

Goodbye Relay



*The Long Prairie Area Relay for Life has been cancelled.
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LONG PRAIRIE LEADER

New nitrate rule proposed

Governor's proposal to protect drinking water will have more hearings this summer

**By Jason C. Brown,
Publisher/Editor**

Following 17 public meetings that engaged over 1,500 farmers, landowners, and other Minnesotans in conversations across the state, Governor Mark Dayton and Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson today proposed a new groundwater protection measure. The proposal, which is based on the input of the farmers and landowners who the rule would apply to, would help reduce elevated nitrate levels in groundwater and ensure more Minnesota residents have clean, safe, reliable drinking water supplies. Nitrate is one of the most common contaminants in Minnesota's groundwater; elevated nitrate levels in drinking

water can pose serious health concerns for humans. "I am grateful to the many farmers, landowners, and others who worked with the Department of Agriculture to develop this proposal, which would greatly improve the quality of drinking water for Minnesotans," said Governor Dayton. "Clean, safe, reliable water in our communities is everyone's concern, and everyone's responsibility. I urge all Minnesotans who wish to further improve or refine this proposal to engage in the public comment period beginning this spring, and attend the additional public hearings that will be scheduled this summer."

Nitrate is a compound that naturally occurs and has many

Nitrates / 12A



Photo-MN Corn Grower's Assoc

Minnesota's proposed nitrate fertilizer rule would impact farming practices throughout the state.

County health ranked

**By Jason C. Brown,
Publisher/Editor**

Todd County is ranked nearly in the middle of the pack of Minnesota's 87 counties in terms of health outcomes and rankings in a report put out by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which ranks counties on a national basis.

Todd County received an overall ranking of 50 out of Minnesota's 87 counties.

This ranking is a compilation of various health related factors including length of life, quality of life, behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and physical environment.

Length of Life

Under length of life, it was found that Todd County has lost 5,700 years of life prior to the age of 75 per 100,000 residents.

Todd County ranked 48th out of 87 counties in this field.

Quality of Life

Under quality of life, the report found the following:

-14 percent of residents reported poor or fair health.

-3.5 poor physical health days were reported on average over the course of a 30-day period.

-3.1 poor mental health days were reported on average over the course of a 30-day period.

-5 percent of births were reported with low birth weight.

Additionally, it was found that

Health / 12A

Together, as a community



Life at Camphill Village in southern Todd County focuses on on living intentionally together with each other and with the world around them. Camphill Village is a community that serves the needs of adults with disabilities while serving each other.

Camphill Village in Southern Todd County celebrates World Down Syndrome Day

**By Jason C. Brown,
Publisher/Editor**

What is community? Is it more than just a place to call home? It is, and it couldn't be more so than for the residents at Camphill Village in southern Todd County.

Camphill is a community like no other in Todd County, the area or possibly state for that matter.

It is an intentional community dedicated to caring for one another and the land. The community has a special purpose as it is dedicated to the caring for, upholding the integrity of, and life sharing of adults with special needs.

Camphill was created to sustain a community where people with and without disabilities live, work and care for each other to foster spiritual, social, cultural and agricultural renewal.

Camphill Village Minnesota is a life-sharing, residential community of fifty people, including adults with disabilities. Their lives, work and celebrations are woven into the rhythms of nature found in the rolling hills, sparkling waterways, and prairie grasslands of Central Minnesota. Their community is deeply rooted in the belief that every individual, regardless of limitations, is an independent, spiritual being. Each person is a part of the fabric of the community experience and is worthy of recognition, respect and honor.

Our little Camphill community of seven homes on over 500 acres near Cedar Lake is also part of an international movement.

The Todd County community is one of more than twelve Camphill communities in North America. And they in turn are part of the international Camphill movement comprising over 100 centers in 22 countries, serving the lives of children, youth and adults with special needs.

The community life and work is rooted in agriculture, embracing earth stewardship through biodynamic farming and gardening.

This close-knit and interdependent lifestyle incorporated into intentional living with each other is the foundation of who the community is with each individual playing a vital role in creating a harmonious home life. Camphill members live together as extended families in seven spacious homes. The house parents, or coworkers, are long-term dedicated volunteers who believe in community life and who value the gifts of every individual.

Camphill / 4A

Authorities make major drug bust

Regional law enforcement made put a big dent in the regional drug trade by seizing pounds of meth.

For more, turn to Page 4A.

