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National Day of the Horse?

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Community

National 'Day of the Horse' ?

What do a world renowned horse trainer from California and a Newcomerstown librarian have in common? Both want to establish a national "Day of the Horse" to honor the contributions horses have made to the history, heritage and quality of life in the United States.

Dennis Reis of Penn Grove, Calif., is a popular feature on RFD-TV that reaches 21 million viewers across the country. In January 2002, Reis launched an effort to establish the second Saturday of December as the "California Day." In December of 2002, California celebrated the first "Day of the Horse." Reis is currently building support across the country for a national "Day of the Horse" by presenting the day at horse seminars and collecting signatures on petitions. The petitions will be later sent to the U.S. Congress.

Linda Hren, director of the Newcomerstown Public Library, is the founder of the Horses of Hope, a not-for-profit organization that celebrates horses as partners in healing and hope, especially for cancer survivors and other catastrophic illnesses. Hren said the historical and economic contributions made by horses are certainly the most tangible gifts, but she said the therapeutic value of horses is an equally important contribution.

Horses have been used to help physically and mentally handicapped people build motor skills and cognitive development for decades.

Hren said she knows first hand about horses being partners in healing. She is a cancer survivor who went through two years of treatment that included high-dose chemotherapy, radiation and two autologous stem cell transplants.

"My horses were my life-line and I discovered that many other horse lovers had the same experience," Hren said.

On Sept. 30, the "Dennis Reis Day of the Horse Seminar" will bring educational material and entertainment for horse lovers to Hilliard, Ohio. Discount coupons may be purchased by calling Hren at (740) 922-2490. Individuals interested in signing the petition in support of the national "Day of the Horse," may visit www.reisranch.com.