

## In the News



The Real Bucking Deal team, left to right, Andy Ferrier, Trent Ferrier, Avery Mills, Donnie Mills  
Photo by Alex Stark

The third annual **Buck Off Challenge** was an awe-inspiring success, raising a record amount of money to benefit **Southeast Florida Honor Flight**. The mechanical bull-riding Buck Off Challenge was held at the **Wellington National Golf Club** before an appreciative crowd that included numerous heroes, and raised more than \$38,000 for the Stuart-based Southeast Florida Honor Flight. Each flight costs more than \$100,000 to bring 80 veterans to Washington, DC, free of charge. The Real Bucking Deal team won their third consecutive championship with a total of 397 out of a possible 400 points.



Celebrity judges, left to right, Ryan Beckett, Ladell Betts, Carmin Yannotta, and Spero Georgedakis  
Photo by Alex Stark

Celebrity judges for the third annual **Buck Off Challenge**, in Wellington, Florida, were former NFL running back **Ladell Betts**, entrepreneur **Spero Georgedakis**, president and CEO of **Good Greek Moving & Storage**, and prominent real estate brokerage owner **Ryan Beckett**. But the biggest celebrity and crowd favorite among the judges was 95-year-old World War II veteran and American hero **Carmin Yannotta** of West Palm Beach, who survived D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge.



Rachel Barcellona and Kodi Lee  
Photo by MagicalPhotos.com/Mitchell Zachs

The **Unicorn Children's Foundation** hosted its **25th Anniversary Royal Ball** at the **Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa** in Manalapan, Florida. **Kodi Lee**, the winner of **America's Got Talent**, was the

headline performance during the evening. **Rachel Barcellona**, Unicorn Children's Foundation's first Youth Ambassador recipient and Junior Board Member, presented Kodi with the Youth Ambassador Award. It's bestowed on those who have selflessly supported Unicorn Children's Foundation's mission through extraordinary efforts of time, service and dedication. Kodi has demonstrated to the world that we are not defined by our disabilities but rather by our talent, courage, determination and positive attitude. The event, chaired by **Angela Fisher**, president of Unicorn Children's Foundation, and **Valeria Rosenbloom**, Lifetime Grand Benefactor, honored the "Precious Jewels" who have helped raise nearly \$18 million over the past 25 years to support cradle-to-career initiatives for people with special needs.



Stonehenge Stables' TJ O'Mara being interviewed by the national Weather Channel.  
Photo by Jump Media

When temperatures dropped into the low 40s at the 2020 **Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF)** in Wellington, Florida, it caught the attention of **The Weather Channel**. Crew members from the popular, nationally-broadcast network visited the **Palm Beach International Equestrian Center** in February, where they caught up with riders and veterinarians to learn more about how they were handling the changing weather conditions with their equine athletes. "A frisky horse might go bucking around if you're riding it in this type of weather," said **TJ O'Mara**, a trainer at **Stonehenge Stables**, based out of Wellington, Florida, and Colts Neck, New Jersey. "With a day like today, it's really difficult to handle a horse like that. It just takes even more patience and focus with the rider and the horse."

## Show News



Hannah Selleck and Barla  
Photo by Jump Media

Show jumper **Hannah Selleck** recently retired her top mount of the past eight years, **Barla**. The former **Sidelines** cover girl planned to conclude the 16-year-old Oldenburg mare's career at the end of the winter circuit in Wellington, Florida. However, after Barla sustained a minor injury in February, Hannah made the decision to retire her beloved mount early. "The

plan was to retire Barla at the end of the winter circuit, but I always want to put the care and welfare of my horses first," said Hannah, who owns and operates **Descanso Farm** out of California and Florida. "I first got Barla as an 8-year-old and, for the past eight years, she's taught me so much and always tried her heart out for me. She's been my most trusted, challenging and hugely talented partner. While I'll greatly miss having her in the show ring, I'm looking forward to the next chapter of Barla's life and seeing what fantastic foals she will have."



Martha Jolicoeur, Jessica Springsteen, Dr. Stephen Norton  
Photo by Jump Media

**Jessica Springsteen** was named the **Overall Martha Jolicoeur Leading Lady Rider** of the 2020 **Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF)** in Wellington, Florida. The Martha Jolicoeur Leading Lady Rider Award, given in memory of fellow realtor and horsewoman **Dale Lawler**, was presented

weekly to the highest-scoring female athlete in the WEF Challenge Cup and featured grand prix event. Consistent over 10 weeks of competition, Jessica claimed the weekly Martha Jolicoeur Leading Lady title during week four and, riding **Volage du Val Henry**, won the \$137,000 CSI3\* Grand Prix during week six to help boost her overall points total. In recognition of her achievement, Martha will present Jessica with a custom-built jump of her choice. Other weekly winners of the Leading Lady title this year included U.S. riders **Lillie Keenan**, **Bezie Madden**, **Adrienne Sternlicht** and **Kristen VanderVeen**; Great Britain's **Amanda Derbyshire** and **Alexandra Thornton**; and Canada's **Vanessa Mannix**.

## Please Take Note



Due to the current situation the **NJAAA National Juried Exhibit and Sale** originally scheduled for June 7-July 5, 2020 at Prallsvillemills, Stockton, New Jersey, is canceled. Information on new dates to follow. In the meantime we encourage equine artists to keep working.