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Adele Goodman plays with Buck, one of three horses she cares for near her home in Rowan County. Goodman's love for horses led her to paint a portrait of the one still in everyone's heart - Barbaro - the Kentucky Derby champion whose life and death was celebrated and mourned by a nation.

Artist is inspired by an excellent equine example

Barbaro frames Goodman's charitable act

BY VICTORIA CHERRIE
Special to the Observer

Adele Goodman fell in love with horses in the first grade.

She drew her first one when she was 7. By the time she was 8, she was riding her own horse along the corn fields of her family's farm in the Corriher Grange community of Rowan County.

"I love to watch them run. It's like they float," she said. "They are so powerful and strong, yet so graceful."

From her childhood sketches, Goodman, 44, blossomed into an artist known for pastel drawings that capture soulful eyes and highlight the spiritual connection between people and their pets.

Her latest work is a 16-by-20-inch portrait of Barbaro, the beloved

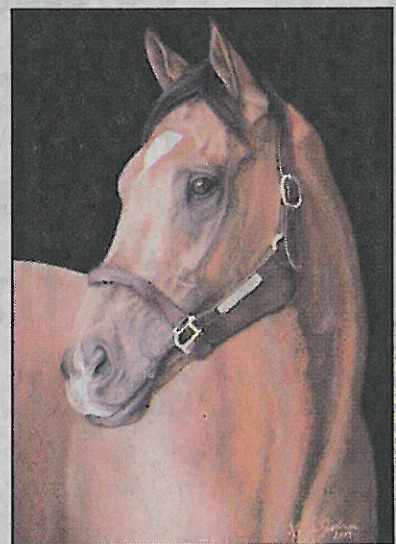
2006 Kentucky Derby winner. The portrait will be auctioned Saturday to raise money for the Horse Protection Society of North Carolina.

It's one of the most tedious pieces she's ever accomplished. And it will always be more than just a donated portrait.

This piece taught Goodman how one horse became a hero to children, soldiers and cancer patients. And it should remind others, she said, that all animals are gifts like Barbaro, who - through his own death mourned by a nation - is saving other horses' lives.

"When he died, me and some of the women at work cried," Goodman said. "He just brought out this compassion in all of us."

For Goodman - especially when
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PORTRAIT BY ADELE GOODMAN

Adele Goodman's portrait of Barbaro will be auctioned Saturday to benefit the Horse Protection Society.