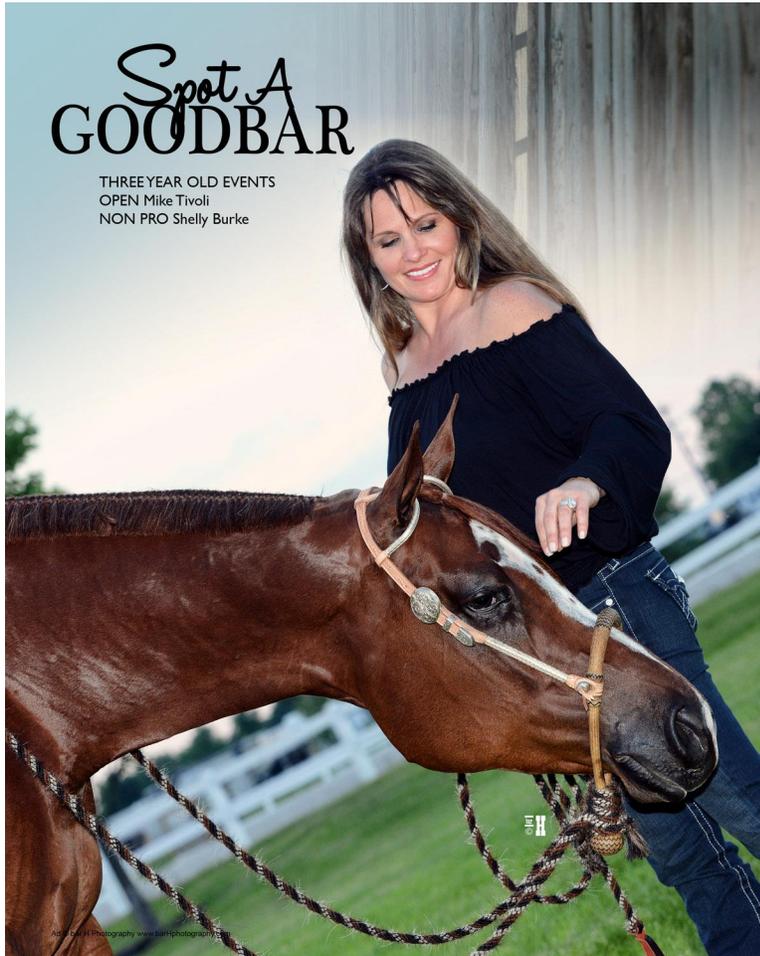


Shelly Burke



Shelly Burke never dreamed when she was growing up in the boot heel of Missouri that she would one day own a Congress Champion. “When I was little, my walls were papered with posters of horses. When I was 12, a neighbor let me show their Tennessee Walking horse and I was hooked,” she says. But as the years went by, Shelly pursued other interests including modeling, owning her own business, and being the proud (and busy!) mom to her three children and two stepchildren. It wasn’t until Shelly’s daughter, Grace took an interest in horses that Shelly found her way back to the show ring. “Grace showed in the leadline at the Invitational Stock Show. It was at that horse show that I finally bought my first horse,” Shelly remembers.

Shelly recalls that she and her first horse were not exactly a match made in heaven. “Horse showing involves a steep learning curve, especially when you are learning a new sport as an adult.” Several horses later, she has learned a lot, accomplished many goals, and set new ones. In 2012, Shelly purchased Spot a Goodbar, a 16.1 hand 2010 sorrel mare by Zips Chocolate Chip out of a daughter of Goodbar. “Annie” won the Congress as a two year old. Shelly had had her eye on the mare all summer and was finally able to negotiate her purchase at the Congress. While many novice amateurs would shy away from buying a two year old, Shelly just knew Annie was the right horse for her. “I just have a connection with her. There might be easier horses to start out with, but when we get things figured out, it is so much more rewarding.”

Shelly is under the guidance of Mike Tivoli Quarter Horses. She first met Tivoli at the MQHA Boystown show in 2010. “He was showing this beautiful black horse (The Cool Cause) and I just knew that was the level of excellence I aspired to achieve. So basically, this is all Mike’s fault,” Shelly jokes. This year, Annie and Shelly are competing in the novice amateur western pleasure. Shelly enjoys the camaraderie

amongst her horse show friends and Tivoli's other customers. "We have fun supporting each other. Showing is truly a team effort for us." Her goals are to compete at the Congress and to add the hunt seat to her repertoire. Shelly is grateful for the love and support of her husband, Dr. Leo Burke. "Leo is a gem!" Shelly says. "He understands how important the horses are to me and supports my dreams 100%" When she is not showing horses, or taking care of her children, horses, dogs and koi fish, Shelly enjoys collecting art, traveling to St. Bart, going to the beach, and boating with her family at Lake of the Ozarks. We wish Shelly much success this year showing at our MQHA shows!

Spot A GOODBAR

THREE YEAR OLD EVENTS
OPEN Mike Tivoli
NON PRO Shelly Burke

