



# PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter

*We ARE Pennsylvania Racing*

Volume 4, 2009

## PTHA's Owner's Appreciation Day Huge Success

With gifts for owners, trainers and grooms, and purses double the amount of daily races, the PTHA scored a huge success with the inaugural Owner's Appreciation Day on September 19. The \$250,000 PTHA President's Cup was the feature race on an 12-race card which consisted of four PA-bred stakes races and six open maiden and claiming races which offered a total day's purses at \$1,131,000 (see all winners circle photos on pages 5-6)

The sunny, early autumn day began with a buffet luncheon in a tent located in the Park's picnic area offered to PA breeders and members of the PTHA who had horses competing on the afternoon's card.

Leather gift bags filled with shirts, mugs, hats and other items were handed to each owner in the paddock, while trainers received bags full of similar gifts and a paddock blanket. Grooms who ran horses that day were given navy blue t-shirts with

the gold PTHA logo emblazoned on the sleeve.

The PTHA President's Cup was the ninth and feature race on the card, won by Soldier's Dancer for the second year in a row, and trained by David Vivian.

The card also featured four PA-Bred races: the \$100,000 Mrs. Penny Stakes, \$125,000 Smarty Jones Classic, \$100,000 Mr. Jenney H., and the \$200,000 PHBA Distaff.

Prior to the fourth race, the Turning For Home Special, a presentation was made by



PTHA President's Cup winner, 4/5 favorite Soldier's Dancer scored by three lengths for his second consecutive win in the \$250,000 turf event on Owner's Appreciation Day at Philadelphia Park. Ridden by Maoel Cruz, and trained by David Vivian (far right), the grey gelding by Lost Soldier is owned by Herman Heinlein. EQUI-PHOTO

Senator Tom Tomlinson and Representative Gene DiGiralomo to program administrator Barbara Luna for the PTHA-sponsored racehorse retirement program's work in finding homes for over 250 Thoroughbreds.

## PA Derby, Lady's Day Also Highlight Fall Racing at Philadelphia Park

The 30th running of the \$1 Million PA Derby once again attracted a field of top three-year-olds with winner Gone Astray, trained by Shug McGaughey, the nine length winner. The traditional Labor Day feature was followed a month later on October 3 with the track's second biggest race, the \$750,000 Grade II Fitz Dixon Cotillion Stakes for fillies.

Careless Jewel scored her fifth consecutive win over multiple stakes winner Bon Jovi Girl, as she ran wire-to-wire after some scary antics in the paddock, prior to race time. Philadelphia Park trainer Dee Curry saddled Gryphon Investments, LLC's Key Lime Baby for third.

The ladies were also honored on Cotillion Day with the Inaugural Ladies' Day at the Races, coinciding with the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, part of Breast Cancer Awareness month.

A female jockey challenge highlighted the card, which featured all 11 races for fillies, or fillies and mares. Pink hats and shirts dotted the large crowd on a warm fall afternoon, as Carol Cedeno won the \$3,000 top prize in jockey challenge over 11 other riders, including women from Laurel, Suffolk Downs, the New York tracks, Remington Park, Monmouth Park and Delaware Park.



KIM PRATT PHOTO



KIM PRATT PHOTO

The field for the \$1 million PA Derby rounds the first turn with eventual winner, Gone Astray, in mid-pack (with red cap) scoring a 9 length victory.



KIM PRATT PHOTO

Carol Cedeno won the Female Jockey Challenge, while everyone got into the act, dressing in pink for the day!



KIM PRATT PHOTO



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is a rare person on the backstretch here at Philadelphia Park who has not at one time or another, been touched by the kindness of Chaplain Jack Cordell in the nine years that he has been a part of our community.

I was first impressed by this quiet, caring man, as during his very first days back in June, 2000, he'd walk the backstretch regularly. He says it was one of the simple little things that he has done during his work here, but made the biggest difference.

"I knew nothing about horses back then, but this--always stay on their left sides," said Chaplain Cordell.

It was just two weeks into his new job that he learned the love that many of the backstretch workers feel toward the horses. "Howard Garland came to my office," said the Chaplain. "He was worried because one of his jobs was working with the veterinarians when horses were injured and had to be put down. 'Chaplain,' he asked,

'I am the last human a horse sees before he is put down. Will God condemn me for the work that I do?'"

"I tried to help him understand that he was extending a kindness toward the horse," said Chaplain Cordell. Mr. Garland has died since then, but I think he understood."

Encouraging people to visit doctors, running the various picnics and parties for backstretch workers and thier families, and even scattering the ashes of people who loved the track during their lives--Chaplain's responsibilities were varied.

When asked what touched him the most about the backstretch community, Chaplain quickly answered that he sometimes felt the workers who lived on the track were the "forgotten" people.

"Where would they go if they couldn't be here? I worked hard to help them take care of themselves, stay healthy, stay clean from drugs and alcohol. I will miss these people the most when I retire--the multicultural experience has taught me a lot." We wish you well, Chaplain, and thank you for all you have done for us at Philadelphia Park.

*Don Reeder would like to express his thanks for your thoughts and prayers while he underwent surgery last month. He is anxious to get back to his full schedule in Barn 29.*

*Donald Reeder*

PRESIDENT  
PTHA



Philadelphia Park trainers meet with Representative Gene DiGiralomo on October 23 to discuss the possible effects of the new PA budget and table games on the racing industry. (From l to r: DiGiralomo, Bobby Robbins, John Servis, Gary Babin, Ron Glorioso, Armand Correnti, Ned Allard, Frank Petrozzo)

## Turning For Home Graduates



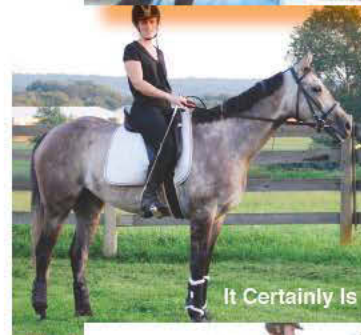
Flush Flop  
Photo by Nancy McCurdy



Wincat



General Beach



It Certainly Is



Great Gold



Love Everybody

The PTHA News is mailed to over 3,200 owners, trainers and breeders who race at Philadelphia Park. Please call 215-638-2012 for advertising or editorial information, or email [pthanewsletter@patha.org](mailto:pthanewsletter@patha.org).





**At Philadelphia Park, We're Proud to Take Care of Our Own!**

**RACEHORSE RETIREMENT PROGRAM SPONSORED BY  
THE PTHA, OWNERS, TRAINERS & JOCKEYS OF PHILADELPHIA PARK**

Since May, 2008, TFH has helped 280 horses leave the track for rehabilitation, adoption or new careers.

## Turning For Home Teams Up With Special Equestrians

On October 14, 5-year-old filly Goodman's Girl arrived at Special Equestrians in Warrington, PA to begin rehabilitation after her racing career ended in injury. Two weeks later, 9-year-old gelding El Frio joined her in what Turning For Home and the staff at Special Equestrians hope will be a long-lasting relationship between the two non-profit organizations--one that cares for special humans, and one that saves special horses!

Special Equestrians' professional staff of therapeutic riding instructors, licensed physical therapists, and knowledgeable horsewomen welcomed the four-legged "clients" to their Youth Connections program, which will teach empathy and practical skills to students with behavioral or academic problems. Physically handicapped children may be inspired by horses who also have physical limitations.

GiGi, as Goodman's Girl has been nicknamed, and El Frio, who raced 115 times at Philadelphia Park, are healing from their injuries, under the care of Maurika Jones, barn manager at Special Equestrians. They seem to enjoy the slower pace of life on the farm.



Goodman's Girl and Maurika Jones. GiGi, as she is known, has adjusted easily to life on the farm.



El Frio leaves the racetrack for Special Equestrians. He raced 115 times at Philadelphia Park before he was injured.



Razzledazzlerazcal



So Much Ease

### SPECIAL THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF HBO • JAMES D. ZANKEL

And other who have supported us recently including Reynolds Feed, Lisa Allen & La Stalla Restaurant, Drs. Steve McBride, Jaime Arias, Dan Hanf, Wendy Finney & Our New Friends at Special Equestrians

Check out [www.patha.org](http://www.patha.org), click on Turning For Home, and check ways you can help by sending a donation today!

## The PTHA's First Annual Turning For Home Golf Tournament

September 9, 2009 Blue Bell Country Club

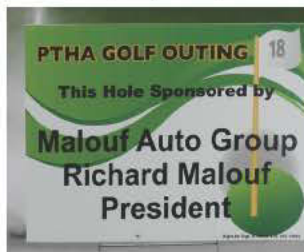
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Bruce Casella & Let's Go Racing



Frankie Pennington, Fergal Lynch, Bobby Martell, Butch Reid



Randy Rolfe, Mary Kernan, Keith Jones, Bobby Robbins



Phil Aristone, Dave Yanuzzi, Ron Trombino, Bobby Didero



Ed Lehman, Al Reed, Francis Vaughn, Al Bedard





**NAMES YOU SHOULD KNOW:** *The PA Horse Racing Commission and the PA Gaming Control Board are two organizations, which, among their responsibilities, serve to protect horse racing. In this highly charged climate of state budget cuts and the possible effects of expanded gaming on our breeding and horseracing industry, the PTHA News is offering profiles on Ray Hamm, Commissioner PA Horse Racing Commission, and Gregory Fajt, Chairman of The PA Gaming Control board, both appointed this Spring by Governor Ed Rendell.*

## **“WITHOUT HORSERACING, THERE WOULD BE NO GAMING IN PENNSYLVANIA”**



Gregory Fajt, Chairman  
PA Gaming Control Board

As Chairman of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, Gregory Fajt says he drives home this point every time he visits one of the Commonwealth's six racinos.

“Part of my job is to watch casino operators closely to protect the interests of all Pennsylvanians,” said Fajt. And many of those interests lie within the horseracing industry.

A lifelong resident of western Pennsylvania, Gregory Fajt knew

he wanted to work as a public servant since his early teen years as he grew up in Greensburg. He graduated cum laude from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA with a degree in accounting before earning his law degree from Duquesne University in 1983.

Fajt is single, and now lives in Pittsburgh, although he works in Harrisburg. He has been very involved in volunteering his time to organizations such as the Big Brothers of Allegheny County, and also served on the Board of Directors for the Pittsburgh Blind Association, Beginning with Books, and the St. Anne Home, an assisted living residence in Greensburg.

“I have been very fortunate in my life, and I guess I am a bit of a ‘do-gooder,’” said Fajt. “And because I don’t have children, or a wife, and do have the financial wherewithal, I have had the time to give back.”

His involvement with Governor Ed Rendell goes back to 1991 when Rendell was Mayor of Philadelphia, and Fajt was State Representative for the 42nd District in Allegheny County from ’91 to ’96.

“The former Mayor and I struck up a relationship of sorts when he was working on workers compensation costs, and I put up a bill for workers comp,” said Fajt. “When he became Governor, and was looking to fill his Cabinet, my name surfaced as potential cabinet secretary.”

Fajt moved from cabinet secretary, to secretary of revenue and then to Chief of Staff in 2007, and says his work with the Governor was the most fascinating, as well as the most difficult job he had ever held.

“I had to deal with multiple issues at the same time, and ran the day-to-day operation of the executive branch of the state government as top advisor to the Governor,” said Fajt.

In 2004, the PA Gaming Control Board was established with the passage of Act 71, also known as the Race Horse Development and Gaming Act. (continued on page 10)

## **“RACING NEEDS A MARKETING CAMPAIGN, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS GOING DOWN THAT ROAD”**



Ray Hamm, Commissioner  
PA Horse Racing Commission

When longtime commissioner Rick Abbott resigned his post from the PA Horse Racing Commission earlier this year, there were big shoes to fill, but newly appointed Ray Dennis Hamm has easily slipped into place.

The responsibility of the PA Racing Commission is to oversee both the Breeders' Fund, and Thoroughbred racing at Philadelphia Park, Presque Isle Downs, and Penn National, areas

where Hamm has extensive experience.

A longtime Thoroughbred breeder and owner, Hamm served as President of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders' Association from 2002 to 2005. He and his wife, Judith, still live on Coal Valley Farm in Stewartstown, PA, where they began breeding racehorses in 1988. A recent call to his farm found him out feeding calves, which take the place of his Thoroughbreds since he became commissioner.

“We were selling and racing horses up until last year,” said Hamm. “Now we’re out of horses and into the calves, which belong to my son, Kelly, and his family, who live nearby.” Hamm also has a daughter, Pamela, who lives in western PA, just an hour south of Presque Isle Downs.

As General Service Manager with York International in the 1980s, Hamm spent 6 ½ years in Saudi Arabia and the Far East, an experience he relished. “Every American should visit the Far East –go over there and you’ll truly appreciate what we have over here.”

Back in the States for Christmas in 1987, a casual interest in Thoroughbreds grew while reading the paper “I had always loved horseracing” said Hamm, “and used to go to the track often. I thought Thoroughbreds were just beautiful.

“I found an article in the Wall Street Journal about a two-year-old filly that was for sale in Florida,” said Hamm. “I looked up her bloodlines, and we bought her and had her shipped up north sight unseen. That was the start of our breeding and racing operation.”

The filly, named Honey Czar, made her debut at Philadelphia Park finishing second. Eventually, the Hamms bought her dam with a foal at her side, their broodmare band eventually peaking at six.

Hamm brings to the Commission a deep desire to protect the industry, noting that 30-40 years ago we did not have the varied competition for the (continued on page 10)



# Webb Carroll TRAINING CENTER

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**In 2008, Webb Carroll graduates  
landed in the winner's circle 205 times,  
with 21 2YO winners (26 wins).**

**Four graded stakes winners in 2009—  
OLD FASHIONED, PAYTON D'ORO, RAVALO  
and JUST JENDA.**

## 2008 2-YR-OLD WINNERS WEBB CARROLL TRAINING CENTER GRADUATES

TRACK	DATE	HORSE	RACE	OWNER	TRAINER
Delaware Park	Sat Aug 23	Seven Kingdoms	Maidens 2YO	Michael Golden	G. Motion
Belmont Park	Sat Sept 6	Credit Limit	Maiden/F 2YO	Russell L. Reineman Stable, Inc.	R. Violette
Kentucky Downs	Tue Sept 16	War Tigress	Maiden/F 2YO	Ann Lorensen Lynch	J. Thornbury
Phil Park	Sat Sept 20	Just Jenda	Maiden/F 2YO	Cindy Jones	L. Jones
Delaware Park	Sat Sept 20	Kafwain Wedgeheart	Open 2YO	Daniel M. Ryan	M. Pino
Laurel Park	Fri Oct 3	Sweet Dixie Girl	Maiden/F 2YO	Oak Knoll Farm,Cutry	P. Schoenthal
Delaware Park	Mon Oct 6	Old Fashioned	Maiden 2YO	Fox Hill Farms	L. Jones
Meadowlands	Sat Oct 11	Going for Gold	Maiden 2YO	Bowman Thoroughbreds LLC	Ferris Allen
Belmont	Wed Oct 22	Kiss and Fly	Maiden/F 2YO NY	Richlyn Farms	G. Weaver
Philadelphia Park	Tue Oct 28	Just Jenda	Fillies 2YO	Cindy Jones	Larry Jones
Aqueduct	Thur Oct 30	Personal Spender	Maiden 2YO	John Caputo	Carlos Martin
Delaware Park	Mon Nov 3	Old Fashioned	2YO	Fox Hill Farms	Larry Jones
Churchill Downs	Fri Nov 7	War Tigress	2YO	Ann L. Lynch	J.Thornbury
Mountaineer Park	Fri Nov 7	River Saar	Maiden/F 2YO	Jeff Zeek	J. M. Baird
Delaware	Mon Nov 10	Magicalcarpetride	Maiden/F 2YO	Fox Hill Farms	Larry Jones
Hawthorne	Wed Nov 12	Last Demand	Maiden 2YO	Russell L. Reineman Stable	B.Williamson
Laurel Park	Fri Nov 21	Trophy Collector	Maiden/F 2YO	Lazy Lane Farms	R. Jenkins
Phil. Park	Sat Nov 22	Song of Solomon	Maiden/F 2YO	Fox Hill Farms	Jeff Barkley
Churchill Downs	Wed Nov 26	Savvy Cat	Maiden/F 2YO	David A . Ross	D.M. Smithwick Jr.
Churchill Downs	Fri Nov 28	Eyeinthesky	Maiden/F 2YO	Thad D. Ackel	K McPeck
Churchill Downs	Sat Nov 29	War Tigress	Fillies 2YO	Ann Lynch	J Thornbury
Aqueduct	Sat Nov 29	Old Fashioned	2YO	Fox Hill Farms	Larry Jones
Fair Grounds	Sun Dec 7	Dr Large	2YO	Fox Hill Farms	Larry Jones
Fair Grounds	Sun Dec 21	Tears of Jupiter	Maiden/F 2YO	Media Thoroughbred Group	Larry Jones
Phil Park	Sun Dec 21	Sally Belle	Maiden/F 2YO	J C Davis Farm	John Servis
Phil Park	Tues Dec 23	Gus Who	Maiden 2YO	Michael Byrnes	P Shavelson



# FALL HIGHLIGHTS AT

## Owner's App PA-Bred Da Cotillion Handi



FAST FORWARD RACING STABLE'S **ALWAYS FOR LOVE** IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE, TRAINED BY LUPE PRECIADO, VICTOR MOLINA UP, AFTER THE \$100,000 MRS. PENNEY STAKES FOR PA BREDS.



DELAWARE RIVER, SMARTY JONES CLASSIC WINNER, IS RIDDEN BY DONALD CAMPBELL, TRAINED BY WILLIAM CAMPBELL. RIDDEN BY FRANKIE PENNINGTON



VICTORY THOROUGHBREDS' **EL CHURRUCUA** WON THE \$250,000 MR. JENNEY HANDICAP FOR PA-BREDS UNDER JOSE FLORES. HE IS TRAINED BY RAMON PRECIADO.



**GONE ASTRAY**, PA DERBY WINNER, RIDDEN BY EDDIE CASTRO. THE THREE-YEAR-OLD BY DIXIE UNION GIVES TRAINER SHUG McGAUGHEY HIS FIRST PA DERBY WIN. OWNED BY PHIPPS STABLE, HE WON THE OHIO DERBY NEXT OUT.



**DOOMER**, UNDER ANIBAL PRADO, WON A \$46,000 SPRINT FOR \$10,000 CLAIMERS ON OWNER'S APPRECIATION DAY. HE IS TRAINED BY LUPE PRECIADO AND OWNED BY BARBARA KAPINOS



MOORE MANAGEMENT, LLC'S **CHA** THE \$250,000 TURF MONSTER HANDICAP. TRAINED BY BRET CALHOUN, THE GELDING WAS RIDDEN BY JOHN V



# PHILADELPHIA PARK

Appreciation Day  
PA Derby  
Cap • Ladies' Day



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L AND WAS



**AZADI** BROKE HER MAIDEN IN HER SECOND TRY IN THE BRUSHWOOD STABLE MAIDEN SPECIAL ON OWNER'S APPRECIATION DAY FOR MOJALLALI STABLE.



SURE SHOT STABLES' **NOS MAN** WON THE \$36,000 OPENER ON OWNER'S APPRECIATION DAY FOR \$7,500 CLAIMERS. FRANKIE PENNINGTON ROAD FOR EDDIE AUWARTER.



**CARELESS JEWELS**, COTILLION HCP. WINNER TRAINED BY JOSIE CARROLL, RIDDEN BY ROBERT LANDRY THE TEMPERAMENTAL 3-YO FILLY WENT ON TO FACE OLDER MARES AS THE 9/5 FAVORITE IN THE BC DISTAFF, ONLY TO SET EARLY FRACTIONS AND FINISH LAST



**EMBERLAIN BRIDGE**, WON INDICAP ON PA DERBY DAY. 5-YEAR-OLD WAR CHANT ELAZQUEZ.



**COASTAL SOLACE**, WINNER OF THE PHBA DISTAFF, IS OWNED BY TRAINER STEVE KLESARIS, NAD THE PUGLISI STABLES & RUBY STABLES.



KENNETH RUSSELL'S **POLISH SMILE**, RIDDEN BY DANA WHITNEY, WON THE \$48,000 TURNING FOR HOME SPECIAL ON OWNER'S APPRECIATION DAY FOR TRAINER T. KREISER



# Get your money's worth.

**Tough times.** You're ready to send your yearlings off, but a lot can happen on the way to the winner's circle. You need good advice from someone experienced in evaluating young racehorses from the start, so you invest the time and money wisely. Webb Carroll knows when to go and where to go with your yearling. Our outstanding training facility has all the amenities. Whether you send us unbroken youngsters, or those already started, at our modest day rate you'll get the most for your money. If a young horse would be better served by time off after breaking, we'll let you know the best options. And if they are ready to go on, they'll arrive at your trainer's barn gate card-ready, well-educated, sound, and as close to race-ready as you want them. We deliver on our promises season after season—

**205 wins, 21 2YO winners  
(26 wins) in 2008 alone!**

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winners in 2009—**

**OLD FASHIONED,  
PAYTON D'ORO,  
RAVALO, and  
JUST JENDA.**



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## Congratulations to the Winners on PA-Bred Day at Philadelphia Park

<b>MRS. PENNY STAKES</b>	<b>\$100,000 F &amp; M</b>		
<b>Always For Love</b>	<b>Fast Forward Racing Stable, LLC</b>	<b>Guadalupe Preciado</b>	<b>Victor Molina</b>
<i>Bred by Daniel Ljoka</i>			
<b>SMARTY JONES CLASSIC</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>		
<b>Delaware River</b>	<b>Donald Edward Campbell</b>	<b>William A. Campbell</b>	<b>Frankie Pennington</b>
<i>Bred by Land of Believe Farm, Inc.</i>			
<b>MR. JENNEY HANDICAP</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>		
<b>El Churruca</b>	<b>Victory Thoroughbreds</b>	<b>Ramon Preciado</b>	<b>Jose Flores</b>
<i>Bred by J. Newkoop &amp; V. Portaro</i>			
<b>PHBA DISTAFF</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>		
<b>Coastal Solace</b>	<b>Puglisi Stables, S. Klesaris, et al</b>	<b>Steve Klesaris</b>	<b>David Cohen</b>
<i>Bred by Dr. William Solomon</i>			



## Backstretch Views

### Condolences...

Richard "Sonny" Mancini passed away August 28 at his home in Horsham, PA.

After the birth of his children, he worked as a truck driver for Acme Markets, retiring in 1969 after 25 years. He bought his first racehorse, Win Right Win, in 1969 and raced under the name "Don't Worry, Be Happy."

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Wallanna, his son, Pasquale Dominic; three daughters, Margaret Jean, and twins Karen Irene and Sharon Ilene; seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and five stepgrandchildren.

### Cheers... from the "ghouls" in the PTHA Office



Jacyln DeSanctis, Connie Youmans, Leslie Saunders, Cathy Somers, Vicky Mangini

### Get Well Wishes

...to PTHA President Donnie Reeder who underwent surgery recently and is back on "light duty" in his Barn 29.

Nathan Rolle, longtime exercise rider at Philadelphia Park, who is seriously ill and home with his family. The PTHA is accepting donations to help cover Nate's medical expenses.

Lexie Merson, jockey, broke her knee in a training accident in early October. She will be out of action for awhile and is working on healing at home.

### Congratulations!

To Luis Maldonado and Crystal Roman on the birth of baby boy John Anthony on August 24. He weighed in at 7 lbs. and 1 oz., and was 19" long. Luis is an important part of the HPA, working out on the feed and shavings dock on the backstretch..



## PTHA Trophy List

DATE	OWNER	HORSE	TRAINER
10/31/09	Donald Colapietro	Rampant	Joseph L. Signore, Jr
10/24/09	Steve Klesaris	Brown's Hill	Steve Klesaris
10/17/09	Heiligbrodt Racing	Offlee Dark	Guadalupe Preciado
10/10/09	Briardale Stable & Cavanaugh & Breen Farm	Palamonium	Guadalupe Preciado
10/3/09	Brereton Jones	On the Menu	Larry Jones
9/26/09	Winner's Dinner, LLC & Lynch Racing, LLC	Waimea Bay	Cathal Lynch
9/12/09	Y-Lo Racing Stb. LLC	Tony Fatale	Louis C. Linder, Jr.
9/5/09	Michael Dubb	Stay Safe	Steve Klesaris
8/29/09	Ramon Preciado	Drew	Ramon Preciado



## HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE PTHA'S WEBSITE?

**WWW.PATHA.ORG**

LEGISLATION THAT AFFECTS YOU, HPA STORE SPECIALS, TURNING FOR HOME ADOPTABLE HORSES, AND MUCH MORE...



"My, what big teeth you have!" And of course he does—he's a Budweiser Clydesdale, who, along with his stablemates, stopped over at Philadelphia Park in Barn 2 for a week while making appearances in the city. Paul Briscione (r) works on Victor's teeth, while Andrew Stahlheim, assistant supervisor, lends a hand.



**(Fajt, continued from page 4)**

In May of this year, Fajt was appointed by Rendell as Chairman.

Fajt explained the responsibilities of the Gaming Control Board, starting with the enforcement of agreements between the casino operators and the racetracks on backstretch improvements. Philadelphia Park has been promised \$25 million worth of improvements in its barn area, including the renovation of all 39 barns and the dormitories.

"We also monitor the distribution of the Racehorse Development Fund to insure the health and pension benefit contracts are properly awarded, and submit quarterly reports on that and regular updates on the backstretch development and improvement," said Fajt.

Fajt believes that the Gaming Bill has worked the way it was intended, with \$500 million put into the horseracing industry in the last three years. On the horizon, however, is the possibility of expanded gaming in the form of table games. Although studies presented by the PTHA have shown a decrease in slot revenue with the addition of table games in other states, Fajt believes they will actually draw more people to the casino and the racetrack.

"We have seen studies that say slot machine play will actually increase," said Fajt. "Maybe not right away, there may even be a temporary decrease, but in 3 to 6 months, we think table games will even bring more attendees to the racetrack, too."

"Time will tell," said Fajt. "Whenever there is change, there is fear – it brings trepidation."

Fajt plans on taking an extensive tour of the Philadelphia Park backstretch to view the progress of the renovation project when he attends the opening of Parx, the new casino, in mid-December.

**(Hamm, continued from page 4)**

gambling dollar that we are experiencing today.

"Back then, horseracing was the only gambling venue," said Hamm. "Then came the state lottery, simulcasting, and many more ways to spend your money. We have to protect ourselves, show that racing protects agriculture in the state's economy, and also that it is family-oriented."

Hamm cited his wife's recent experience at Keeneland where 22,000 fans attended on opening day.

"People brought their families, college students attended, and horseracing became an event," said Hamm. "We need to develop a marketing campaign of some sort, and the Department of Agriculture is going down that road, as can be seen by the new website, [www.TrackPackPA.com](http://www.TrackPackPA.com), which appeals to a younger crowd."

Hamm also explained that, as a result of Act 71, we need to show the legislators that we are protecting agriculture by increasing the value of our horses, and he feels we should breed even more. "This is the biggest thing to keep in the forefront," he said. "By writing more PA-bred races, we are being pro-active in our racing and breeding program."



**ANNUAL PIG ROAST FOR BACKSTRETCH  
EMPLOYEES & FAMILIES  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2009**



**Over 25 years of experience in Thoroughbred racing, breeding and rehabilitation**

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- High speed treadmill
- Large and small turn-out

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[lou@hornetlaneequine.com](mailto:lou@hornetlaneequine.com)

**Claire N. Wellman, DVM**  
Resident Veterinarian  
609-744-9560

## Chaplain's Corner

**By Chaplain Jack Cordell**

Early one morning in June 2000, Philadelphia Park took center stage in the life of this chaplain. The first person I met at the backstretch rail was Trainer Lupe Preciado. As we chatted, an exercise rider came along sharing some really choice words with an uncooperative horse, whereupon Lupe shouted, "Hey, I want you to meet our new chaplain!" He loved doing that. Welcome to the world of the backstretch. The next day I sauntered toward Barn 15 to greet my newfound friend, "Heavy." When I got within about 100 feet from where Heavy was holding a horse, someone shouted "Loose horse!" Those words were easy enough to understand, but I was over-thinking the situation. I yelled to Heavy, "What do I do?" He simply responded, "Get out of the way!" What good advice he offered to a guy green to the track! It was time to get out of the way, not time to get too complicated. Again, welcome to the racetrack. Those two incidents told me that the track was going to be quite a ride. It has been, and more! The years have yielded exciting, unusual, sad, painful, challenging and delightful experiences of touching lives for the sake of the God we serve. When speaking at churches and community organizations over these years, stories from the backstretch have been plentiful.

Sadly, it's time to say "Good-bye" to a world that has given such wonderful opportunities to serve God and to impact lives for his glory. It's time to thank the frontside (Joe Wilson, COO and management's Chaplain Liaison, TRPB Agent Lance Morell) and PTHA (The Board, Mike Ballezzi, Executive Director, and Connie Youmans, Office Manager). Your commitment to the Chaplain's efforts constantly encouraged us. We regularly informed churches, organizations and individuals about your support of our work at the track. We thank you.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything." It's time to say farewell to all of you who mean so much to me. While rocking away in that chair during retirement, it will be great fun to reflect on all God did during our time at Philadelphia Park and to tell lots of good stories to anyone who will listen! It has been a genuine pleasure to come to know you and to serve you. For sure, I will miss you, and will not forget you. May God wonderfully bless you.

*NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Chaplain Jack Cordell will retire from his work at Philadelphia Park in December. He and his wife, Janet, plan to move down near Raleigh-Durham, NC, to be close to their children and grandchildren. He will be greatly missed here on our backstretch!*



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