



## Many hands make the workload lighter

Corinne Weiher, Jim Carr and Dan Schmitz put square bales onto the elevator for the crew in the barn to stack.

by Trinity Gruenberg  
trinity@inhnews.com

A group of neighboring farmers banded together to help one of their own on August 11. Verndale farmer Lyle Broughton was seriously burned after a tractor fire accident near Hewitt on July 25. His arms, hands, face and back suffered third-degree burns. Lyle is being treated at Hennepin County ICU Burn Center where he is expected to remain for the next several weeks. The Broughtons grow hay and corn for silage to feed the cows and horses on their farm.

Friends and neighbors of the Broughtons, Jim Carr, Mark Wiese, Keith Weiher and his children Colton and Corinne, Nate Wiese, Steve Schmitz, Connor Schmitz, Shawn Schmitz and Dan Schmitz spent a sunny Tuesday evening last week square baling 15 acres of alfalfa hay and putting the bales in the hayloft. Cindy Schmitz brought refreshments and rhubarb bread. With the help of many hands, it took about three hours. "It's nice to help out. When someone needs help, you've got to help them," said Jim Carr.

Before the group gathered on Tuesday, Dan and Jim had cut the hay, and Rick Thompson and Dan round baled hay at a field in Hewitt. Eileen, Lyle's wife, is extremely thankful for their help. She has been staying with Lyle during visiting hours, but due to the pandemic, she is not allowed to stay with him overnight. The organization Firefighters for Healing has placed her in a nearby hotel. "It's really a blessing. To drive six hours a day, I couldn't do it," she said. The couple has suffered much in recent years with the loss of their hand-built log cabin home to

a fire and the loss of their son in a home building accident. They have been planning to rebuild their log cabin home and for the time being, Lyle remodeled the basement of the home they lost to the fire. The couple continues to reside at their farm where they have lived for over 20 years. The group of farmers didn't hesitate to help out their neighbors. They brought their own equipment and made quick work of the job at hand. Neighbors Bill and Sarah Blaha have been caring

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## Bidders and bystanders enjoyed perusing the auction items

A nice sized crowd attended the annual Verndale Fire Department auction held on August 29 at the R&J Arena to browse, buy and socialize. It was a beautiful day to be out and about. On the auction block included a large assortment of items from machinery and building supplies to household furnishings.

## Burger Depot is now open



The Burger Depot in Verndale reopened on August 25 under new ownership. Co-owners Tina Dorobkowski and Cindy King said there was a steady stream of customers excited to try their cooking the first day. "Everyone loves the all day breakfast, the milkshakes and the price," said King. "Every town needs a restaurant," she added. Their fries are fresh cut daily and they plan to have weekly specials.



## Tri-County Health Care receives platinum recognition for their efforts supporting organ donation

by Trinity Gruenberg  
trinity@inhnews.com

A small ceremony was held at the Garden of Hope at the Wesley Building in Wadena on August 20 to celebrate the platinum recognition received by Tri-County Health Care (TCHC) for their efforts in promoting organ donation. The award is sponsored by the Health Resources & Services Administration.



A small group gathered at the Garden of Hope on August 20 to celebrate Tri-County Health Care's platinum recognition for their efforts supporting organ donation. Pictured are Kim Aagard, CFO; Stephanie Larson, heart recipient and RN; Lois Miller, Donation Champion and RN; Tom Pint, chief nursing officer; and Joel Beiswenger, president and CEO.

To achieve the platinum award, which is the highest level, the criteria is based on points. Points are accumulated through community education activities such as the Wellabrate event, the Donate Life flag raising and other events sponsored by TCHC. Due to the pandemic, many of these events were not held this year. Points were still awarded for the programs they had planned. Several employee connections, including organ recipients and donor families, also inspire the hospital's efforts. Heart recipient Stephanie Larson has worked at TCHC since 2003. After having a cardiac arrest in October 2011, at the age of 32, she received a new heart in September 2012. Because of her experience, she continues to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation. The Garden of Hope was created in 2018. It honors donors with pavers engraved with the donor's name. It was at the dedication of the

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## Wadena County COVID-19 Update:

Total confirmed positive cases: 49  
Total cases reported last week: 41  
Total COVID-19 related deaths: 0

### Todd County:

Total confirmed positive cases: 449  
Total cases reported last week: 441  
Total COVID-19 related deaths: 2

