NORTH TODD’S FOOD DESERT

Nearly quarter of county has limited access to healthy foods

By Tonya S. Grace
Todd County Standard

About a quarter of Todd County’s population has low access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and a new initiative that identifies such low-access areas in communities nationwide may help find a solution to the problem.

Todd County has been identified as a food desert by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a term defined by the agency as a low-income census tract where a sizable number of people have low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. Low-income communities must have either a poverty rate of 20 percent or higher or a median family income of at or below the area’s median family income.

Low-access communities must have at least 500 people or at least 33 percent of the community’s population residing more than a mile from a supermarket or large grocery store, according to the USDA’s definition of a food desert.

“I don’t know exactly how many Todd residents are in food deserts,” said County Executive Brian Wauchope. “But we know that many of our residents struggle to access healthy food options.”

The initiative, known as the Food Access Report Card, is a tool developed by the FoodPrint project, a partnership between the University of Illinois and the Health Action Institute. The report card provides data on food access across the country, including information on local grocery stores, farmers markets, and community gardens.

Community comes together in the fight against cancer

By Megan Dics
Todd County Standard

Colors took over the Todd County Central High School football field Friday evening, each with its own story to tell. The colors represented a family’s fight against cancer, a glimpse into the lives of two teams, or a moment of remembrance. The colors were a symbol of hope, resilience, and remembrance.

In the next 12 hours, the Todd County community will band together to take up the fight against cancer,” said Relay Chairman Melanie Sharp. “These colors represent the strength of family, joined together in a time of heartache, bound together by their will to battle cancer.”

Luminous bags honoring those who have had cancer light the night to spell “HOPE” last Friday night at Richard Stadium during the annual Relay for Life.

INSIDE THIS WEEK:
A map of just where in Todd County the USDA says is a food desert. See Page 2.

Inside Todds Food Desert

Local inmates seek better life, get GED

By Elizabeth Johnson
Todd County Standard

To feel better about himself, to set an example for his children and to do something he knows he wants to—those are the reasons why Michael Sewards, 31, is taking the General Educational Development test.

When his mother encouraged him to complete his GED, Sewards dropped out of high school and started working at the age of 16. Despite the long hours, he continued to study and was able to pass the GED test.

“I’ve always known I wanted to complete my education, but didn’t have the opportunity,” said Sewards.

After being incarcerated at the Todd County Detention Center last month, Sewards decided to take advantage of the opportunity to earn his GED while there.

“I’ve started to tell my kids and I’ll feel better inside and I’ll be able to tell my kids I got my GED,” said Sewards.

“I’m glad that I can help them in a positive way.”

Order seeks info from former school employee

By Elizabeth Johnson
Todd County Standard

County Judge Tyler Cook has filed a motion in Circuit Court to obtain records regarding an alleged electronic security breach at the Todd County Board of Education.

The petition, filed May 2 by county attorney Todd Martin, asks the court to obtain information from records custodians with Microsoft Corporation and Metanics, LLC, which could be used in other actions against former board of Education employees.

The agency of this petition is that the individuals to be divorced have information that may be relevant to the divorce.
continued from Page 1

Development, can be used to fund such projects.

Bothuk said the effort to address food insecurity is now "still in the planning stage at the local level and she said officials don't have a lot to place right now."

"We're already kind of working on it and they have seen the need and that people out there might have need for it," she said.

Harris said the initiative could create a new channel for officials seeing the need in the community to help those in need.

Harris said that people who are struggling to make ends meet and are not able to provide basic needs for their families, such as food, are being reached by the program.

The program is expected to be a model for other communities to use as a model for addressing food insecurity.

In the coming weeks, the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service will begin distributing funds to local communities to help address food insecurity.

The program is expected to provide assistance to families in need, including those with children who are food insecure.

The program is expected to be a model for other communities to use as a model for addressing food insecurity.

A warrant has been issued for Justin Ray for receiving stolen property valued at $5,000.

There has been numerous reports of the Ray's location, Ray's has been seen in Atlantic City, Burlington and Upper Shaw Oval Rd.

It has been reported that Ray has been seen riding in a stolen vehicle, driving in various communities.

If you know of Ray's location, please call the PAPC at 252-5979, the Todd Co Sheriff's Office and the New Jersey State Police.