

The affection between Wally Rodewald and his Shetland pony, Molly, is obvious. Rodewald says he has spent virtually his entire life around horses, since growing up on his parents' dairy farm near Callaway. Photos by Vicki Gerdes / Tribune



VOLUME 112, NO. 95 • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019 • DETROIT LAKES, MN NEWSSTAND \$1.50 • 2 SECTIONS

# 'I CAN'T CRY NO MORE'

After devastating fire, Wally Rodewald reflects on years spent spreading his love for horses

By Vicki Gerdes  
vgerdes@dnews.com

'It's a pretty sad sight, isn't it?' says Wally Rodewald as he walks out the front door of the small home just north of Detroit Lakes that he shares with his wife, Charlotte.

He's referring to the pile of burnt wood, melted metal and rubber lying just a short walk away from his home. The burnt-out husk represents all that remains of his woodworking shop and adjacent welding shop, both destroyed by an early November fire.

Though a different welding shop of Rodewald's was destroyed in 2018, also by fire, this blaze caused something much more precious to go up in smoke than his welding and

HORSES: Page A8



This sheep herder wagon was one of the few horse-drawn vehicles that Wally Rodewald was able to salvage from his collection, much of which was destroyed in an early November fire at his workshop in rural Detroit Lakes. Rodewald says he and his wife Charlotte have often used the vehicle to camp out on some of their cross-country trips.

## Singer John Berry enjoys being at Holmes for the holiday

By Vicki Gerdes  
vgerdes@dnews.com

The name John Berry has been a familiar one on the marquee at Detroit Lakes' Historic Holmes Theatre over its 17-year history: The singer-songwriter from Georgia has made six visits to the community since 2005, and performed at the venue seven times.

So it's no surprise that he will be bringing his "Christmas Songs & Stories" tour back to the Holmes for the second time in three years on Saturday, Dec. 7.

"I'd come back every year if they'd have me," Berry joked during a recent telephone interview. "I can't wait to get back and see my friends, we always have a great time."

Berry has often sung the praises of the Holmes as a performance venue. "It's a great room, a great facility and great people to sing for," he said prior to his most recent visit in 2017.

The feeling is mutual, according to Holmes Theatre Director Amy Stoller Stearns. "John and



Kris Rae / Trinity Broadcasting Network  
John Berry will be back belting out his Christmas showstopper "O Holy Night" as well as other fan favorites during his Dec. 7 stop at Detroit Lakes' Historic Holmes Theatre.

his band are genuinely great individuals — easy to work with, supremely talented musicians and the crowd loves him," she says.

Though Berry has BERRY: Page A7

## Goodbye Marshmallow Foundation, hello Marshmallow Animal Shelter

By Nathan Bove  
nbove@dnews.com

Here's something to chew on: The Marshmallow Foundation in Detroit Lakes is now the Marshmallow Animal Shelter. The name change is

only fitting, since it better describes what the not-for-profit operation actually does: take care of lost and abandoned dogs and cats, and either reunite them with their owners or find new homes for them.

The Marshmallow Animal Shelter also serves as the local pound and, so far this year, 500 cats and dogs have passed through the shelter and gone back to their owners or found new forever homes, according to

Shelter Manager Cassi Ohman. There are now about 90 healthy, fixed, loving felines waiting for adoption there, along with about 15 healthy, fixed people-friendly dogs. "Our mission statement

is 'improving our community by reuniting the lost and advocating for the unwanted,'" said board member Karen Skyles. "We thought that pretty much sums up what we do as the pound, trying to reunite the animals

that have gotten away with the people that love them," or find them new homes when that doesn't work out, she said. The new name for the shelter was announced at an open house Saturday, Nov. 23.

## 2 from Waubun among 23 appointed to Minn. Young Women's Cabinet

By Marie T. Johnson  
mjohnson@dnews.com

Two young women from Waubun, a small city about 30 miles north of Detroit Lakes on the White Earth Reservation, are among 23 appointments to the state's Young Women's Cabinet.

As members of the cabinet, Waubun residents Elizabeth Burnett and Ameer Tejohn will have the opportunity to improve the lives of under-represented young women across the state, such as those who are Indigenous, have disabilities, are from greater Minnesota, and who are LGBTQ+.



Burnett

**THE CABINET**  
Joining Elizabeth Burnett and Ameer Tejohn with appointments to the Young Women's Cabinet are:  
Zaynab Abdi, St. Paul; Jennifer Adams, White Bear Lake; Jansan Ahmed, Minneapolis; Maria Arreola, St. Paul; Natalie Bebeau, Deer River; Yamaha Burnett-Hollins, Edina; Calorina Carlisle, Lakeville; Mariana Cervantes, Lake Elmo; Britney Chino, Inver Grove Heights; Athens Cloud, Minneapolis; Briana Fongvongsa, Brooklyn Park; Flora Fouliadi, St. Paul; Gabrielle Hawkinson, Shakopee; Evelyn Humphrey, Wamamingo; Benya Kraus, Waseca; Izzy Laderman, Duluth; Rayanna Lennes, Hastings; Nayzeth Muniz, Worthington; Janet Nguyen, Minneapolis; Penny White, Moorhead; and Ela Yang, Mankato.

kids experience trauma ... I hope that I'll be able to open up people's eyes about how hard it is to be a Native American in this society today ... A lot of Native American kids don't have the support they need to be stable. They don't have a support system to talk to."

She said she's also hoping her time on the cabinet will develop her leadership skills and help her a stronger person.

Her appointment, effective Nov. 23, lasts five years and entails twice-monthly meetings, some of them held at the state capitol.

Ameer Tejohn could not be reached by press time.

CABINET: Page A8

**In this corner**  
Republicans are lining up to take on Rep. Collin Peterson  
Page A6

**Happy Thanksgiving!**  
Seniors share holiday memories, plus: How to divide that turkey  
Page C1

**Forecast**

TODAY Cloudy skies High: 26 Low: 20	THURSDAY Mainly cloudy High: 27 Low: 25	FRIDAY Snow showers High: 32 Low: 29	SATURDAY Windy/Snow High: 31 Low: 17	SUNDAY Partly cloudy High: 20 Low: 7
-------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------

Every day is a news day  
www.dl-online.com



**HORSES**

From Page A1

woodworking tools: Rodewald's collection of antique vehicles, including a horse-drawn school bus that he used to drive in area parades as well as to delight local schoolchildren with a visit; the wagon he used to use to give free horse-drawn "sleigh rides" at Washington Square Mall during the holiday season, for more than 25 years; and several other one-of-a-kind pieces of local history.

"It's all gone, everything," he said somberly. "I've cried so much already, I can't cry no more."

Rodewald's horses, including a large black Percheron and two Shetland ponies, fortunately were housed elsewhere. But most of the vehicles that they used to pull behind them for local events — such as the Northwest Water Carnival Parade, the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion, and the Becker County Museum's annual Museum Day festivities, among others — have been reduced to a smoldering pile of debris.

Detroit Lakes Fire Chief Scott Flynn said Monday that the exact cause of the fire remains undetermined, though he pointed out that Rodewald did use a wood stove to heat the building. "We don't know for sure what caused it," Flynn said. "It (the building) was a total loss."

The stacks of photos, letters of thanks from local schoolchildren and families, and other memorabilia — such as a cowboy figurine that Rodewald made from some old horsehooves, a metal washer (which he used for the cowboy's hat) and a "lasso" that his wife Charlotte made by taking some wire and wrapping a thin piece of twine around it — are pretty much all that remain of Rodewald's collection, some pieces of which truly were one-of-a-kind.

"I have so many letters



Vicki Gerdes / Tribune

This small group of photos and letters from Wally Rodewald's collection show how much he enjoyed spreading his love of horses by bringing them to various local events over the years — and how much the community appreciated his efforts in return.

and photos," Rodewald said, adding that now he no longer has a shop to work in, he might get some time to organize them.

Besides the horse-drawn vehicles, Rodewald noted, he also lost six tractors, a '55 Chevrolet motor vehicle, his son's four-wheeler, his daughter's skid steer loader, and his hay baler. "I lost all my tools too," he said. He had to borrow a wrench from his son the other day for making repairs to the water pump outside his home.

"The 'sheep herder' wagon that Wally and Charlotte have sometimes used for taking their team of horses on trips cross-country was spared, because it was parked outside at the time, Rodewald said, and he also still has three old tractors (of the gas-powered variety) that were housed elsewhere on the property.

"We're about back to where we started in 1960," he said, adding with a little smile that he and Charlotte will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary next July. "We've got the house, the pickup truck, and a few little things that didn't burn in the fire."

Though he probably

will, at some point, build himself another shop in it, Rodewald said it will be much smaller than the one he had.

"At 84 years old, there's no point in building anything too big," he said, "I'll get myself a welder and some hand tools, and maybe a small building to work in. "Sometimes I stayed up all night in the shop working," Rodewald added. "I really enjoyed it. I don't quite know what I should do now."

One project he'll start work on pretty soon, however, is restoring his old horse-drawn trolley, as some people at Dan's Service Center in Detroit Lakes took up a collection to help pay for it. "It's repairable," Rodewald said. "We most likely won't need it until next summer, so I'll have a little time to work on it."

He also plans to keep bringing his ponies out to Rollag every summer for the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion, where he offers rides to the people who want them. Though he no longer has much of the equipment he used for taking his horses and ponies for a drive around the neighborhood, he has no plans on giving them up.

"I have a picture of

myself driving a team of horses when I was three years old," he said. "I grew up around horses. I love them."

He added that it was his desire to spread his love of his horses that prompted him to start volunteering to bring them to interact with the kids and families at Mahube Head Start, the Becker County Museum, and various local parades and events.

A 1957 graduate of Detroit Lakes High School, Rodewald got a two-year degree in auto and diesel mechanics from North Dakota State College of Science. His first job was working for the Allis Chalmers dealership in Ulen, Minn., which is where he would meet his future wife, Charlotte.

"It's my hometown," she said.

He went on to be a driver for Olander Bus Service in Detroit Lakes, a position he held for 19 years. He acquired the horse-drawn school bus for Lindy Olander, and would drive it in local parades for him until he purchased it from the family after Lindy's death. "I still have the sleigh runners for it," Rodewald said, noting that they were stored elsewhere on his property.

get **ON** line  
www.dl-online.com

West Central Minnesota Media  
Kyle Meacham, Owner & Operator  
218-850-7588  
kyle.meacham@westcentralminnesotamedia.com  
www.westcentralminnmedia.com  
Screen Repair, Technical Assistance & Graphic Design.

**GUN SHOW**  
DATE: Friday, November 29 & Saturday, November 30  
LOCATION: Moorhead National Guard Armory  
1002 15th Ave N., Moorhead, MN  
Clayton the Coin guy will be here, so bring in your old coins.  
**BUY, SELL OR TRADE**  
Featuring new and used firearm, ammo, reloading supplies and much more.  
For more information call 218-290-0274  
**HOURS:**  
Fri. 4 pm-8 pm  
Sat. 9 am-5 pm  
Public admission is \$5.00, 12 and under free with paid adult.  
Saturday is free with hand stamp from Friday.

**TOUGH ENOUGH** *Big* **Pink**  
Steve's Sanitation  
"Pink Can Program"  
A \$25 minimum donation will get you your pink can to help show your support! Proceeds benefit Hospice of the Red River Valley.  
Work with a local company with hometown customer service that truly cares about people!  
Call 218-346-4834 or email Support@StevensSanitation.com for a price quote or to get your pink can today!  
Together, we can find a cure!  
35 gal., 64 gal. & 96 gal. sizes only. Limited number available.

Happy Thanksgiving from Our Family to Yours.  
Call today for more information.  
218-847-7777.  
**Pelican LANDING**  
1325 Pelican Lane Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

**CABINET**

From Page A1

**'Elevate the leadership'**

The two were among more than 140 women from all over the state who applied to be a part of the cabinet, sharing their voices, ideas and stories.

"It's my honor to elevate the leadership of these extraordinary young women from communities across Minnesota," Gov. Tim Walz said in the news release. "Every young woman in Minnesota deserves a bright future, and the

best way we can achieve that is by asking them directly what we can do to improve opportunity in their community."

Saanii Hernandez, vice president of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, said that since 2016 the cabinet has guided the state's leading research on the well-being of young women of color, invested more than \$1 million in grants to nonprofits and individuals, testified as experts and advocates at the Capitol on behalf of policies that create opportunities, safety and leadership for women and girls, and worked with other state leaders to advance equity

across sectors.

"There is more to Minnesota than every young woman has what she needs to thrive — with economic opportunity, access to leadership, and safety at home, school and work," Hernandez said. "Representation matters. When we center the voices and leadership of young women facing the greatest barriers, their families and communities do better."

The cabinet ensures the efforts of the Young Women's Initiative stay grounded in the life experiences of its members and the community-specific challenges and solutions they identify.

**Marine Captain David Stowman, AWARDED:**

- Bronze Star
- Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star
- Chung My (Vietnamese Medal)
- Combat Action Ribbon
- Presidential Unit Citation
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Vietnam Service Medal
- National Defense Service Medal

**WELCOME HOME VETERANS!**  
**Stowman|Law**  
personal injury attorneys

David Stowman, Hue, Republic of Vietnam, 1968

*Early Deadlines*  
for the Thanksgiving Holiday

WEDNESDAY TRIBUNE:  
Friday, November 22 at 3:00 p.m.

SATURDAY LAKE AREA PRESS:  
Tuesday, November 26 at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY TRIBUNE:  
Wednesday, November 27 at 3:00 p.m.

Our office will be closed Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving Day!  
DETROIT LAKES NEWSPAPERS

**Hometown Crafts & Fabrics**

**FREE CANDLE** for first 100 purchases on Friday

**FREE ORNAMENT** for the first 100 purchases on Saturday

**BLACK FRIDAY AND SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY! NOV. 29, 30 AND DEC 1ST!!**  
Hours: Fri. 9 - 8 Sat. 9 - 5 Sun 11 - 5 (DL 12 - 5)

**Truckload fabric sale**  
at **\$2.49** a yard on select special buy fabrics  
50 piece gel pens or 50 piece pom pom markers reg. \$26.99  
**now \$19.99**

**Jar candles** all **50% off**  
All Christmas decor **25% off**  
Ornaments **50% off**

**Sale is Friday, Saturday and Sunday ONLY!!**  
**25% off** all Christmas floral and garlands

Downtown Detroit Lakes 218-844-5850 • 111 S Jefferson, Wadena 218-631-3141  
Mon-Fri 9:00am-8:00pm • Sat 9:00am-5:00pm • Sun 12:00pm-5:00pm