

horses hacking on the nearby cross-country course as well as the noise and commotion from the western show at the far end of the facility. Their score of 64.872% put them in seventh place. Bauman was a little disappointed with the result, but still happy because it was their first time competing in the USDF Regional Championships.

On Sunday morning, Bauman got Coby out of his stall and rode him over to the warm-up arena for the second part of the CDS Third Level Championship class. "He was just on his game," said Bauman of her 17.2-hand gelding. "He was thorough, supple and energetic. We had a great warm-up and I thought this would be a pretty good ride. I went into the arena to do the Third Level test and started with the shoulder-in and went into the half-pass and the judge rang the bell. I was riding Test 2 and should have been doing Test 3!"

"I thought to myself you can't let these things bother you, so I went around and picked up the correct test. Coby went beautifully. He was really good and very forward. I had a good time, but I thought, you made a mistake – oh well," continued Bauman.

Bauman had to wait around for two and a half hours for the class to finish. Even with the error she received a 68.333%, the highest score for Test 3 by over one percent and won the Championship title.

"I was thrilled," said Bauman. "Coby was just fabulous. I went into this show with no expectations."

Third Level is the highest Bauman has competed at, even though she's been riding all of her life. Bauman completed Second Level on her own, but last year she decided she needed some "adult supervision" and started training with Tracey Hill in Martinez, Calif.

"Coby has such a great temperament," said Bauman. "He is the kindest, most trusting horse I have ever ridden. The show was noisy and exciting and Coby kept his cool. And when he went into the ring he knew it was his time to perform. It's what he was bred to do. I wish every amateur rider could have such a talented, beautiful and trustworthy partner."

The yearling filly Wyleigh Princess, was awarded the Great American/USDF



Above: The yearling filly Wyleigh Princess (Weltmeyer-EM Heiress B./ His Highness), owned by Ruth Shirkey of Los Gatos, Calif., and bred by Eric and Cheryl Johnson of Hidden Acres Farm, Adrian, Mich., was awarded the Great American/USDF Filly Championship. **Right:** The Hanoverian gelding Cobra (Contucci-Work of Art/Wallstreet Kid), owned and ridden by Jan Bauman of Diablo, Calif., won the Third Level CDS Horse of the Year Adult Amateur Championship with a 67.276%.



Filly Championship. Wyleigh Princess is by Weltmeyer out of EM Heiress B./ His Highness. She is owned by Ruth Shirkey of Los Gatos, Calif., and was bred by Eric and Cheryl Johnson of Hidden Acres Farm, Adrian, Mich. Shirkey bought Wyleigh Princess in-utero, hoping for a black colt; instead she got a black filly that was named Top Filly at her inspection in 2010. Shirkey brought Wyleigh Princess to California last October, and now she is growing up at Lucchetti Ranch in Wilton.

"She's what I was hoping for in disposition from a baby," said Shirkey. "This was her first time at Murieta and she handled herself beautifully. It was her fourth time away from home and she was quite calm and relaxed."

"Wyleigh Princess showed herself better at the Championships than she had at

the qualifying shows this summer," continued Shirkey. "She really used her hind end (in the trot) and was sitting more. She has a beautiful walk and uses her whole body. I'm very excited about what I'm seeing in her canter too. I'm also thrilled that the judges are seeing something that they like." Shirkey continued, "I'm very interested in seeing how this filly turns out. I also want to breed her." Wyleigh Princess's dam, Heiress B., also has a wonderful walk, scoring a 9 for it in her mare inspection. ■

AHS member Sheri Scott is a nationally acclaimed photographer who resides in Folsom, Calif. Sheri's articles and award-winning photographs regularly appear in such publications as *The Chronicle of the Horse* and *Dressage Today*.