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HORSE CAPITAL DIGEST • 2023 SPRING SPECIAL EDITION

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Iconic Budweiser Hitch Appears at Live Oak

The iconic Budweiser Clydesdale hitch makes appearances on March 18 and 19 at the Live Oak Invitational event in Ocala as part of their grand national tour celebrating 90 years of the world-famous Clydesdales. From Prohibition to major moments in modern culture, the legendary Budweiser Clydesdales embody the American spirit.

All year long, the Clydesdales are making appearances in communities across the country, including several special celebrations like the Live Oak Invitational to commemorate their anniversary. First appearing in 1933, nine decades later, the beloved icons continue to be an integral American touchstone. The 2023 anniversary activations will focus on showcasing not only Clydesdale history, but the story of how the iconic horses remain at the heart of Anheuser-Busch's 160-year evolution. From major sporting events, like the Super Bowl, to events in communities that are home to the brewer's 120 facilities, the Clydesdales and their embodiment of American culture will be showcased on consumers' doorsteps.

In 1933, the Clydesdales made their debut on April 7 as a gift from August A. Busch Jr. and Adolphus Busch III to their father in celebration of the repeal of Prohibition.



Mb Dixon Photography

Today, the legendary Clydesdales are born and raised at Warm Springs Ranch, resting on 300-plus acres of rolling hills in the heart of Missouri. The hitches of the Budweiser Clydesdales are based out Anheuser-Busch's home state of Missouri and spend more than 300 days per year trav-

eling to communities all over the country.

For tickets [click here](#).

This issue's Budweiser Clydesdale photos courtesy of
MB Dixon Photography
mbdixonphotography.com

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Pedigree and Conformation Clinic Coming to Ocala

The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association is hosting a Pedigree and Conformation Clinic on Sunday and Monday, March 19-20, in Ocala. The clinic will be held at the Ocala Breeders' Sales with a field trip to Ocala Stud, in conjunction with the OBS March Sale of 2-Year-Olds in Training.

Speakers include the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association's Tammy Gantt; Dr. Johnny Mac Smith, DVM; Marette Farrell (bloodstock agent); Tod Wojciechowski, director of sales for Ocala Breeders' Sales Company; David O'Farrell from Ocala Stud, and Tami Bobo, among others. Attendees will receive

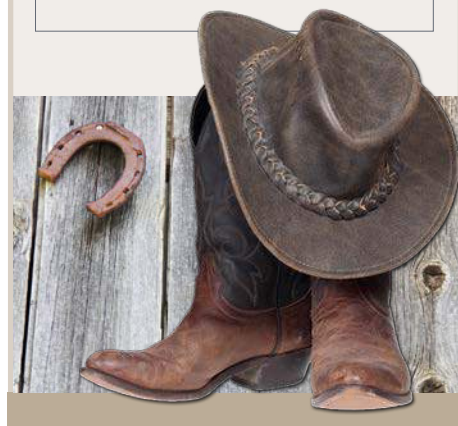
insights on pedigree and conformation evaluation from industry professionals and observe conformation evaluations.

The TOBA Pedigree and Conformation Clinic is geared toward beginners and is for knowledgeable owners and breeders looking to continue their education. The clinic is open to the general public with an advance RSVP. A special discount is available for TOBA and FTBOA members. Meals, educational materials, and a TOBA gift bag are included in the registration. Registration is available online [here](https://www.barkley@toba.org). For more information, contact Barkley N. Porter at barkley@toba.org or (859) 276-6793.



Equine Trade Show Curates Collections

The inaugural All for the Horses Expo, an all equine industry tradeshow, will be held March 3 through 5 at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala. The expo will feature a carefully curated collection of vendors from across the equine industry and is held concurrently with the ninth week of the 2023 Winter Spectacular Show Series. World Equestrian Center encourages vendors from all aspects of the equine industry to apply. The event is presented by Ariat. For pre-registration, vendor application or additional information, contact Christy Baxter at christy.baxter@wec.net or 561-252-4510.





DDJ Youth Help Horse Programs

By Francis LaBelle

For more than a year, participants in the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation's Second Chances Juvenile Program in Ocala have honed their skills in tending to former racehorses. These youth have not only catered to the horses but learned to maintain the facility and its surrounding grounds. They have even taken their show on the road.

The TRF Second Chances youth have been forging a reputation for using their skills to aid Marion County's equestrian community. Recently, they were enlisted by Good Apple Equine Consignments to assist the Paso Fino Horse Rescue at Happy Valley Farm. A back injury that required surgery had put the farm's manager out of commission, and a resurgence of COVID-19 prevented many of Happy Valley's volunteers from helping.

"We learned that some of their fences were damaged from recent storms in the area and that some of the stalls were left in dismal condition," said Velvet Saulsberry, Equine Program Director for TRF Second Chances Youth Program. "Our equine program youths and staff enthusiastically put their barn maintenance vocational skills to



DDJ youth • Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation photo

good use for the good of the equine community."

Assistant Equine Program Director Henry Dallas, Safety and Security Specialist Kenya Harris, Saulsberry, and the Second Chances youth, stripped and prepped stalls, filled water buckets and made things right for the horses. Another perk was getting to meet some goats and puppies.

For their efforts, the Second Chances team was rewarded with a gourmet pizza lunch at the World Equestrian Center-Ocala, the largest equestrian center in the United States. There, they visited the memorial to Sgt. Reckless, a Mongolian mare who became famous for her military service during the Korean War. She was particularly revered for making 51 solo runs in one day to bring supplies to front-line troops in the Battle for Outpost Vegas in March, 1953.

The Second Chances Youth team has also been busy in the entertainment industry. Since August, the team has been earning both community service hours and student hours, helping the preparations for Gala of the Royal Horse. This international showcase was scheduled for

November 12 at the Star K Equestrian Center in Leesburg, GA, and November 26 at the Grand Oaks Resort Covered Arena in Weirsdale.

The Gala of Royal Horses, under the direction of renowned equestrian Rene Gasser, has toured throughout the world. Featured in the Gala are Lipizzaner Stallions, Spanish Andalusians, Friesians, Arabians and even a Quarter Horse. The Second Chances youth took their job seriously.

Saulsberry makes a point of using her personal contacts to spread the word about Second Chances and the success of the youth program. She reached out to Gasser a few years ago, and after explaining the Second Chances program, she made a fan.

"They have been coming here to help us out with cleaning stalls, walking horses, whatever we need," Gasser said. "In turn, we give them little lectures on how and why we do things in training and caring for our horses. The boys really enjoy working with the horses and we love having them."

[Click here](#) for more information.

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*MITS Kevin Yutani photo*

Central Florida is Horse Capital of the World®

In 1997, Ocala/Marion County Horse Capital of the World® and Horse Capital of the World® were trademarked by the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association. Ever since, the marks have become synonymous with the FTBOA and its Association services. While others periodically try its use, by trademark and literally, the county is the Horse Capital with more horses and ponies than any other in the U.S. and Florida ranks third as a state in its horse population.

FTBOA trademarked the phrase to create a brand identity for the area and the services it promotes related to equines. The diversity of breeds and disciplines make the area an ideal setting for any horse fanatic, casual horse lover or for services catering to the horse world.

Horses in Florida are more than pretty scenery in a pasture. They are economic drivers for our county and state. The concentration of equines – particularly the thoroughbred breeding, training and sales industry in Central

Florida – is strongly supported by a network of equine services, such as specialized veterinarians, feed and tack retailers, blacksmith, equine dentists, feed mills and major horse transportation companies by land and by air.

This makes Ocala a great place to enjoy equines with its opportunities to attend world-class horse shows and events, equine venues, recreational activities and farm tours at a variety of venues, farms and showgrounds. Visitors have the chance to go on a farm tour, take a trail ride through our numerous parks and national forest, enjoy a carriage ride, learn polo, visit an equine museum or gallery, attend the world's leading two-year-olds-in-training thoroughbred sales, watch a horse train at Ocala Breeders' Sales or wager on simulcast horse races from the state's tracks and from across the country. The choices are limitless and local citizens are a daily part of the one-of-a-kind experience that only the Horse Capital of the World® can bring.

Florida Racing's Annual Impact

- \$1.5 billion in direct economic impact and \$2.7 billion overall
- \$400,000+ in payroll taxes
- 20,000+ thoroughbreds engaged in racing
- 23,000+ jobs

Source: AHC

Marion County's Equine Impact

- Equines are 18% of the county GDP
- A top breeding region in the world for thoroughbreds
- Thoroughbreds sold at Ocala Breeders' Sales in the past decade valued at more than \$1.3 billion
- OBS buyers come from 49 states and 2 territories and more than 42 countries

Source: AHC

*Mb Dixon Photography*



HITS Horse Shows has New CEO

On Feb. 21, Peter H. Englehart was announced as the new president and chief executive officer for HITS. As the equine industry's leader and largest producer of hunter/jumper shows in the country, HITS will be led by Englehart as he redefines its commitment to creating an exemplary customer experience at all six of its world-class venues.

Englehart's entrepreneurial, managerial and strategic visions have been built upon past tenures with iconic brands such as ESPN, ABC Sports, Sesame Street, Motor Trend magazine, Hot Rod magazine, Rock 'n Roll

Marathon Series, and others. He joined HITS in March of 2022 and has been a part of the visionary team recruited by new owner Traub Capital Partners.

As HITS enters a new era of reimagining its legacy in equine sports, Englehart has helped launch initiatives including the Young Jumper program, developing more dressage events, as well as expanding into a California location at the historic Del Mar Horse Park, which will open in July after a two-year hiatus.

The HITS Ocala Winter Circuit at Post Time Farm continues through March 26. For more than 40 years,

HITS has established itself as an industry leader and the largest producer of hunter/jumper horse shows in the United States. HITS revolutionized the industry when it produced three of the then-richest Grand Prix in the world. By the numbers, HITS operates six venues; 60 weeks of sanctioned hunter/jumper competitions; six weeks of dressage events; with an estimated 65,000 horses competing.



Peter H. Englehart
President and CEO



HITS • Kevin Yutani photo

*Erin Gilmore Photography*

Competitive Excellence Class Offered by Weber

Chester Weber and members of his team will host a conversation about combined driving and what it takes to stay competitive in the sport on March 7 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Live Oak hall at the On Top of the World Communities as part of the Master the Possibilities community educational program. Weber is not only committed to promoting combined driving, but he is also an avid supporter of all equestrian sports as he serves on the USEF Board of Trustees. Chester also serves on the USEF High Performance Driving Committee, the National Driving Committee, the Safety Committee, the

Hearing Committee, the Licensed Officials Committee and the Driving Technical Committee. He is also active in the organization of Live Oak International, which showcases FEI level combined driving and showjumping at his and the Weber family's 5,000-acre thoroughbred breeding farm Live Oak Plantation. Chester has twice been named as a USEF Equestrian of Honor, but he always shares the limelight with his horses, most famously his horse, Jamaica, who was named the 2008 USEF Horse of the Year and in 2013 was inducted into the EQUUS Foundation Hall of Fame. To sign up, [click here](#).

*Erin Gilmore Photography*



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