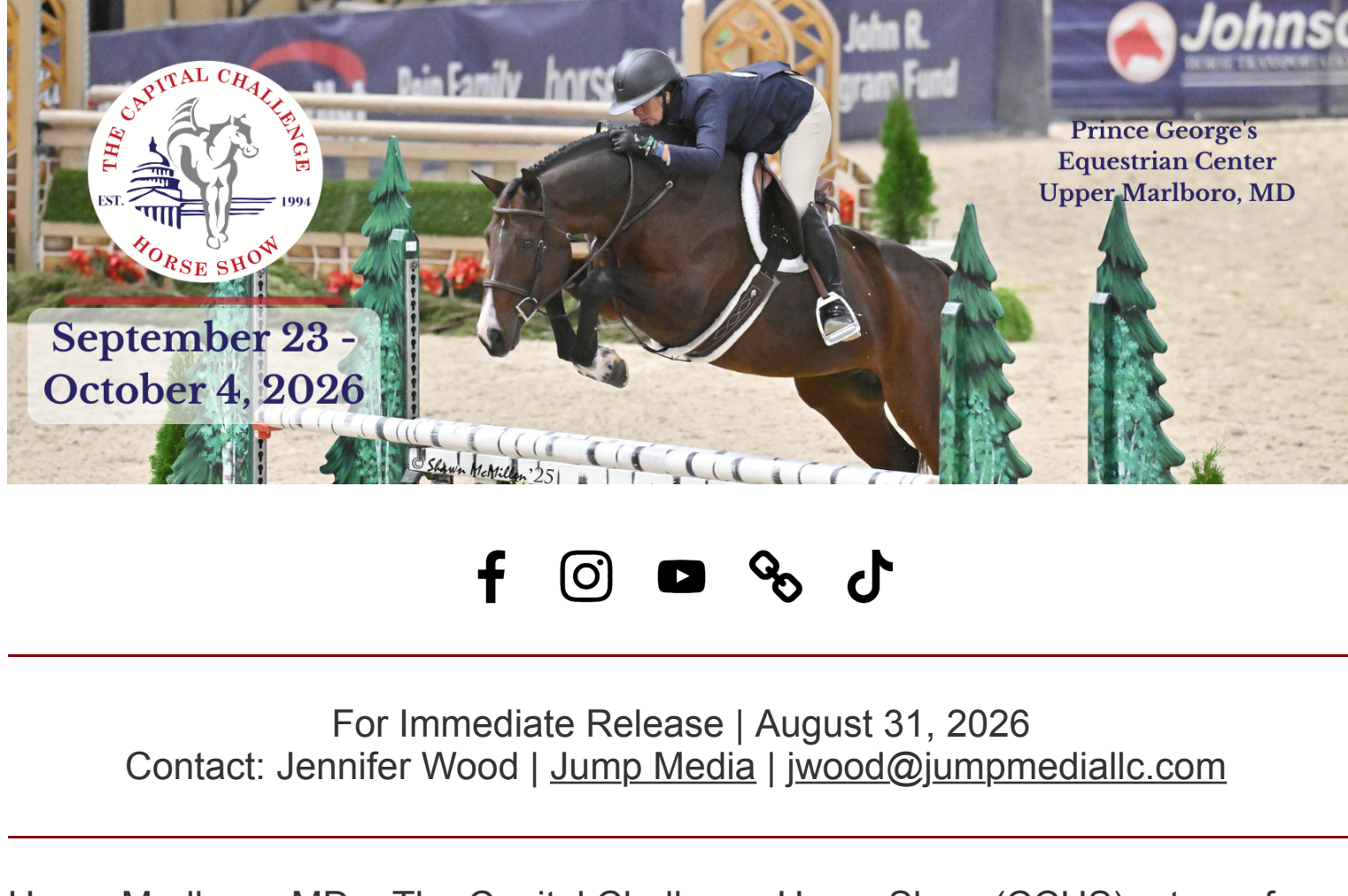
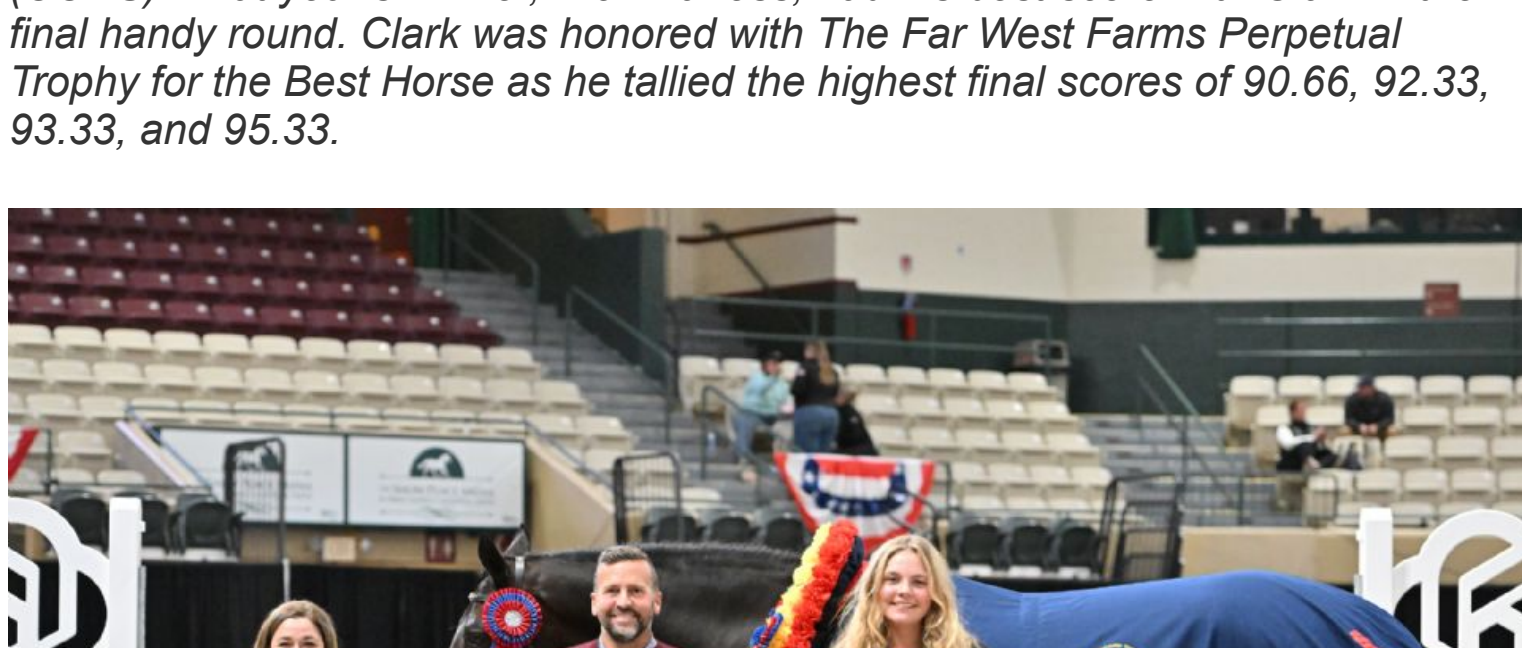


For Immediate Release | August 31, 2026
Contact: Jennifer Wood | Jump Media | jwood@jumpmediallc.com

Upper Marlboro, MD – The Capital Challenge Horse Show (CCHS) returns for its 33rd year in 2026 with some of the best competition in North America. CCHS begins with the Equitation Showcase, presented by BIGEQ.com, from Wednesday, September 23, through Sunday, September 27, and continues with hunter, jumper, and equitation competition from Monday, September 28, to Sunday, October 4, 2026, at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD.

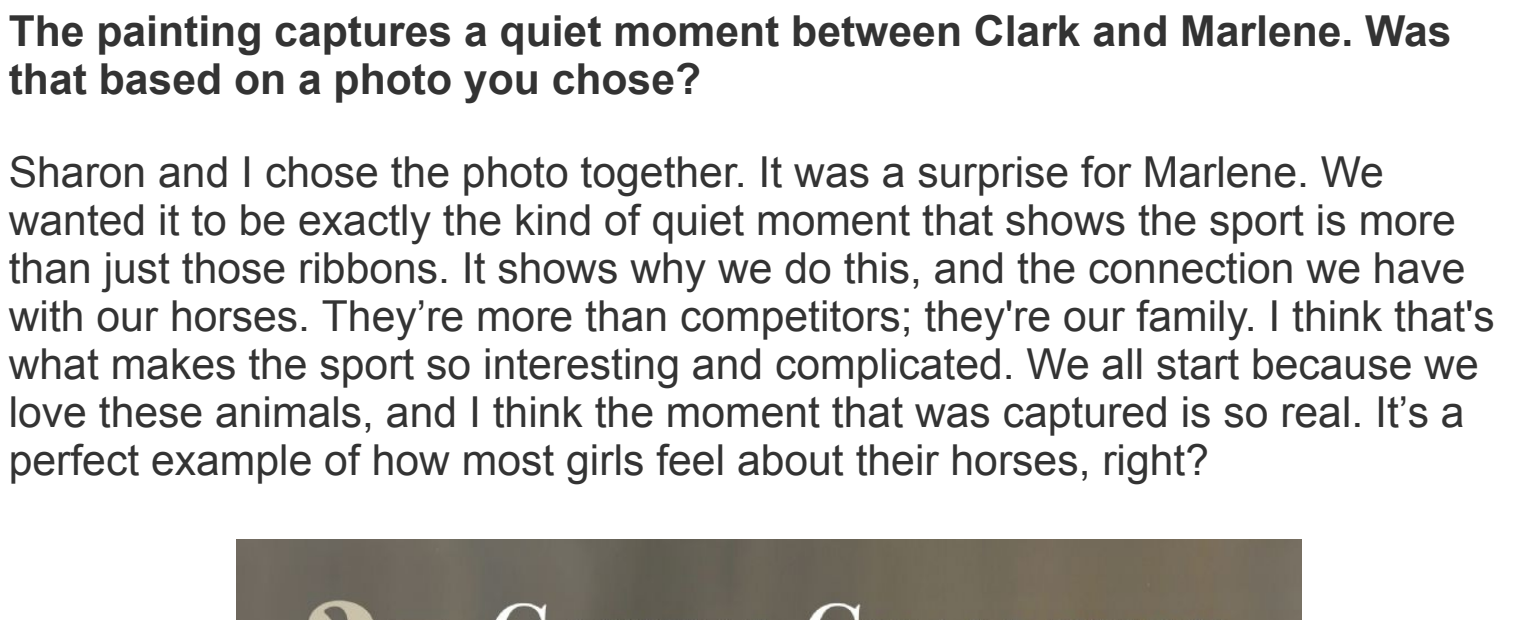
In this newsletter, read about the legacy of Daily Planet, the horse on the cover of this year's CCHS Prize List. Make your reservations now for the Taylor Harris Club ringside tables, and don't forget to enter your North American-bred horse for a special award.



Daily Planet, a nine-year-old Oldenburg gelding by Diacontinus x Quaid I, joined the Holland family in December 2022. The Hollands and their daughter Marlene brought "Clark," as he was known in the barn, to Winsor Stables in Georgia a month later to train with Michael Britt-Leon. The dark-bay gelding came from trainer Colin Syquia to be a junior hunter for Marlene, and their partnership was cemented when the pair won the Junior Hunter 3'3" Classic at the 2023 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). They went on to great success in the division in the following years.

"All of Marlene's horses are like her pets," said Britt-Leon. "She dotes on them all. She grazes and plays with them. She brings them all their own treats. There was definitely a big place in the Hollands' hearts for Clark."

Daily Planet was one of six horses donated for the 2025 World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Professional Final at the Capital Challenge Horse Show (CCHS). That year's winner, Nick Haness, had his best score with Clark in the final handy round. Clark was honored with The Far West Farms Perpetual Trophy for the Best Horse as he tallied the highest final scores of 90.66, 92.33, 93.33, and 95.33.



Following an illness shortly after Capital Challenge, Daily Planet was laid to rest. To honor their special horse, the Hollands and Britt-Leon commissioned a painting from Sharon Lynn Campbell, CCHS's official artist, which appeared on the cover of the 2026 CCHS prize list.

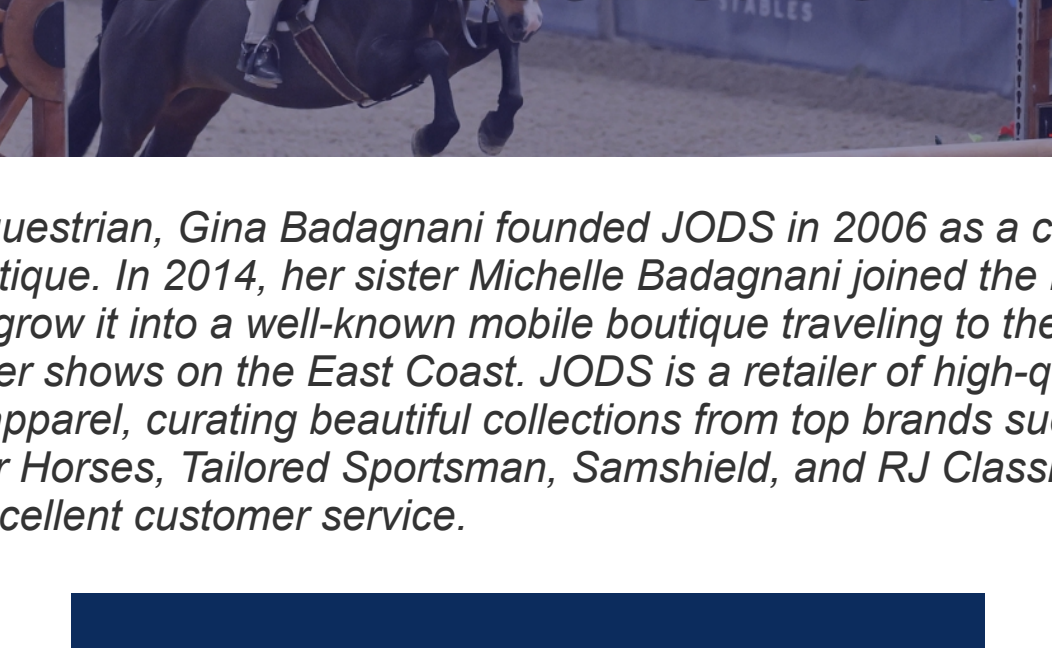
We spoke with Britt-Leon, who also won the 2020 WCHR Pro Finals, about this special horse and his legacy.

How did you decide to donate Clark for the WCHR Pro Final?

He was competing at CCHS, and I have always wanted to support the class that gave me so much. I went to the Hollands and suggested we donate horses for the class because it's so special, and they agreed. Clark sealed the deal for Nick to win, which was really exciting for everyone involved.

The painting captures a quiet moment between Clark and Marlene. Was that based on a photo you chose?

Sharon and I chose the photo together. It was a surprise for Marlene. We wanted it to be exactly the kind of quiet moment that shows the sport is more than just those ribbons. It shows why we do this, and the connection we have with our horses. They're more than competitors; they're our family. I think that's what makes the sport so interesting and complicated. We all start because we love these animals, and I think the moment that was captured is so real. It's a perfect example of how most girls feel about their horses, right?



Daily Planet, with owner Marlene Holland, is featured on the cover of the 2026 CCHS Prize List in a painting by Sharon Lynn Campbell based on a photo by Anne Gittins.

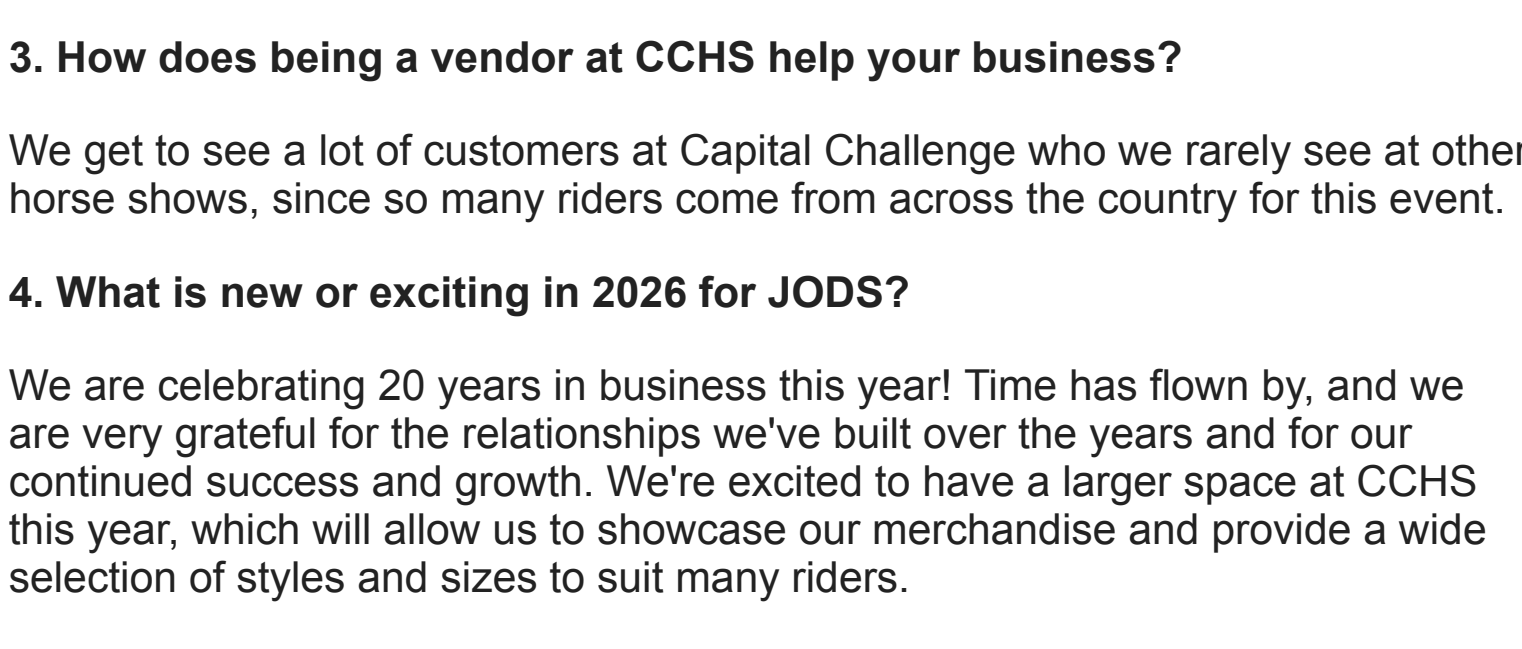
What was Clark's personality?

He was very goofy, sensitive, and playful. He loved Marlene. He nickered to her down the barn aisle. He was a kind horse that really tried hard. You had to be quite soft with him; we didn't use a crop or spurs, and he went in a very soft rubber bit. He was a really kind horse that deserved more time, and that's devastating. While he was here, he left an imprint on quite a few people.

What does it mean to have a beautiful memento of this horse?

This is a beautiful tribute to a horse that made a young girl's dreams come true. Sharon is incredibly, and she's created a lot of artwork for us in the past. I've always been completely obsessed with everything she does.

It's an honor for Sharon to paint this horse, and her work is magnificent. It's also important to have him on the CCHS prize list cover. It is a great tribute, and hopefully it will remind everyone that, when we're in the pressure cooker of showing, we should show grace to our animals and ourselves and remember the real reason that we do this.



A lifelong equestrian, Gina Badagnani founded JODS in 2006 as a children's clothing boutique. In 2014, her sister Michelle Badagnani joined the business and helped grow it into a well-known mobile boutique traveling to the top hunter/jumper shows on the East Coast. JODS is a retailer of high-quality equestrian apparel, curating beautiful collections from top brands such as Equiline, For Horses, Tailored Sportsman, Samshield, and RJ Classics, and providing excellent customer service.



1. How long have you been a vendor at CCHS?

We have been a vendor since 2007.

2. What do you like best about being at the show?

We love our location overlooking the indoor Show Place Arena, where we can watch all the amazing horses and riders and cheer for all our customers. It's such a special show that really showcases the best of the best, so it's cool to see so much of the action.



3. How does being a vendor at CCHS help your business?

We get to see a lot of customers at Capital Challenge who we rarely see at other horse shows, since so many riders come from across the country for this event.

4. What is new or exciting in 2026 for JODS?

We are celebrating 20 years in business this year! Time has flown by, and we are very grateful for the relationships we've built over the years and for our continued success and growth. We're excited to have a larger space at CCHS this year, which will allow us to showcase our merchandise and provide a wide selection of styles and sizes to suit many riders.



Private VIP tables for four or six are available at the Taylor Harris Club to watch every class, every day, while enjoying all-day amenities, a place to spread out, and find refuge from the hustle and bustle when things get busy. Amenities include espresso coffee, tea, and a variety of hot and cold beverages all day; breakfast options every day starting bright and early; light choices at lunch, small bites in the evenings, and all-day snacks; evening beer and wine from 5 to 7 p.m.; plus, Wi-Fi internet access.

Tables are limited, and reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so book your table today from the "Ringside Tables" tab at www.CapitalChallenge.org.

For further information or to reserve directly, call or text Lisa Rossi at 202-255-8805 or email LisaRossi@CapitalChallenge.org.

[Ringside Tables](#)



[2026 CCHS Schedule](#)

A Note About SafeSport to All Capital Challenge Participants

Capital Challenge Horse Show reminds all participants at the event are bound by the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, USEF Safe Sport Policy, and Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies, also known as the MAAPP. This includes the SafeSport Training requirement for adult members and participants who have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes. Additionally, please be reminded about reporting obligations. Any concerns that are non-sexual in nature, including physical and emotional misconduct and MAAPP violations, please use the USEF Safe Sport Incident Reporting Form available on the USEF website or sending an anonymous text on WhatsApp to 2USEF. Concerns or suspicions regarding sexual misconduct must be reported to U.S. Center for SafeSport Report Form and the authorities if a minor is involved. All of this information can be found in the USEF Safe Sport Policy.

Please take a moment to review the new USEF Safe Sport web pages on the USEF website to find comprehensive resources regarding USEF Safe Sport efforts. You can also contact Sarah Gilbert, USEF Safe Sport Senior Program Manager, at sgilbert@usef.org for any questions or concerns relating to the USEF Safe Sport program.

Thank you for your support and for helping us bring the joy of horse sports to as many people as possible!



For more information on the 2026 Capital Challenge Horse Show, please visit www.CapitalChallenge.org. Additional information, photos, and coverage can be found on Facebook or Instagram. For winning rounds and rider interviews, check out the Capital Challenge Horse Show YouTube channel.

US EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION HERITAGE COMPETITION

About the Capital Challenge Horse Show

The Capital Challenge Horse Show, an official USEF Heritage Competition, has a distinct and unique focus on preeminent hunter and equitation competition. The 2026 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place from September 23-October 4. The 12 days of competition include prestigious equitation events, Jumper divisions, the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Finals, the Green Hunter North American Championships, and more, with many of the country's best horses and riders competing in junior, amateur, and professional divisions.

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