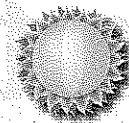


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High
82°
Low
55°

Full forecast | 6C

25¢

Farm offers more than just nature

It offers a place for cancer patients to get away from the struggle

By **RACHEL JOHNSON**
Staff writer

Changing perspectives and touching lives, one woman at a time.

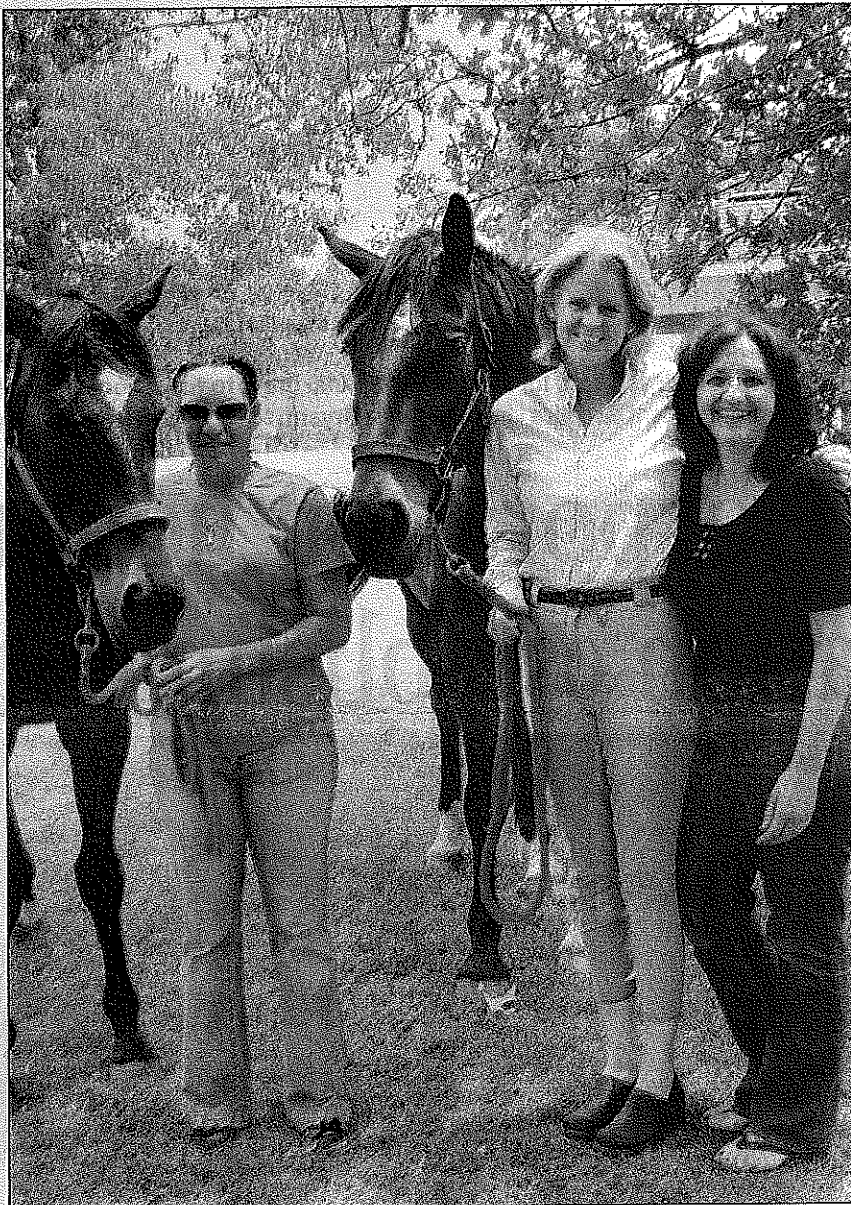
Inseparable as children, Chris Powers and her sister Jean fell in love with horses at an early age. Often they dreamt of a day when they could ride together on their own horse farm. However, these dreams never became a reality as Jean lost a 17-year battle with brain and breast cancer.

During Jean's struggles, Chris was always by her side. "As soon as my sister was out of the hospital, she became involved with therapeutic riding and said it made a huge difference," explained Chris Powers from the front porch of the home on Two Sisters Farm in Aiken.

After losing Jean, Chris decided to head south from her Boston residence and look for a horse farm. She discovered Aiken in 2002 and purchased Two Sisters Farm nestled in the serenity of the Aiken State Natural area. Powers dedicated the farm in honor of her sister, where she now rides and knows her sister is right beside her.

One thing Chris knew about Two Sisters Farm is that the peaceful tranquility was not just meant for her; she was prompted to share the farm with others.

In the spring of 2007, Powers began using Two Sisters Farm as a retreat



Staff photo by Rachel Johnson

Patricia Hernandez, farm manager, Chris Powers, chairwoman of Women Beyond Cancer and Lisa Boccard, facilitator, stand with horses Olive and Laddy.

location for the national organization Women Beyond Cancer.

The first group of women to visit the farm included Lisa Boccard from Miami, Fla. Diagnosed in 1991 at the age of 29 with stage III breast cancer, Boccard was diagnosed again in 2003

with metastatic breast cancer. She was encouraged by her doctor to participate in the retreat.

"It was magical. I was riding and bathing horses; I didn't think about being sick. I thought about nothing but

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