

World Equestrian Center sets opening date

The massive World Equestrian Center in Ocala, FL, is expected to open in January of 2021. The 4,000-acre site is currently under construction and will include a 140,000-sq.ft. outdoor main stadium, year-round climate-controlled indoor arenas, 17 multi-purpose outdoor arenas, restaurants, retail and commercial space, and accommodations including a 260-room hotel and residential plans for 2,400 homes, including estate homes and condominiums.

The developer, RLR Investments LLC, part of Ohio trucking-magnate Larry Roberts' roster of companies, also owns the Golden Ocala Golf & Equestrian Club next door to the WEC.

Organizers are in the process of applying to host FEI and USET-sanctioned events including hunter/jumper, dressage, vaulting and reining, as well as breed-specific shows, and will hold its own competitions until approved.

For more info and a video tour visit worldequestriancenter.com

Bellissimos to split

After 30 years of marriage, Mark and Katherine Bellissimo are divorcing.

Long considered the 'royal couple' of the Wellington, Tryon and Colorado equestrian scenes with properties worth many millions of dollars, the rift between the husband-and-wife power team is reported to be, not surprisingly, about money.

Real estate developer Mark filed for divorce the day after Christmas on the basis of an "irretrievably broken" marriage and is seeking to have the amassed fortunes of their "complicated" ownership structure equally split. Katherine has accused her husband of selling marital assets and moving money into his personal accounts without her knowledge or consent. Mark insists there is no truth to any of the allegations and that it will be "business as usual" going forward.

Originally from Boston, the couple has been married since 1988 and have four children.



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"Railroader" details life of Hunter Harrison

While the name Hunter Harrison evokes memories of a man passionate about show jumping as owner of Double H Farm and generous supporter of venues including Spruce Meadows in Calgary, AB, he was also a powerful influence as CEO of both CN and CP and a devoted family man. *Railroader: The Unfiltered Genius and Controversy of Four-Time CEO Hunter Harrison*, a new biography by Toronto native Howard Green, is an intimate account of Harrison, who passed away in December 2017, and his tough business style, kind nature and generous mentorship. Available on Amazon.

