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Kalamazoo County Convention & Visitors Bureau

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Karen O'Connor to Compete at the Richland Park Horse Trials**

*Richland Park Horse Trials - August 23 - 26, 2007*

**Kalamazoo, Mich. July 31, 2007** – Karen O'Connor, international Olympic event rider, earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the 2007 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event Championship and swept the 2007 Pan American Games, bringing home the Gold Medal for the United States Eventing Team and an individual Gold Medal for herself and her 14.1 hand super pony, "*Theodore O'Connor*." Now, O'Connor is headed to Richland, Michigan to compete at the Richland Park Horse Trials and is hoping to secure her spot on the 2008 Olympic Team. She will be in the company of several of her advanced level peers including fourth place, Pan American Game Finisher, Darren Chiacchia, Kim Severson, Will Coleman (currently at the top of the United States Eventing Association's leader board), Dorothy Crowell, Becky Holder and Buck Davidson Jr.

Richland Park is also attracting top local talent including last year's Training Level Champion, Courtney Ainsworth and her mount "*Skyz The Limit*" who hope to defend their title.

2007 will mark the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Richland Park Horse Trials, which was founded and is organized by Bob and Kay Willmarth (with the help of their army of volunteers). It will take place August 23 - 26, 2007. This year it will feature CIC\*\*\* and a CIC\*\* courses.

The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), which regulates all equestrian sports, has announced that The 2007 Richland Park Horse Trials will be one of the few U.S. qualifying events for Olympic hopefuls wishing to secure their spot at the 2008 US Eventing Team in Beijing China.

**About The Richland Park Horse Trials:**

The Willmarth's, proud business figures in the Kalamazoo community, are pleased to host the Sixth Annual Richland Park Horse Trials. The Richland Park Horse Trials is run in cooperation with the United States Eventing Association— in which the ability of both horse and rider are tested as they compete in a combination of dressage, cross-country jumping and stadium jumping.

The Richland Park Horse Trials is a spectator's delight. Admission is \$5 for adults. Children under 12 get in for free. All proceeds of The Richland Park Horse Trials benefit the Cheff Therapeutic Riding Center in Augusta, Michigan.

The Richland layout is located at 8651 N. 30th Street, just 3/10 of a mile south of M-89. For more information on the event visit [www.richlandpark.com](http://www.richlandpark.com) or please contact Susan Canole at 269-998-5371 or e-mail her at [scanole@pronai.com](mailto:scanole@pronai.com).

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