

SUN., JULY 31, 2005

FIRST GLANCE

County posts sex offender map on Web

A Web site map noting the residences of 39 sex offenders living within 1,000 feet of a school or day care in Cole County has received more than 1,000 hits in the last week.

The map can be found at www.colecopa.com.

The Cole County Prosecuting Attorney's office also received more than 200 phone calls related to the matter.

The office recently sent letters to county sex offenders, informing them of the of the law banning them from living close to schools/day cares. They letter tells them that if they are in violation, they must move before school begins in August.

Some of the inquiries received this week were from willing donors to financially support counseling for the child victims of sex crimes.

Prosecuting Attorney Bill Tackett said Saturday a Children's Counseling Fund will be created by his office.

Some time Monday, an icon will be added to the Web site for those interested in contributing to a fund that would help families of child sex victims, who may not qualify for other forms of assistance.