

Artist has artwork featured on magazine cover

By **BEN BAUGH**
Staff writer

An Aiken resident has her artwork featured on the cover of a national publication.

Jeannie Heard's pastel piece entitled "High Country Doc and Sara Schmidt" graces the cover of May 25 issue of *The Chronicle of the Horse*.

The piece is focused on a horse and driver competing at Black Prong Equestrian Center in Bronson, Fla. Heard had navigated for Schmidt when she had competed at Black Prong and at Southern Pines, N.C.

"I'm tickled to death to have my piece featured on the cover," said Heard. "I'm really happy that the piece was of Sara."

It's the second time Heard has her artwork featured on the cover of *The Chronicle of the Horse*, a pastel portrait caricature of hounds was featured on the hunt roster issue of the magazine in 1991, said Heard.

"It was the only caricature I've ever done," said Heard, who at the time her first piece was featured on *The Chronicle's* cover was living in New Jersey. She's been an Aiken resident for the past seven years. "I had

sent in several lovely portraits of Heather Mason on dressage horses, but they selected the caricature."

The self-taught artist has loved horses and dogs (the two subjects she depicts most frequently in her artwork) for as long as she can remember. She had a career working for AT&T and raised a family before making the transition to becoming a professional artist in 1987.

"I think having been around horses and having horses gives you an opportunity to really see the individual and their expressions," said Heard.

The piece entitled "High Country Doc and Sara Schmidt" is currently available for purchase at Equine Divine.

Heard sent in that portrait to *The Chronicle of the Horse* around Christmas 2006. She works exclusively in pastels.

Heard has a lot of practical experience with horses, and competed in a number of different disciplines. She became involved with carriage driving, and started to compete in Combined Driving Events when she moved to Aiken, and credits Mel Goble for teaching her and her Fjord pony Tina how to drive.



Staff photo by Ben Baugh
Aiken resident Jeannie Heard's pastel portrait "High Country Doc and Sara Schmidt."

Stephanie von Bidder strives for success at Daybreak Farms

By **BEN BAUGH**
Staff writer

An outlook for success and a peaceful environment make Daybreak Farm the perfect place for horse and rider to bond and excel.

Trainer Stephanie von Bidder is directing her energies toward producing optimal results. She is developing horses and riders who will make a smooth and harmonious team.

In addition to training, instruction and sales, the trainer appreciates the opportunity to work with a variety of riders and horses at the full service hunter/jumper facility.

"Most of the people at the farm are in training," said Von Bidder. "It's easy for me to choose a horse for myself. It can be a challenge to find a nice horse at a reasonable price that will mesh with the riders. You want to find a horse who will partner well with that particular rider."

"A number of my clients have come to me with horses that they haven't gotten along with," she said. "And after we've made some changes, we were able to see some very positive results."

The hunter/jumper rider studied under Joe Fargis, Darren Graziano and Greek and Pat Neff, and does all of the riding and training at the farm, she said. Von Bidder is now passing along that same knowledge to her students.



Staff photo by Ben Baugh
Caroline Bauer is a working student at Daybreak Farm. She's pictured with Nancy Smith's Lipo de Laume.

"I enjoy working with my students, both the children and the adults," said Von Bidder. "It brings me a great deal of satisfaction to see my students achieve positive results and reach their goals. I really enjoy seeing people develop and make progress. It's a part of the job that I really enjoy. We have a lot of fun with what we're doing."

Daybreak Farm continues to produce results, and at the heart of achievement is teamwork. The individuals who comprise the staff at the facility are working as a team toward a common objective: To provide their clientele with the best possible service.

"I have a number of nice horses for my students to show," said Von Bidder. "I have a lot of hope for my students for next year. There are 11 stalls at the facility, it keeps us busy."

"Laurie Mills helps me on the ground, she also helps with the coaching at the horse shows. Cyndi Burnham is my barn manager, who I couldn't live without," she said. "She keeps my life organized. Jacqueline Wilkinson is also a big help. I couldn't function without their help. They're the ones who allow me to do my job on a daily basis. My clients are wonderful, they've always been very supportive of me."

Von Bidder has a horse that she owns in partnership with Laurie Mills, a five-year-old thoroughbred gelding named Shenanigans.

"We purchased him as a two-year-old," said Von Bidder. "He has an interesting personality. We've come a long way. I enjoy showing him."

"I've put all of the training in him since the beginning," she said. "It's nice to see how he's progressed over the years. I have high hopes for him, and expect him to do well in the junior and

adult amateur divisions."

A native of Yonkers, N.Y., Von Bidder has made a smooth transition to Aiken, and has a great affinity for the area.

"I'm happy to be in Aiken, the market provides a good niche for my business," said Von Bidder. "I'm grateful to have the business I have. I have wonderful clients. I'm very appreciative of the opportunity. Progressive Show Jumping and the Crams have provided the area with a wonderful show circuit. The shows are competitive and well run."

The staff at Daybreak Farm places a great deal of emphasis on caring for the horses and the animals' well-being, said Von Bidder.

"There are a lot of people coming in from different areas, who are seeking training from professionals to help them with their horses," said Von Bidder. "My goal is to provide a clean, and well-run facility. It's a place for people to come to, so they can escape. My clients come to Daybreak to enjoy their horses and have a good time. They really enjoy the atmosphere. I'm also fortunate to have some out of town clients who leave their horses here on a monthly basis."

Daybreak Farm is located at 1911 Sizemore Rd, Aiken. For more information, call 803-643-9116, or visit their website at www.daybreakfarm.net.

Shawna Harding and Come On III continue ride of success

By **BEN BAUGH**
Staff writer

They're a team destined for success - Shawna Harding and Come On III continue to work toward their defined objectives.

They'll be competing in the CDI-W Raleigh and Capital Dressage Classic this weekend at the Hunt Horse Complex, in Raleigh, N.C.

Harding was the dominant rider at the Poplar Place Farm May Dressage Show, capturing the Fourth Level Test 1 class on Beth Daniels' Mozart with a score of 67.442 percent. She won the USEF Developing Horse Qualifier on Come On III with a score of 72.125 percent and the FEI Intermediaire I Freestyle Class while riding Come On III, posting a score of 66.750 percent.

"I went to Hamilton, Ga. (Poplar Place), it was the second qualifier for the 7- to 9-year-olds Developing Championship for Prix St. Georges to be held in Lexington, Ky. in September," said Harding. "The two qualifying scores were 72.0 and 72.125 putting us in the lead."

Harding will be going to Raleigh to compete in the International CDI, the Prix St. Georges Intermediaire Level I on Come On III with the goal of going to the Selection Trials in Gladstone, N.J. She hopes to qualify and get long listed for the Pan American Games.

The Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF Dressage Festival of Champions and Pan American Games Selection Trials presented by the Paul Miller Auto Group will be held at the

USEF Foundation Dressage Arena in Gladstone, N.J. on June 14-17.

The Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF Intermediaire I and Grand Prix National Championships, and the Intermediaire Championship will serve as the selection trial for the 2007 Pan American Games Dressage Team, according to the United States Equestrian Team Foundation.

Mozart will also be going to Raleigh and will be competing

in the 4th Level Test 3 to qualify for the Region III Championships, said Harding.

"Mozart has already qualified for third level, and we've started the qualification for

fourth level, and we'll eventually move up to Prix St. Georges," said Harding.

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