



Publish Date: 11/11/2009

## **VINE program to help victims track offenders**

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The Daily Record*

By the end of the year, crime victims in Fremont County will have a method of tracking offenders through the jail system.

VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) has been implemented at jails throughout the state and will be up and running in Fremont County in 30-45 days.

Through the system, victims and other concerned citizens can register to be notified about the custody status of certain offenders.

A computer linked to the jails record management system updates the central VINE system in Louisville, Ky., which then automatically notifies anyone registered of changes in offenders' custody status.

When the program is fully implemented in Colorado next year, 40,000 inmates — in county jail and the Department of Corrections — will be in the system, said Don Christensen, executive director of County Sheriffs of Colorado, which has been designated by the governor to administer the program.

The implementation of the system statewide has been funded by a federal grant, and Christensen said the organization is pursuing funding for sustaining the program.

Along with notifications, the system will be searchable for the public and law enforcement.

Rick Jones, of Appriss, the company that administers the program, said VINE first came into being in 1994 in Kentucky. He said there are 40 states with the system and the hope is that in the next few years a nationwide system will be in place.

Users can register to be contacted by phone or e-mail. Phone calls will continue every 30 minutes until the user enters a four-digit PIN acknowledging receipt of the information.

For more information about VINE, visit [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) or call 1-888-263-8463. Information is available in Spanish.