

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Write a letter to the editor. All letters must be signed, 400 words or less and include the writer's phone number and address. Only one letter per writer per month will be accepted. Letters may be mailed to The Sidney Daily News, Jeff Billiel, publisher/executive editor, P.O. Box 4099, 1451 N. Vandemark Road, Sidney, OH 45365; emailed to jbilliel@sdnccg.com; or faxed to (937) 498-5991.



IN OUR VIEW

Sidney Daily News

Your hometown newspaper since 1891

Frank Beeson/Regional Group Publisher
Jeffrey J. Billiel/Editor and Publisher

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Take crutches, you'll never break a leg

Coffee always tastes perfect before daylight on the opening day of deer season, Dud Campbell thought as he sat in near-total darkness in his kitchen.



Home Country
Slim Randles

He was being extra quiet so as not to awaken Anita. Turning on a flashlight on the kitchen counter, he wrote:

Honey, I'll be up Pine Canyon, hunting up a feeder creek 1.4 miles to the right. The truck will be at the campground. Doc and Steve both know the area I'm hunting. I'll be back no later than 10 p.m. unless I call.

An hour later, Dud quietly got out of the pickup and left a note under the windshield wiper:

Hunting to the west between here and the ridge. Should be back here no later than 9 p.m.

Dud Campbell

Dud was sitting on a rock outcropping as the sun rose, feeling the warmth spread from inside out as another great day of anticipation came. He smiled, and then prayed. He always did during hunting season. His prayer wasn't wishing for success, but simply expressing gratitude for this special time. This was the success. Sitting here in the sun, hunting yet another year. An actual deer for

the freezer is simply gravy on this feast.

After lunch, Dud decided to try a different location, so he returned to the pickup and left a different note.

He got home about 9 p.m. and raved to Anita about the wonders of the day in the woods.

"You left me that note, Dud," she said, "but I don't even know where that is."

"No. But the sheriff's department does, and search and rescue knows, and both Doc and Steve know."

She still looked puzzled. "You're a good outdoorsman, though, aren't you?"

"Well, yes I am. That's why I left the notes. Anyone can twist an ankle or fall up there."

He smiled at her. "Hunters have an old saying, Honey. If you take crutches with you, you'll never break a leg."

The writer is a veteran newspaperman and outdoorsman who is a registered outfitter and guide. He has written novels and nonfiction books based on rural living and he has also been an award-winning columnist for the largest daily newspapers in Alaska and New Mexico. He lives in Albuquerque.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Operation Rebirth seeks support

To the editor:

The last time I wrote a letter to the editor it was in 2003 to ask Shelby County for its help in donating school supplies for the children in Iraq. Your response was overwhelming! I wish you could see the pictures my son brought home of the soldiers delivering them and the children thanking the soldiers. You truly had a direct impact on their lives.

Now I'm asking Shelby County once again for your support. I would like to introduce you to Operation Rebirth in St. Paris. It is a year-round Christian boarding school for troubled teen boys. Its motto is: "It's better to build boys than to mend men." I encourage you to learn about Operation Rebirth on its website, "operationrebirth.org," or Facebook.

It is not the purpose of this letter to solicit monetary donations,

although it is run strictly on donations. The purpose of this letter is to address a specific need — hay for the winter. This school is on a farm where the students do the work. The livestock and agriculture provides their food. Currently, they have less than 20 bales of hay. They estimate they need 220 bales for the winter. I believe Shelby County can supply that need.

I'm asking for 125 families to donate two bales of hay at \$5 a bale. That's \$10 per family for two bales of hay. I think there are a lot of families, at least 125, that can afford \$10. This is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate to your children the joy of giving at the onset of this Christmas season. There are several ways you can donate:

Greatest: Take the bales of hay directly to Operation Rebirth and see for yourself the program,

meet the staff and students.

Greater: Send your donation of \$10 to Operation Rebirth marked "Hay" in memo.

Great: Bring bales of hay to my home where Operation Rebirth will pick it up.

Good: Send donation of \$10 to my home — checks made out to "Operation Rebirth" with "Hay" in memo.

There are several farms and businesses in Shelby County that sell hay. Prices vary, but Operation Rebirth tells me they can get hay for \$5 a bale. We appreciate your generosity to Operation Rebirth and just know that you'll be helping a very worthy organization that does so much good for the students and families they serve. God bless you and have a blessed Christmas season!

Kathy Thompson
826 Taylor Drive

Only the law-abiding will follow signs

To the editor:

Recently, we had a new restaurant come into Sidney, and I was genuinely happy to see a Fricker's in town. My wife and I went there after it had been open a few days and the service was extraordinary.

Once again I went with my brother, and upon walking up to the entrance I noticed a new sign on the front door — a sign forbidding the lawful carrying of concealed weapons. Under normal circumstances I would have turned around and left, but I was not alone so the decision was not completely mine. We went inside to see another sign with the same message. The wings were excellent and the service was extraordinary, but the presence of the

sign put a damper on the entire thing.

I assume the sign was there to illicit a false sense of security for the patrons and staff. I assume the management of Fricker's believes that the presence of a sign will eliminate the possibility of gunfire in their establishment. It is funny, I saw many people leaving alone and in large groups that were clearly far too drunk to be behind the wheel of a car and yet there was not one sign forbidding them from driving.

Think about it; if a sign can prevent a criminal from bringing in a weapon, then logically a sign could prevent a drunk from getting behind the wheel. I would wager there have been more incidents of

patrons leaving a restaurant and having an accident while intoxicated than there have been of patrons who are legally carrying concealed weapons causing trouble. I don't, however, see a sign at the front door forbidding car keys.

Please remember before anyone responds about guns and alcohol. It is a criminal offense for a licensed concealed carrier to consume any alcohol while they are armed. I am sure someone will respond, "How will you know who is armed?" Well that is the point — only the law-abiding will be inclined to follow the law ... or the signs.

Steve Lewis
21536 Tawawa St.
Tawawa

SCARF notes community support

To the editor:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Shelby County Animal Rescue Foundation, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our community members who have contributed their time, energy and money to help with the recent puppy mill that was found in Shelby County. Over 240 dogs were removed from this deplorable mill and placed in the care of rescue agencies from across Ohio. At this time, all of the dogs from the mill have been fostered.

This unfortunate event brought out the best of Shelby County by creating camaraderie and an uplifting morale and by showing

that we do care as a community about the abused and neglected animals of Shelby County. If it were not for the leadership and dedication of Sheriff Lenhart, Deputy Frey, the Ohio SPCA and all of our local volunteers, none of this could have happened.

The Shelby County Animal Rescue Foundation (SCARF) is a newly founded 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the initiatives of the Shelby County Animal Shelter. The mission of SCARF is to raise funds to support the Shelby County Animal Shelter in safe adoptions, education and community outreach concerning abused and neglected animals, medical procedures, eliminating euthanasia of adoptable

animals, and maintaining best practices. The most significant need for SCARF over the next few weeks will be securing the financial donations to help with the veterinarian costs and transportation costs related to the rescued puppies. We are urging all individuals who are able and willing to donate to make checks payable to SCARF, P.O. Box 671, Sidney, OH 45365. Monthly financial reports are available to review.

SCARF Board of Directors
Eric Bar, president
Joe Laber, vice president
Cheri Dalton, Treasurer
Nicole Laber, secretary
John Scheu, Julie Ehemann,
Ruth Ann Laber, Rob Thorne,
Emily Scheu and Kelton Moore

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Peerless brings Christmas early to New Choices

To the editor:

Christmas came early for New Choices in the form of a donation of time and energy from Peerless Machinery Corp. Mike Gniazdowski, Rob Zielsdorf and Tony Cornett brought other staff from Peerless and a team from Noll-Fisher to make much-needed repairs at the shelter. Drains were repaired, window wells were repaired, windows were sealed, and a ceiling light was hung. The results were basement windows that once turned into fountains when it rained hard are instead now dry without a hint of a leak. The dimly lit office now has plenty of light for staff to function well.

Oftentimes, individuals and companies think the only way to help a nonprofit is through dollar donations. Though money is certainly always greatly appreciated, the donation of time and energy to assist with much-needed repairs and projects can mean even more.

On behalf of myself, my staff and our board of directors, we want to express appreciation to Peerless and commend them for their efforts in being involved in helping our community. We also want to offer a special recognition to Bob Parker of the United Way for helping facilitate the connection between New Choices and Peerless. The efforts of all concerned are appreciated more than you will ever know.

Kathy Lindsey
Executive Director
New Choices Inc.



Meanwhile, at the Base of the Fiscal Cliff.

Living in a giving community

To the editor:

It is wonderful to live and work in such a giving community. On behalf of the Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities, I'd like to express our appreciation to the following restaurants for donating to our United Way campaign "gift card giveaway" that occurred Nov. 9 to wrap up our campaign at the Shelby County Board of DD. I appreciated that I could have a conversation with the management at each of these establishments and they were willing to donate without question.

We are grateful to Bob Evans, Buffalo Wild Wings, O'Charley's, Wingers Sports Bar and Grill, Super Subby's, Doña Cuta, Subway on Wapakoneta Avenue, Culver's and Fricker's.

Nancy Stiefel
Director of Early Intervention
Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities