



ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL

# AGDF TIMES

WEEK 7 • FEBRUARY 19, 2026

SPAIN'S PABLO  
GÓMEZ MOLINA  
MAKES HIS MARK

IN SPOTLIGHT:  
GEÑAY VAUGHN

HUMBLE  
BEGINNINGS IN  
LONDON LEAD TO  
HIGH STAKES FOR  
LISA TRAPPITT





# A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**A** dressage leadline? Yes – it's happening. Don't miss it this Sunday.

And there's so much more! Isabell Werth has arrived, the competition will be epic, but there's also tons happening outside the competition ring. Here's your guide to AGDF 7 Friday Night Stars, presented by Zen Elite Equestrian Center.

**6 p.m.**  
Join us in Vendor Village for a Sip & Shop featuring complimentary cocktails and light bites as you browse your favorite vendors.

**6:20 p.m.**  
The Zen Elite Equestrian Center Stallion Show takes center stage, showcasing exceptional talent before the night's featured competition.

**6:55 p.m.**  
Please rise for the National Anthem, performed live by Taylor Dayne.

**7 p.m.**  
The CDI-W Grand Prix Freestyle competition begins.

**9:30 p.m.**  
The evening continues with a special live concert performance. Shhh... it's still a secret, but you won't want to miss this one.

A heartfelt thank you to Zen Elite Equestrian Center for elevating tonight's experience and creating such a memorable evening for our dressage community.

Things you don't want to miss in this issue:

- Find out what motivates Geñay Vaughn on page 14
- Meet Pablo Gómez Molina and groom: Lisa Trappitt on page 18
- The GORGEOUS work coming from the Wellington International Photography Collective

and GDF official photographer Centre Line Media on page 16

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All the best,  
**Lindsay Brock**  
Editor



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# SPAIN'S PABLO GÓMEZ MOLINA

## MAKES HIS MARK WITH FREESTYLE DEBUT

Spanish rider Pablo Gómez Molina debuted Servus Ymas in the horse's first-ever CDI freestyle and topped the Coastal Steel Structures CDI4\* Grand Prix Freestyle during Friday Night Stars in Week 5 of AGDF. Their bold Queen routine, which included a spectacular final centerline of piaffe into extended trot into piaffe into halt, was rewarded with 74.49%, with a high score of 76.45% from British judge Stephen Clarke.

Devon Kane of Wellington, FL, finished just behind Gómez Molina with her 74.235% ride to Latin rhythms on Diamante Farms' 14-year-old gelding Vamos (Vivaldi x Insterburg). She was also awarded the Leading Lady Freestyle Rider Award, sponsored by Frank & Eileen. Susan Dutta (USA) claimed the yellow sash for her disco music routine on Flying D Equine Company's 16-year-old Don Design DC (Der Designer x Sir Donnerhall).

The class served as a qualifier for the US Open of Dressage series, now in its second year. Seven of this season's 24 qualifiers are

held at AGDF before the final in California in November.

Gómez Molina has been competing Servus Ymas, a 13-year-old San Amour x Depardieu gelding owned by Cristina Danguillecourt, Javier Bacariza and Yeguada De Ymas, since he was five. He was delighted with the horse's performance, grinning as he completed his test, which was originally designed for another horse.

"I had a bit of doubt about today because in the grand prix he was spooky with the wind and the rain," said Gómez Molina, who has benefitted from training with Ali Brock over the past month. "But once I got on, he was really focused. There's no better place to try these things than here.

"This win is really special because we struggled to find our groove



last year with Servus," he continued. "We built up through the levels together, so it's always rewarding to come to the CDI level and win. He's really spicy but also is powerful and fun to ride. The first show we did in Week 1 wasn't the best, so this one confirms that we progressed and that we keep growing and—hopefully—getting better.

"I want to do the Nations Cup [AGDF 11]," added Gómez Molina, whose groom Lisa Trappitt was awarded the groom's award, presented by The Horse of Course. "Then, our main goal is to go to Europe to show there and hopefully get a chance to be on the Spanish team [for the FEI World

Championships in Germany in August]."

Judge William Warren (USA) said, "Pablo's horse had some spice, but he made it work in his favor tonight. It all came together for him, and he's such a showman that he gets the crowd really engaged. It was well choreographed, and it made it exciting to sit in the box and watch Pablo produce what he did."

Gómez Molina's victory shot him to the top of the standings in the Stillpoint Dressage Leading International Freestyle Rider rankings, where he is tied for first place with Christian Simonson (USA) and Susan Pape (GBR).





# HOMEGROWN STRAIGHT FROM WELLINGTON

## A LOOK INTO HAIG LANDSCAPE

**By Raelyn Baker**

Straight from the grassroots of Wellington, FL, longtime resident and community member Daniel Haig has made a name for himself in his own backyard. What started as a simple neighborhood chore has since grown into a successful business, with customer satisfaction at the forefront of every job. When Wellington International reached out to Haig

Landscaping to provide their design expertise in preparation for Week 7 of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival, Haig had no problem stepping up to the plate.

With a background in commercial construction, Haig dove into landscaping when the construction industry took a turn in 2008. He started asking neighbors if they needed their lawns mowed, which evolved into

distributing flyers, and Haig Landscaping was born in 2011 through word of mouth.

“I love my hometown—I wouldn’t choose any other place in the world,” said Haig of his roots in Wellington. “The atmosphere brings a lot of people together from all over the world. We meet a lot of different people, and it’s very cool to see.”

Starting as a two-person crew, Haig Landscaping

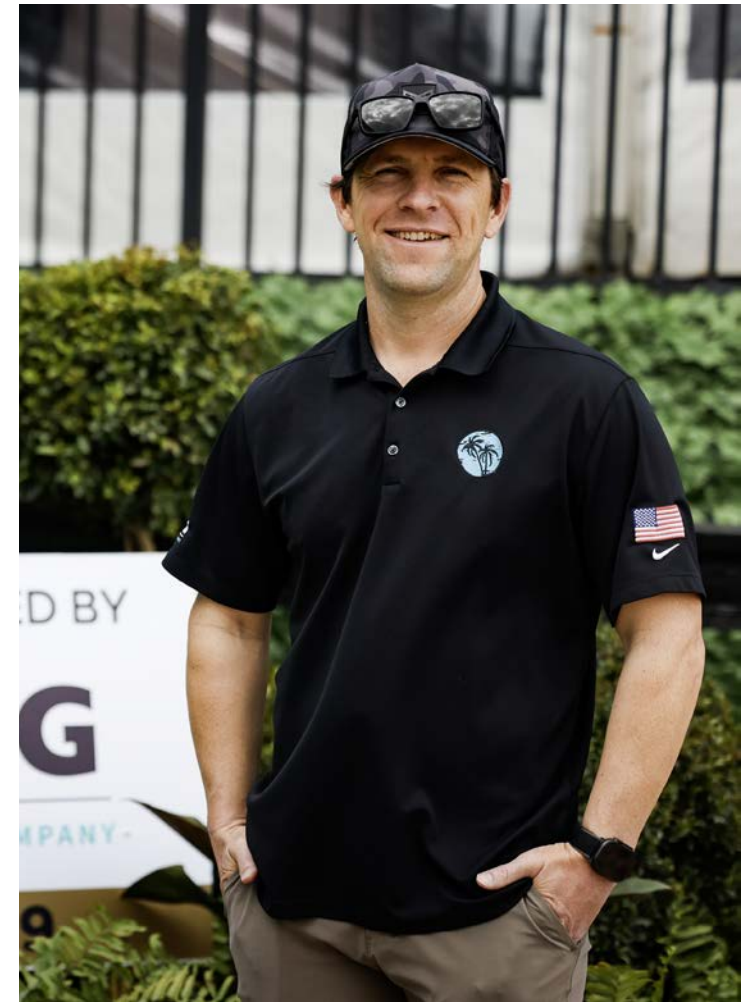
naturally began working on farms in Wellington. As time went on, he used his knowledge, previous experience and passion to gain the trust of his customers. Haig Landscaping has gradually become a leading landscape provider in Wellington and for the equestrian community that calls it home.

Specializing in landscape design and installation for residential and commercial properties, Haig Landscaping focuses on maximizing outdoor spaces while matching visual consistency across properties. With expertise in pest control, artificial turf installation, landscape lighting, maintenance, and more, Haig Landscaping

takes pride in delivering thoughtfully crafted designs that match any vision.

“Today, we range anywhere from 50 to 90 employees depending on season,” stated Haig on the growth of his team.

When asked about how he feels about seeing his signage in the ring during one of the most anticipated weeks at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival, Haig stated, “I grew up here and since I’ve been in the community for so long, it’s definitely been a goal of mine to get to this level and it’s nice to see my name out there.”



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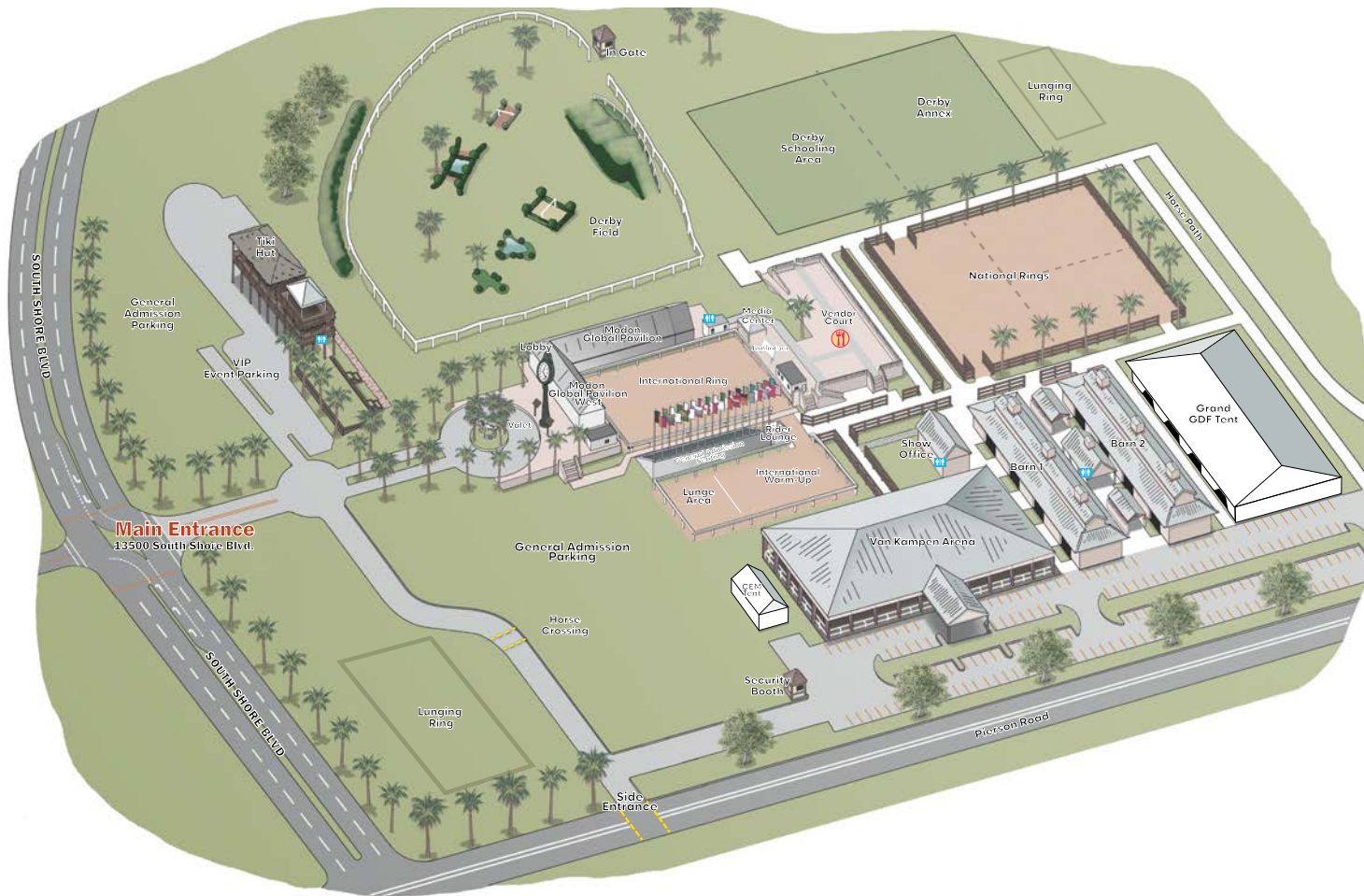
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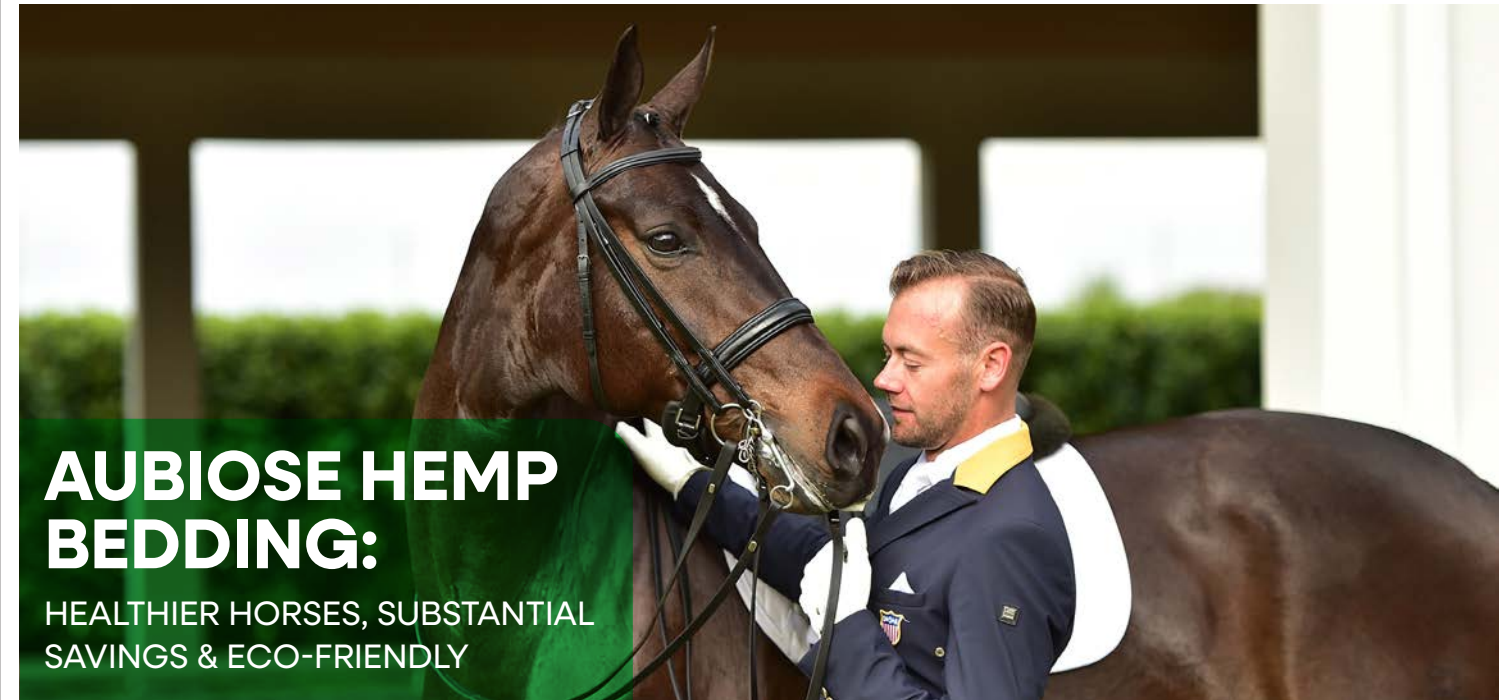
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In 2025, we partnered with a respected Wellington-based

large-animal veterinarian who is also a frequent competitor at WEF. Two horses were bedded with Aubiose Hemp Bedding for a month, after which a full drug test panel was conducted at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in New York, adhering to USEF testing standards. Once again, the toxicology results came back clean. Currently, Aubiose is also conducting full-scale FEI testing in France, as there are no FEI labs in the United States.

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Annual x8 stalls = \$40,560

**BARN B**  
AUBIOSE HEMP BEDDING  
(\$30-35.00 per bale for larger bales)

- Set up stall x12 bags = \$396 per stall
- Strip stall x4 per year = \$1426 annually\*\*
- Add 1 bag of Aubiose weekly = \$1716

Annual Total per stall = \$3142

Annual x8 stalls = \$25,136



# SPECIAL AWARDS



The N2 Saddlery Peak Performance Award winner was Carolin Mailmann, who scored 65.054% in the National Grand Prix on Grison. Coach Lauren Knopp joined her in the presentation.



The Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award went to Donja KWG, ridden by owner Denise Steele. Donja was purchased as a trail horse and became a grand prix horse. From L to R. Michaela Cannon, Donja's groom; Susan Pape, trainer; Denise and Ken Steele with Donja after scoring 63.042% in the Grand Prix.



Hemp Bedding.Org's "Auboise Top Pick Award" went to Olympian Kelly Layne, who rode Que Jolie to 65.558% in the National Grand Prix. Kelly's mother Helen Anstee—also a grand prix rider and FEI-level judge—assisted with the presentation.



Congratulations to the two Garaman Lusitanos Achievement Award winners for the Week 5 CDI2\* Small Tour: CDI2\* FEI Intermediate winner Signe Kirk Kristiansen riding Blue Hors Zee Me Blue and CDI2\* FEI Intermediate II winner Kate Shoemaker riding Vianne.



The 3 Graces Achievement Award went to Lilly Kasselmann and her FEI pony, Nasdaq FH. This pair won the FEI Pony Individual Test with 74.054%.



# SPECIAL AWARDS



Ashley Holzer won the Zen Elite Award for AGDF 5, awarded to a positive person with passion, enthusiasm and great horsemanship; someone who encourages other riders, and supports teammates and competitors; someone who is Zen.

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# IN SPOTLIGHT: GEÑAY VAUGHN



**G**eñay Vaughn is an international dressage competitor and an assistant trainer at Starr Vaughn Equestrian in Elk Grove, CA. Alongside her mom, Michele Vaughn, she has a passion for breeding and developing young horses into Grand Prix horses.

In 2023, Vaughn made her Grand Prix debut with her current mount Gino in Wellington. This combination has been very successful, becoming the first athlete to win two consecutive qualifiers at the US Equestrian Open of Dressage, also qualifying them for the 2025 FEI World Cup™ Final.

Early in life, Geñay competed at the FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC)

as a Junior in 2009 and a Young Rider in 2010. In 2015, she was selected as member of the first U.S. Dressage CDI/U25 Team. She made appearances at Rotterdam and Hagen and then in 2017 brought home the silver medal in the FEI Nations Cup on Donarweiss GGF.

We met up with Geñay to discuss her riding story and recent competitions:

**How has your family's legacy influenced your love for the sport of dressage?**

**A:** My mom is originally from Wisconsin, where she grew up on a dairy farm and had a horse. That's where my parents met and then moved to Sacramento, where my dad's family is

from. She didn't really have any friends in Sacramento, so she decided to take some lessons down the street. There was a big flood in our area in the 90's, so she went around with her horse trailer, rescuing horses from the flood. She found a miniature pony in someone's garden shed in their backyard and rescued him. When she went to return him, they said she could keep him, and that became my first pony.

It was like love at first sight. I was totally addicted. I didn't even want to go to school; I just wanted to hang out with my pony. I would take my halter, tie it into a makeshift bridle, and ride bareback. I did pony club, and I would go on to show in dressage, jumpers, hunters and eventing. When I was around

15, my mom said I needed to pick one discipline and be serious about it. Initially, I picked jumping, but eventually choosing dressage worked out perfectly.

**Who was the person who influenced you the most in your riding?**

**A:** Definitely my mom because she was my coach growing up, and she taught me horsemanship. She has such a strong passion for horses and always puts them before the competing and riding aspects.

**What is your partnership with Gino like?**

**A:** He's a character. He's definitely my best friend first, and then we are teammates.

PHOTOS © CENTRE LINE MEDIA



We spend every day together; I'm his groom and his person. I put him on the walker from his stall seven days a week, I turn him out, and I do his night check. I know everything about him. If it's not me, my mom will fill in for me, but Gino is a one-person type of horse because he's very particular and quirky. We are inseparable, and I think that's probably what makes us have such a tight bond. Our relationship comes first, and then we compete on the side.

**How do you balance competing, training and time off?**

**A:** Our training schedule is based on our set competition schedule. The horses work four days a week at home, and then I am at the barn seven days a week to turn them out anytime they are not being ridden. My goal is to keep the horses happy. Gino is such an overachiever that he does not need to be drilled on things. He is so smart and knows what he is supposed to be doing. The less he does, the better he is.

I try to keep it fun for him and do the same for me. My philosophy is that I want the horses to be excited to go to the competition so that we can enjoy it together.

**How do you maintain Gino's incredible tail in and out of showing?**

**A:** He does have extensions that were put by Emily Wolf from Murrieta, CA, just before coming to Florida. He has a beautiful tail, but he rubbed it out a while ago. Before the World Cup, someone recommended that I put extensions in to make it look a little fuller. His natural tail is almost where it should be, but not quite there. I take care of his hair way better than I do mine.

**Do you have a favorite song that you listen to before you compete?**

**A:** It's not always the same, but lately I have been listening to Megan Thee Stallion. I like something to pump me up and put me in a good mood. It changes a lot, so we'll see what I end up listening to before the next show.



**What is your thought process before you enter the ring?**

**A:** My thought process is to have fun and enjoy the moment. This is what I've worked for my whole life, and I do not want to be stressed. I want to have fun because it can end at any moment, and then I'll wish I had enjoyed myself more. I just focus on enjoying the moment, then breathe, relax, and let Gino know this is just another day. Then, in the ring, I focus on the things I need to execute. Honestly, when I have my very best test, everything slows down, and I don't really have to think at all. It just flows. That's what I would like to have happen every time. It feels like you're in a different dimension. It's kind of like a flow state.

**What is special about Wellington for you and your team?**

**A:** Wellington is so unique because there are so many shows in such close proximity. You can't really get that anywhere else. It's amazing. There are so many top riders who come here from all over the world to get sunshine and compete. The shows run phenomenally, and the experience is state-of-the-art.



# AROUND THE GROUNDS

From the Wellington International Photography Collective



© AMANDA MORSE, LILY FORADO, EMMA CLAIRE COLLECTIVE



# AROUND THE GROUNDS

From the Wellington International Photography Collective





# HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN LONDON LEAD TO HIGH STAKES FOR LISA TRAPPITT

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

There are few large areas of greenery on a map of Central London, but one of them—Dulwich Park—is home to the riding school where top dressage groom Lisa Trappitt’s venture into horses began.

“My dad was a postman, and my mum worked part-time at a garden center,” she said. “There’s not really any horse history in my family—my great-grandmother had something to do with it because my dad did the family tree once—but I just had an early sort of love for horses.”

The local riding school gave Trappitt a chance to ride, but because of their age policy, she had to wait patiently until she was eligible. “When I turned 11, my mom and dad said we could afford one lesson a week. So, I used to get on the bus, or my dad or mom would take me, and off we went.”

Trappitt became a working student at the Dulwich Riding School, adding British Horse Society certificates to her resume by passing exams, including the stringent AI (Assistant Instructor) test. She then followed her heart into working with show jumpers before transitioning to dressage. Her career gained momentum as she worked

for respected riders and trainers across England, including a period with Fiona Bigwood, during which she moved up to international competition. She later worked for Spain’s Beatriz Ferrer-Salat and Losos de Muniz from the Dominican Republic.

Travel has been a defining feature of Trappitt’s working life. “I’m extremely lucky with my job,” she said. “I’ve loved every minute, and there aren’t many jobs that give you the opportunity to travel.” She has worked in multiple Western European countries and even driven horses by truck all the way to Moscow—an experience she describes as unforgettable,

but not one she would repeat.

She moved to the United States and is based in Wellington for the winters and Belgium in the summers, working with Pablo Gómez Molina since 2013, under the umbrella of Cristina Danguillecourt and Javier Bacariza’s Yeguada De Ymas.

Trappitt now holds the elevated position of Barn Manager and was on hand for Friday Night Stars when Molina—or ‘Pau’ as his friends know him—won the Coastal Steel Structures CDI4\* Freestyle with Servus Ymas. The victory was all the more impactful given it was the 13-year-old Hanoverian



gelding’s first-ever CDI Freestyle and debut performance in a night class.

Trappitt oversees 22 horses and five grooms based out of two separate barns on the same property in Wellington. The facilities are exceptional, complete with the unusual addition of man-made hills, giving the horses an opportunity to enjoy an undulating workout, where usually only flat terrain is on offer.

“The hills are good for the horses,” said Trappitt. “They’re not huge, but it’s more than what most people have access to in Florida. We have a water treadmill, a horse walker, paddocks; it’s beautiful, and we’re very

lucky where we are.”

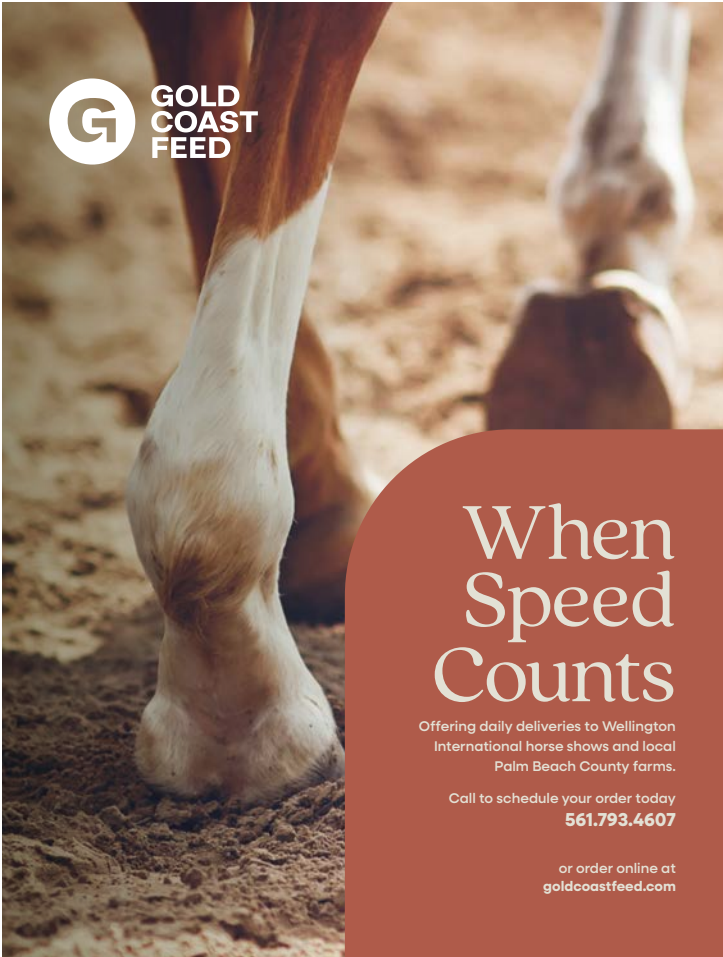
In spite of the ambitions involved, the mood at home is kept light. “It’s a nice atmosphere,” Trappitt said. “We have a laugh, it’s not always so serious. At the end of the day, they are top dressage horses. But, we have a nice working relationship with everyone, and everyone’s very easy going.”

## 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.

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# SIP & SHOP

## FEBRUARY 20

### 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

**LOCATION:**  
VENDOR VILLAGE

Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres & cocktails prior to the CDI-W Grand Prix Freestyle presented by Zen Elite Equestrian Center

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