



W I N T E R E Q U E S T R I A N F E S T I V A L

WEEKLY WIRE

WEEK 3 • JANUARY 21, 2026

SPOTLIGHT ON:
HELENA & TONY STORMANNS

**TOP OFF THE
SEASON WITH THESE
STYLISH SHIRTS**

**SHOW & TELL TAKES
ON NoRA**





A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Today, I'm thinking a week ahead—something I need to get better at during WEF. :-)

In the last two issues of The Wire, we have been featuring partners of the Great Charity Challenge—flip to page 24. In doing so, it has reminded me of what an immensely impactful event the GCC truly is.

This year's goal is to raise \$2 million on the evening of January 31, benefiting 34 Palm Beach County nonprofit organizations.

Since its founding in 2009 by Mark and Paige Bellissimo, the GCC has grown into one of Palm Beach County's most pivotal charitable events,

distributing more than \$24 million to 370 nonprofit organizations serving the local community. The 17th Annual GCC is primed to add to that tally.

Contributions starting at only \$50 play a critical role in helping the event reach its fundraising goals and expand its community impact. Wondering how you can get involved?

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Text-to-Donate: Text GCCWEF to 85511

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to contribute and learn how to help #BeTheChange

THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IN THIS ISSUE:

- Show & Tell: Let show jumping riders Adrienne Sternlicht, Alexandra Volpi and Lucy Deslauriers give you an insider look at making the most of your winter in South Florida.
- How patience paid off for Peter Lutz, Lövsta Stuteri and Katriona.
- Top off your season by shopping stylish riding shirts at Wellington International.
- Catch up with Helena & Tony Stormanns.

The Wire is produced for, about and in celebration of YOU. If you have story ideas, want to share content with us from your Wellington International experience, or would like to submit a letter to the editor—please email press@wellingtoninternational.com.

You can find The Wire distributed weekly on Thursdays throughout the showgrounds and online at WellingtonInternational.com.

All the best,
Lindsay Brock
Editor



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DELIVERIES ON SHOWGROUNDS & AROUND WELLINGTON



PETER LUTZ AND KATRIONA CAN'T BE CAUGHT



A long and determined road led Peter Lutz and Katriona to win the \$140,000 Southern Arches CSI3* Grand Prix and close out WEF 2 on the grass derby field.

Katriona, an 11-year-old Dutch-bred mare (Kannan x BMC Oklund), was acquired and brought to the U.S as a seven-year-old by Lövsta Stuteri. Sourced from Bosch Sporthorses in Holland, Katriona convinced Lutz she was special after he watched the first video of the young horse. Careful development by Lutz and his team produced the mare's first international victory this weekend at WEF.

"She did very well in the [Hermès] 1.50m series last year, and we started doing the bigger classes this summer," said Lutz, who has been campaigning the mare for four years. "We've been consistent but waiting for the double clear. Her owners, Antonia [Ax:son Johnson] and Sophie [Mörner], as well as our entire team, have always believed in her and have been so patient. There was never any pressure—we took

our time, and this is the result."

The pair was one of nine to advance to a jump-off over courses designed by Olaf Petersen Jr. (GER). With nearly two seconds to spare, Lutz and the speedy mare took top call over Ireland's Philip McGuane riding 11-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare Paso Doble SCF for owner Evergate Stables.

Alexandra Worthington (USA) was third aboard 13-year-old Selle Français gelding De L'Oiseliere for owner Turn A Blind Eye, LLC.

"This was our goal this winter; to step up and do the real Sunday grands prix and Saturday night classes," continued Lutz of his plan for the mare. "She's an athlete with a great attitude. Every day that I ride her, I feel like she wants to do whatever I'm asking her to."

Lutz plans to debut Katriona in her first night grand prix during Saturday Night Lights of WEF 3.



SHOW & TELL

We're Show & Tell, a horse show and travel blog guiding you around the show circuit. While we have a permanent winter base in south Florida, we'll be bringing you insider tips this winter on how to make the most of your time here.

New year, new spots. Exploring the NoRa District and other new delights in the greater Palm Beach County area.

Where we've been:

Sana Studios: a beautiful, clean, nontoxic beauty shop that doubles as a facial studio. All the products are vegan and cruelty-free, and they offer a great range of brands at different price points. We're excited to go for their facials, which are also well priced - especially if you get a membership! We try to get regular facials with so much sun exposure during the season - treat yourself! *For a better visual, check out our TikTok: @WeShowandTell!*

Sunday Motor Co.: a new casual cafe with great drinks - especially the matcha (we tried the iced strawberry matcha) and Pablo Palmer (an elevated Arnold Palmer vibe!). The food was solid—raspberry jam toast, the miso salad, and the avocado toast—wouldn't run back for these but would likely order again. The dinner menu is limited but has good tapas-style options. The OG location is a Mobil-station from the 50's, and their second location has a similarly cool vibe. Ps. The merch is good—your boyfriend may even wear it ;)

Also in NoRa, we can recommend:

Van Leeuwen's: out of NYC, great ice cream (obsessed with the peppermint bark sundae atm)

Solidcore: a Megaformer workout that your body will remember the next day

H&H Bagels: classic NYC bagels, nothing super exciting, but very dependable

Next time we're in the area:

Julianna's Pizza: a thin-crust, wood-fired pizza spot from Brooklyn

Other notable newbies:

Polo Room: a really nice atmosphere with great service, but we must comment on how noisy it was! Nevertheless, a great new staple for a Sunday or Monday night dinner. We particularly loved the raw bar dishes (specifically the ceviche and hamachi crudo) and the cocktail options. With lots of good pasta and a robust surf & turf menu, we'll be back.

Drift Market: Beachy and bright — a cute cafe on PB Island across from Buccan. Noteworthy matcha and a fun selection of pastries alongside other lunch options.

We're late to the party on these: Spots new to us

Hive Cafe: we stopped in for some yummy pastries and iced tea before perusing their home goods and clothing shop next door. Will take home a sourdough loaf next time or sit down for lunch. Loved the serene "Palm Beach" aesthetic of beige and green.

Bedner's Farm Market: locally sourced produce and groceries with info about their partner farms, it's smaller than your average grocery store but has more than enough to fulfill all your weekly needs. Nothing like shopping local.

Looking ahead we're eager to go to:

Loot Grocery: the healthy grocery store we've been waiting for... just opened! Check out our TikTok soon for a full review ;)



Tutto Mare: new to Royal Poinciana Plaza, we are excited to try this Sag Harbor (NY) favorite of ours, especially with its waterfront setting

Sour Seed Bagels: 100% sourdough bagel shop with rave reviews and creative flavor options, visitors love the Matcha Fog too. They even have GF bagels.

Higher Order Wellness: a new wellness club in Palm Beach with pilates, yoga, sound bath, meditation classes and a sauna, steam, and cold plunge. You can get a day pass or a membership - we can imagine spending a good chunk of Monday here with the co-working space and cafe - you can get an IV while you work!

Xcel Padel: Padel is having a moment - and we're eager to join the craze. This massive spot has 12 padel courts, a great gym, and tons of wellness offerings to decompress after you play.

Let us know what else we should be trying!

Check out [@weshowandtell](#) on Substack for more recommendations and subscribe to get S&T in your inbox!

- Adrienne, Alex & Lucy



Rene Morillo Garcia

TREATS KATRIONA LIKE A QUEEN

Contributed by Sarah Eakin/Paper Horse Media in collaboration with HorseGrooms

After an exceptional day in his grooming career when his charge, Katriona, won the Southern Arches CSI3* Grand Prix, Rene Morillo Garcia was back at work the next morning and still feeling the excitement of the experience.

"It was a good day for the whole team," he said after Katriona took her first international victory with rider Peter Lutz on the Derby Field to close out week two of the Winter Equestrian Festival. "Everyone was excited. We

celebrated a little last night, but it was quite late when I finished, and work comes first."

Garcia has been with Peter Lutz for 13 years. Working for the US grand prix rider was his first job when he arrived in the States from Mexico. In his hometown, there were plenty of horses around. "I would see them and pet them," he said. "But I did not work with horses until I came here."

Now 31, Garcia says he is still adding to the knowledge that he has gleaned over the years from many people. "Peter has a lot of grooms," he said. "And

I have learned about grooming from working with them."

Garcia has worked specifically with Katriona for four years, and it has been a special connection for him, which comes across when he talks about his relationship with the mare. "I love Katriona—she is a special horse. I have spent four years looking after her, and I have created a bond with her. And it has become something beautiful—taking care of her is like taking care of a queen."

Sunday's class brought special challenges to the grooms when an

unexpected squall sprang up over the Derby field, causing noise and distraction. Katriona, who had already jumped clear to qualify for the jump off, was waiting in the wings, and Garcia said she was unfazed. "The wind didn't bother her," he said. "I walked her around, but she didn't get excited. She was extremely relaxed. She knew it was show time."

When Garcia watches from the ingate, he cannot help but feel emotional. "I get nervous," he said. "I want everything to go smoothly."

Next weekend will be a further test of that, as

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Katriona is currently slated to go in the Saturday Night Lights NetJets CSI4* Prix. "That is the plan at the moment," Garcia said. Katriona competed under the lights for the first time last year in week 11 at WEF in the Hermès 1.50m Classic Series Final and was unlucky to not make the jump-off. "She had two time faults," Garcia said. "But she jumped well—and of course the time faults did not bother her."

As winning groom at last Sunday's Grand Prix, Garcia was the recipient of the Double H Farm Grooms Award and a \$500 check.

"It was emotional," Garcia said of the presentation. "And it gives me motivation."

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About HorseGrooms

HorseGrooms is a global platform dedicated to supporting, educating, and connecting grooms across all disciplines of equestrian sport. Through educational resources, interviews, in-person events, and an international online community, HorseGrooms works to improve horse welfare while giving grooms the recognition, tools, and support they deserve.

HorseGrooms collaborates with events, brands, and professionals worldwide to share practical knowledge and real stories from the people who care for horses every day, from local barns to top-level competition venues.

Learn more at www.horsegrooms.com

PURE, INNOVATIVE, AND UNAPOLOGETICALLY SMOOTH DEFIANT WHISKY

Defiant Whisky, produced by Blue Ridge Distilling Company in the foothills of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, represents a bold, unconventional approach to American craft whisky. Nestled in Bostic's Golden Valley, the distillery draws pure water from a limestone aquifer directly beneath its facility, emphasizing

simplicity and quality with just four core ingredients: premium two-row malted barley (or rye for their rye expression), specially cultured yeast, toasted American white oak, and that pristine mountain water.

At the heart of Defiant's lineup is their flagship American Single Malt Whisky, crafted from 100% malted barley in a nod to Scottish traditions but infused with American ingenuity. Unlike conventional single malts that require years in barrels, Defiant employs a proprietary process, using toasted oak spirals or staves in stainless steel tanks for enhanced wood contact in as little as 60 days to six months. This results in a remarkably smooth, 82-proof spirit with notes of honey, vanilla, caramel, malt, and subtle oak—often described as cleaner and more approachable than traditional peaty Scotches, with a warmth that evokes bourbon-like richness without the corn base.

In 2017, Defiant expanded its portfolio with a 100% Rye Whisky, tackling the

notoriously temperamental rye grain to produce a spicy, robust expression. This rye has garnered significant acclaim, earning silver and gold medals in competitions like the San Francisco World Spirits Competition, the New York International Spirits Competition, and even placing third worldwide in 2023 in the prestigious International Whisky Competition. Its bold peppery notes, balanced by the distillery's signature smoothness, showcase Defiant's mastery in handling challenging grains while maintaining their minimalist philosophy.

Notably absent from current offerings is a traditional bourbon, which requires at least 51% corn and new charred American oak barrels, but it is in the works – currently aging in oak barrels until the whisky tells us when the time is right. Blue Ridge Distilling Co. built the brand

on defiance against industry norms: no artificial additives, no use of enzymes, and no rigid categories. This revolutionary method has earned Defiant numerous awards, positioning it as a pioneer in the burgeoning American Single Malt category (officially recognized by the TTB in 2025).

Defiant Whisky invites enthusiasts to experience craft distillation redefined—pure, innovative, and unapologetically smooth. Whether sipped neat to appreciate its clean malt profile or in cocktails highlighting its unique character, it embodies the spirit of the American frontier. Visitors to the distillery can tour the grain-to-glass process and taste these expressions firsthand, proving that great whisky needn't follow old rules to stand out.



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LÖVSTA FUTURE CHALLENGE

CONTINUES TO SUPPORT UP-AND-COMING HORSES IN DRESSAGE AND JUMPING

Lövsta Future Challenge is proud to continue their series in the United States, supporting young horses to reach their full potential in both dressage and jumping.



Winner of Lövssta Future Challenge 2024, Philip McGuane and My Lady van de Krekel

For the second season, Lövssta Future Challenge is presenting a \$3,000 Groom's Award for each discipline, given to the grooms of the top three placed combinations in each final.

FROM SWEDEN TO THE REST OF THE WORLD – THE JOURNEY OF LÖVSTA FUTURE CHALLENGE

Founded in 2011 by icons Tinne Vilhelmson Silfvén and Louise Nathhorst, with the support of Antonia Ax:son Johnson, Lövssta Future Challenge was created to advance Sweden's standing in the equestrian world while serving as a model of sustainable competition. Over a decade later, this vision has grown internationally. Lövssta Future Challenge now includes

national tours in Sweden for U25 riders and young horses in dressage and jumping, along with international events around Europe.

Since its U.S. debut in 2020, the series has seen more than 500 horses representing over 20 nations compete in Wellington. Several participants have gone on to international Grand Prix, for example Jennifer Williams and Joppe K and Marcus Orlob with Jane, members of the U.S. Olympic team in Paris 2024. These results reflect how the program's mission — to bridge the gap between

developing and elite sport — is truly working in practice

LÖVSTA FUTURE CHALLENGE DRESSAGE IN WELLINGTON

The Lövssta Future Challenge Dressage – USA is about to enter its seventh season, offering a tour for young Grand Prix horses (from 8–11 yo) with five qualifiers in Wellington. The top two riders from each qualifier will secure one of the highly sought-after spots in the finale during week 11. The qualifiers will be held in Intermediate II and the final in Grand Prix for Young Horses.

With \$15,000 in total prize money and no entry fees, Lövssta continues to support the riders and teams around them.

JUMPING INTO 2026: LÖVSTA FUTURE CHALLENGE VISION FOR FUTURE SHOW JUMPING STARS

The Lövssta Future Challenge Jumping tour provides seven-year-old horses the chance to gain invaluable experience in a competitive environment. This upcoming season, the tour will host seven qualifiers throughout the Winter Equestrian Festival circuit,

culminating in a grand finale at Wellington International with \$25,000 in prize money.

Reflecting on last year's season, Sophie Mörner, founder of Lövssta Future Challenge Jumping US, says:

"We were thrilled about the outcome of last year's season. With over 200 entries from more than a dozen nationalities, we saw how crucial it is to put future stars into the spotlight. By giving them the opportunity to compete at Wellington International, we hope to equip them with the experience they need for a successful future."

That vision is already paying off — former winners such as Pablo C and Charlotte Jacobs have competed to internationally up to 1.50m-level, while 2024 champion My Lady van de Krekel went on to win CSI3* and CSI2* Grand Prix classes during the 2025 season.

HONORING HORSEMANSHIP AND GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Beyond competitive success, Lövssta Future Challenge remains deeply committed to sustainability, horsemanship, and community. One example of this commitment is the ongoing collaboration with Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center, a facility that among other things provides equine-assisted therapy for people with disabilities. For the 2026 season, Lövssta Future Challenge will donate \$100 for each participant in its U.S. events to Vinceremos, helping to support its life-changing programs for people of all ages.

"It's equally important for us to look beyond the arena to places where these incredible animals bring joy, healing, and hope in ways that far surpass medals or trophies," Johnson concludes.



Winner of Lövssta Future Challenge Dressage Brittany Fraser Beaulieu with her groom together with Antonia Ax:son Johnson, Lövssta Stuteri

"We're delighted to support the sport here in Wellington and to continue our commitment to the most essential part of our sport—the grooms. These dedicated caretakers are the ones who look after the most valuable part of our sport, our wonderful horses,"

— Antonia Ax:son Johnson, founder Lövssta Future Challenge and owner Lövssta Stuteri.

2026 WEF VENDORS



AROUND THE GROUNDS

From the Wellington International Photography Collective



AROUND THE GROUNDS

From the Wellington International Photography Collective



SPOTLIGHT ON: Helena & Tony Stormannns



In honor of last week's Family Night at Wellington International, we sat down with international show jumping rider and respected trainer Helena Stormannns and her son Tony Stormannns.

Known for her thoughtful horsemanship and precision, Helena has built a career centered on developing horses and riders for success. Tony is a rising U25 rider and winner of last year's Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix. A former FEI Junior European Champion, Stormannns is climbing the ranks at WEF once again.

Keep reading to learn more about the Stormannns family dynamic and what's next:

Helena, take us back to the beginning of your career in the saddle:

I started riding when I was five. To be honest, the minute I sat on a pony, I never wanted to do anything else.

I didn't come from a "horsey" family, so I started mucking out and doing barn chores to ride extra ponies. When I was about 12, I started doing small shows. During that time, a lady approached me and offered me three ponies to ride. She had bought them for her children, but they didn't want to ride. So, I rode and learned on those ponies.

Eventually, it progressed and progressed, and I started Pony Club and did all the things you can do in England. As I progressed and got older, probably around '77, I rode in the European Pony Championships and won a silver medal.

Later, I started buying and selling horses. My dad was a car dealer, so I always say I have buying and selling in my blood.

I started buying thoroughbreds—three and four-year-olds from bloodstock sales in England. I would break them myself, ride them at the shows and sell them.

Finally, I got a bit of money saved for a horse called Just Malone. I put all my money into that horse, which is probably a bit stupid looking back, but he was a very special horse. He took me into the senior divisions, and we won the Rome 5* Grand Prix.



When Tony began riding, what was it like watching him grow into the sport—not only as a mother, but also as his trainer?

Helena: I don't see myself as his trainer. I see myself as his mom. I try to guide him, although he has to find out on his own and make his own mistakes. He knows I'm there to tell him about them [the mistakes], but most of the time he already knows.

Tony: When she's silent, I'm worried the most.

Helena: The sport of jumping is such a long road. It's a marathon, not a sprint. It's important to stay very grounded and not get over the top when you've won something. I always say you're only as good as your next class. Forget the last class, because it's over the minute you've won. You must be pushing ahead and thinking about your next round.

Helena, you've trained multiple top riders, including Jessica Springsteen, William Whitaker, and, currently, Nina Mallevaey, who is No. 8 in the world and No. 1 in the U25 rankings. What are key takeaways you want your students to learn from their time with you?

I want them to have a better knowledge of how a horse operates. It's the whole package, learning how they behave, their quirks and how they need to be handled.

For me, horsemanship is learning their behavior. Be there when the blacksmiths are there, be there when the vets are there, and learn about the physics of the horse. Learn about how they move, how to feed them and live with them.

That's why Nina is where she is. World No. 8 is a big achievement at that age (25 years old). She eats, sleeps and breathes horses. She's always in the stable. We are very fortunate for the Rein family, who own all of Nina's rides. Without them, she wouldn't be where she is today. She's an ideal student because she's like a sponge. I don't have to teach her how to ride, she can ride.

Tony, this same week last year you won the National Grand Prix. How do you feel you've grown as a rider over the past year?

I think I have grown a lot, especially within the past four months. The past year was a lot of positive pressure on me, competing with riders who are faster than me and jump bigger than me. I've gained a lot more patience. I'm not exactly where I want to be yet, but I've improved. I've been lucky to work with many different trainers this past year. One example being Franke Sloothaak—I worked with him two or three days before jumping at Aachen. That was a great experience.

Helena, how do you think Tony has grown as a rider, in and out of the saddle, in the past year?

It's never black and white in horses. There's always this grey area that you must get through. You can be in the good, in the white, then in the grey, then back to black, and you must work through it to get back into the white. I'd rather someone say I'm holding them back, versus I put them in too early, and it goes wrong. The same applies to the horses. I'd rather we do three smaller classes and the horse jump well, than push the horse too early and confuse the horse. It's my job to guide Tony in the right direction and teach him when a mistake happens.

Tony, looking ahead, what goals have you set for yourself at WEF and for the remainder of the year?

Tony: Making my mom happy.

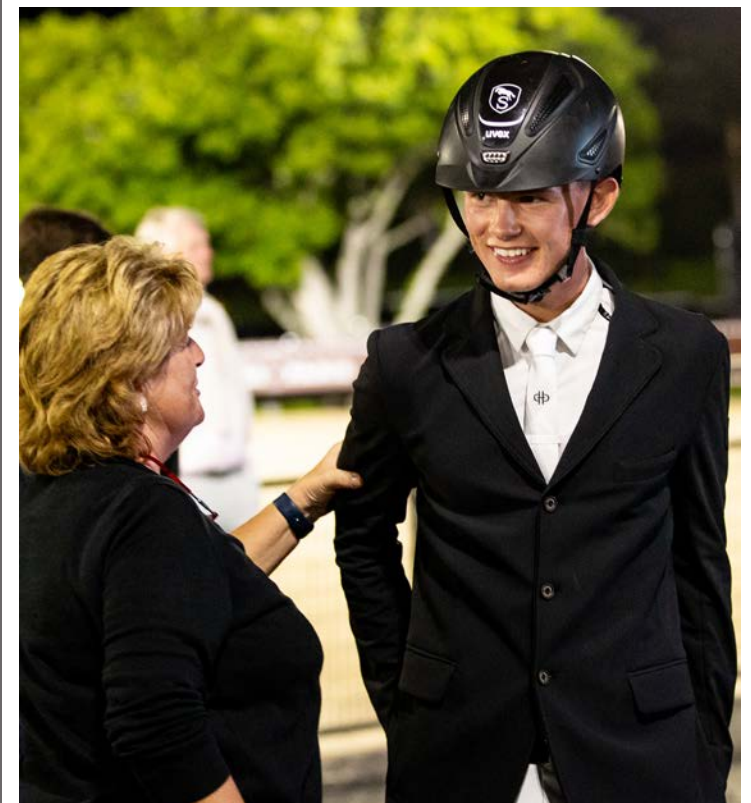
Helena: Jumping clear rounds!

Tony: Since I'm not married, I must say: happy mom, happy life.

What does being at WEF mean to you both?

Tony: I would say it's nearly home.

Helena: I've spent my whole life traveling—week in, week out—to different places with a suitcase. For me to stay in one place is heaven on earth. It's heaven on earth to not pack a suitcase and be able to get out of the same bed. It's not work for me; it's life for me.





CHAMPIONS GALLERY



Gabriela Caicedo rode Tully Lark to champion of the WEF 2 Itty Bitty Jumper division for owner/trainer Mailin Delia Beckman.



Billboard, owned by Lauren Bialy and ridden by Maggie Gould, was champion of the WEF 2 USHJA 2'6" Hunter Division.



Lights Out, owned and ridden by Karen Lucian, was champion of the WEF 2 Always Faithful Equestrian Club Older Crossrail division.



Clea Marteau rode Turning Point, owned by Amelia Burnside, to champion of the Always Faithful Equestrian Club Younger Crossrail division during WEF 2.



Antonia Shapiro Pasquel rode Highlands Heaven Sent, owned by Erin Stewart, to champion of the WEF 2 Short Stirrup Hunter division.



Cannon Beach, ridden by Michael Britt-Leon and owned by Kelly Sims, won the Equine Tack & Nutritionals 3'9" Green Hunter Handy round, earning them the Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award for WEF 2, presented by Laura Fetterman.



CHAMPIONS GALLERY



Falcon, ridden by Victoria Morcombe and owned by Ten Carrot LLC, earned the Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award presented by Laura Fetterman after winning the \$15,000 Griffis Residential NAL 1.35m Junior Jumper Classic.

BRAINJUICE UNDER 25 GRAND PRIX SERIES

1	CAMPBELL BROWN USA	71 PTS
2	ARIANA MARNELL USA	64 PTS
3	TY SIMPSON USA	62.5 PTS
4	CAROLINE MAWHINNEY USA	60.5 PTS
	VIRGINIA BONNIE USA	60.5 PTS

Campbell Brown & Colina Z are presented as the first grand prix winners of the 2026 BrainJuice U25 Series by BrainJuice CEO & CMO, Lisa Ellis.

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LEADING LADY RIDER AWARD STANDINGS

PRESENTED BY MARTHA W. JOLICOEUR, DOUGLAS ELLIMAN

1	NATALIE DEAN USA	190 PTS
2	JESSICA MENDOZA GBR	164 PTS
3	MCKAYLA LANGMEIER USA	142 PTS
4	MIMI GOCHMAN USA	128 PTS
5	MARILYN LITTLE USA	123 PTS

HERMÈS 1.50M CHAMPIONSHIP JUMPER SERIES

1	LILLIE KEENAN USA	74 PTS
2	CIAN O'CONNOR IRL	51 PTS
3	LUIS FERNANDO LARRAZABAL VEN	44 PTS
4	PABLO MEJIA VILLA COL	42 PTS
5	BEN MAHER GBR	32 PTS

\$25,000 LEADING INTERNATIONAL RIDER BONUS STANDINGS

PRESENTED BY MICHAEL SMITH

1	GONZALO BUSCA ROCA ESP	\$42,000
	PETER LUTZ USA	\$42,000
2	PHILIP MCGUANE IRL	\$28,000
3	MARILYN LITTLE USA	\$27,700
4	ALEXANDRA WORTHINGTON USA	\$25,800

DON LITTLE MASTERS STANDINGS

PRESENTED BY RUSHY MARSH FARM

1	CAMILLE PACHECO CESARSKI & FLINT T.S. ET	46 PTS
2	ELIZABETH MALONEY & CLEMENTINE	41 PTS
3	PHILIP STEINKRAUS & PAUL DE LUXE	39 PTS
4	DIMITRI PAULI & POP CORN	32 PTS
5	KAREN ARRIGONI & AGR COLOMBIA	28 PTS
	BLYTHE MASTERS & PALERMO VAN PAAL 2	28 PTS



After finishing third in the \$140,000 Southern Arches CSI3* Grand Prix, Alexandra Worthington is presented with the Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Leading Lady Rider Award by Martha Jolicoeur (right) and Dr. Stephen Norton.

LILLIE KEENAN OFF AND RUNNING WITH HIGHWAY TN

Lillie Keenan and Highway TN made a stunning debut during WEF 2, winning the \$50,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix.

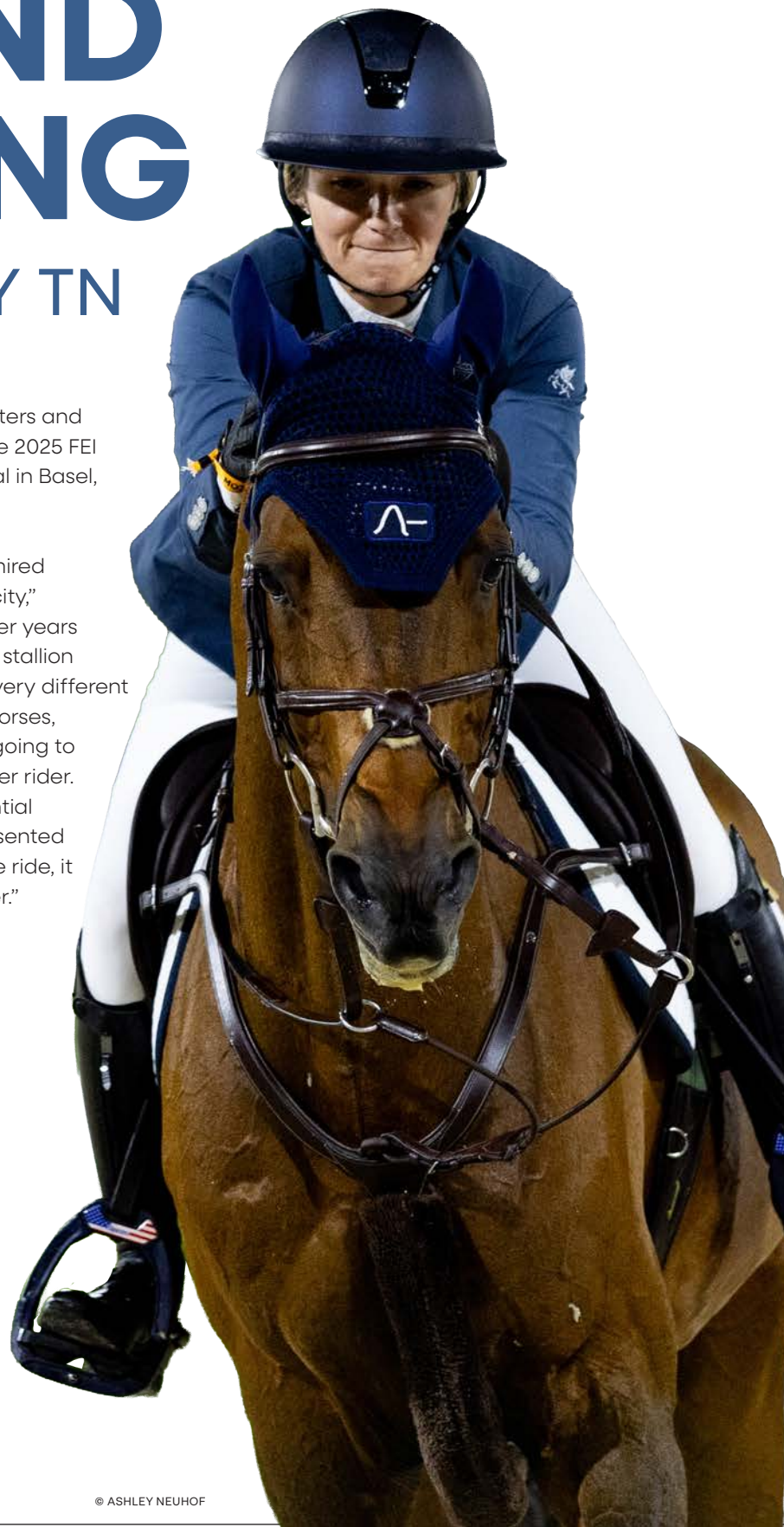
USA's Keenan took over the ride on Highway TN, owned by Team Nijhof, for the 2026 competition season and lived up to expectations during their first grand prix outing.

"I'm incredibly blessed that I got this opportunity," said Keenan of her recent lease of the 14-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion (Eldorado Vd Zeshoek TN xChellano Z), previously ridden by Dutch Olympian Willem Greve (NED). "The relationship that he and Willem have—I can't replicate that—but he educated the horse so beautifully. I know there's nothing I'll do that he hasn't already done. Tonight, I wanted to get to know him and start to develop our own partnership."

With Greve, Highway TN won the Rolex Grand Prix at the

2024 Dutch Masters and competed at the 2025 FEI World Cup™ Final in Basel, Switzerland.

"I've always admired the horse's ferocity," said Keenan after years of watching the stallion compete. "He's very different than my other horses, and I think he's going to make me a better rider. When the potential opportunity presented itself to have the ride, it was a no-brainer."



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Jaun Manuel Gallego (ESP) aboard Chuflay—an 11-year-old Westphalian gelding by Cornet Obolensky—took second behind Keenan. Rounding out the podium, Mckayla Langmeier and Riesling van de Gaathoeve, a nine-year-old Belgian Warmblood stallion owned by Rafferty Farm, placed third.

After placing top five in Thursday's qualifier—their first-ever competition together—Keenan made the decision to tackle her and Highway TN's first grand prix. "It was bold to go straight into a grand prix, but the horse knows his job," she said. "If I'm any kind of professional, I should be able to do it, and we pulled it off."

Keenan, who has further deepened her string ahead of bids for the 2026 World Championships in Aachen, concluded by saying, "Team Nijhof has placed huge trust in me. In a career, you only get so many opportunities with horses that truly love their job, and I can tell just by this horse's expression that he really loves his job. I'm making the most of the moment."



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SPOTLIGHT ON:

Great Charity Challenge Partners



LOUISBURG FARM

17 years ago, Louisburg Farm became one of the first participants in the Great Charity Challenge, aligning with its mission to support the non-profits that serve the local community of Palm Beach. Run by long-time friends of Anne Caroline Valtin, Executive Director of GCC, Louisburg Farm stays involved in more than one way.

Paul Butterworth, manager, speaking on behalf of Louisburg Farm's owner and founder, Elizabeth Johnson, says they became involved out of a simple desire to connect with their

community and give back. Throughout the years of involvement, it has become a tradition to participate.

"It ties in with our desire to help support the local community with horses, and there aren't many ways that you can really do that," Paul says of how GCC connects Louisburg Farm with Palm Beach County.

The GCC acts as a good reminder to the equine industry about recognizing a need to support those within their community. "It certainly makes you aware, with such a busy industry, most

of us have very little time to actually stop and think," Paul stated.

Paul shared that the highlight of the night is bringing out representatives of their partnered nonprofit to watch the friendly competition. "You really get to see a lot of their reactions firsthand, it's extremely rewarding, and a pretty powerful moment to experience."

It may have taken 17 years for Louisburg Farm to take home a GCC victory, but their patience prevailed, and last year they had the honor

of winning the top purse of \$100,000 for the Ark of Palm Beach County.

The Ark of Palm Beach County is a non-profit dedicated to changing the conversation around disabilities by defying definitions, inspiring possibilities and improving the lives of the people they serve.

Louisburg Farms has been a true testament to supporting a greater cause and will continue to nurture the community it gets to call home.



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