovation project. The project could cost \$21 million over a 21 year-period.

The election was brought about by petitions filed within 30 days after a public notice advertisement appeared in the *Comet* in November. Petitions were signed by 142 signers, however 13 did not meet the standards to be included in the process. The 129 qualified signers included, 56 real property owners and 73 registered voters.

Although the special election day was certified as June 16, absentee voting begins 30 days prior to that date, or May 18. Voters must be registered to vote by May 15. Absentee voters may vote by mail, in the clerk's office, or by traveling board. Absentee voting in

the clerk's office will be June 4, 5, 11 and 12 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Votes will be tallied on election night, June 16.

To vote absentee voters must request an absentee ballot. To request an absentee ballot, voters must complete a ballot application and return it to the clerk's office.

Applications must be completed with name, registered address and date of birth. If the voter is registered to vote in Carroll County, identifying information will be automatically generated on the application if it is received from the county clerk's office. A blank application can be obtained by visiting the state elections di-

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**Second grade Earth Day**  
 Wildlife rehabilitator Kim Hoover is pictured with Mortie, a groundhog that she brought, along with other education animals, to the second grade Earth Day at the Flora Park. The event included many activities, including the Recycle Relay, pictured, where students raced to put recyclables in the right bins.  
 Comet photos by Jennifer Archibald

## Are you smarter than a second grader?

Comet staff report

Do you know the path of a water drop? Do you know where to recycle your old cell phones? Can you get a second life out of your old cardboard egg cartons? How do

chocolate chips, raisins and peanuts represent an edible landfill?

Just ask any Carroll County second grader these questions. They will give you a detailed answer because they've been to the Earth Day

event at Flora Community Park.

Second graders from Carroll and Delphi Community elementary schools have equipped themselves with the conservation knowledge to lighten the load for poor ol'

Mother Earth.

As part of their Earth Day activities, which brought 200 students to the park last week, they learned how, what and why to recycle, where their

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# Truck-wagon crash claims life

Comet staff report

The Carroll County community is mourning the death of one of the leaders of the Old Brethren German Baptist faith, Steven L. Royer. He was killed shortly before noon Monday when the horse-drawn wagon he was driving south on SR 75 was struck from behind by a pickup truck driven by John T. Justice, 87, of near Logansport.

Royer, 64, was only a few miles from his home just south of Camden when the collision occurred. He was thrown from the wagon and was pronounced dead at the scene from multiple injuries.

Mr. Royer's horse was also killed.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Department responded to

the crash at 11:37 a.m. near SR 75's intersection with CR 250N. Justice reportedly declined to be transported for medical attention.

The Old Brethren German Baptist community is comprised of about 20 families who reside south and west of Camden. They prefer a faith-based, simpler way of living with no electricity, no cars, no phones.

Their horse-drawn buggies and wagons are a common sight on that stretch of SR 75, between Camden and Flora, as the Old Brethren travel to those communities to do business and purchase supplies.

Mr. Royer, a farmer, was one of 10 children and the father of seven. He buried his father six days earlier.

The sheriff's department,



### Crash site

A horse-drawn wagon is underneath this pickup truck after the truck reportedly rear-ended the wagon Monday morning. The driver of the wagon, Steven Royer, was pronounced dead at the scene. Comet photo

Indiana State Police, Carroll County EMS, Camden-Jackson Township Volunteer Fire

Department, and the Flora Police Department responded to the accident.

The accident remains under investigation by ISP and the sheriff's department.



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