



# PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

*We ARE Pennsylvania Racing*

Volume 3, 2008

## PTHA Opens Racehorse Retirement Program



Tropical Kelly was accepted into Philadelphia Park's new racehorse retirement program after a career ending injury in his last race.

On April 30, the PTHA Board of Directors unanimously voted for the formation of Philadelphia Park's own Thoroughbred retirement program, called Turning For Home, Inc. The program, whose mission is to help Philadelphia Park trainers and owners to provide safe haven for their injured or retired horses, began accepting Thoroughbreds on May 15.

The PTHA,

which developed the business plan and is administering the program, has budgeted \$50,000 in start up fees for the first year, with Philadelphia Park matching that amount.

Established as a 501 c 3 non-profit organization, much of the needed income will be from donations, grants, and industry support.

**"We want to give our PTHA trainers and owners a better option for horses who are injured and can no longer race."**

"This has been a long time coming," said Michael Ballezi, Executive Director of the PTHA. "It is so important that we protect our equine athletes that have given so much to owners, trainers and racing fans."

"As a year-round racing facility, Philadelphia Park is a home base to over 1,500 horses," said Barbara Luna, the program's administrator. "We want to give our PTHA trainers and owners a better option for horses who are injured or who can no longer race, rather than unknowingly handing them over to unscrupulous horse dealers or sending them off to auctions where their futures could be very bleak."

The immediate goal of Turning for Home is to assure owners and trainers that their horses will be placed in approved rescue organizations where they will be adopted into good homes, used by licensed therapists and equine specialists in youth-at-risk programs, or retired with dignity to farms where they

will be well cared for as long as they are physically comfortable. Any rescue or adoption program where Philadelphia Park horses are sent must be run under the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Care Guidelines for Equine Rescue and Retirement.

**"I am ecstatic about the formation of this new program, as our number one objective has always been the safety and welfare of the horse," said Dr. Craig Goldblatt, State Veterinarian.**

The first horse accepted into Turning For Home, was Pewter Stable's Tropical Kelly after suffering a severe injury in his last race.

"We place our horses at approved farms or retirement organizations after they are evaluated by a veterinarian," said Luna. "Tropical Kelly, along with others who are now part of the program, will be available for adoption after suitable time in rehab."

Craig Goldblatt, VMD, Chief State Veterinarian at Philadelphia Park for the Pennsylvania Racing Commission attended to the chestnut gelding after he was pulled up by his jockey at the top of the stretch. "We

**(continued on page 4)**

PTHA's  
**Turning For Home**  
PHILADELPHIA PARK RACEHORSE RETIREMENT PROGRAM



Turning For Home, Inc., sponsored by the PTHA, will send its retirees to AAEP approved farms for rehabilitation and eventual adoption.

## Ag Tour Stops at Sylmar and Philadelphia Park



(l to r) Senator John Eichelberger, Ron Houghton, Betsy Houghton, Senator Mike Brubaker, Senator Shirley Kitchen, Senator Mike Waugh at the Houghton's Sylmar Farm in Quarryville, PA.

Members of the Senate Agricultural Committee saw first hand the positive impact and importance of the gaming revenues on agriculture in the Commonwealth as they toured both Standardbred and Thoroughbred facilities on May 28.

The group made stops at Sylmar Farm, Harrah's Chester Downs, and Philadelphia Park where they witnessed the effects of live handle and higher purses on Pennsylvania's equine and agricultural industry.

The tour, led by Sal DeBunda and Mike Ballezzi, began at 9:00 a.m. with a close look at the Houghton's Thoroughbred breeding and training facility, and ended at 6:30 p.m. as the the group viewed the barn renovations on Philadelphia Park's backside.



Senator Mike Brubaker, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee up close and personal with racehorse Senator Vince at Sylmar Farm.

## President's Message

In spite of all the rain in the past two months, it is great to see how things at Philadelphia Park have flourished and grown: on the backstretch, the new barn renovation project is moving along on schedule; our racehorse retirement program has already taken in five horses, and this month, we welcome three new board members: trainers Phil Aristone, Armand Correnti, and Frank Petrozzo.

Aristone and his Indian Mills Stock Farm made recent headlines with their Philadelphia Park Champion and Horse of the Year, Speechifying, who also was honored with an Iroquois Award as top Claiming Horse from the PHBA this month. Aristone has been among the leading trainers and owners here at the track for many years.

Armand Correnti, born and raised in the business, has been working alongside his father, Anthony, at Philadelphia Park since we were Keystone. The father-son team is a mainstay of our backstretch, and we are happy to have him aboard.

Petrozzo, a lifelong horseman, learned the business from trainers like Bucky Jolin and Marty Fallon. He owns and operates Spring Fever Farm in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, and has trained a small stable of runners at Philadelphia Park for over 20 years.

The PTHA is happy to report that the first of the new barns is getting closer and closer to completion (see our progress report in photos on page 6). On May 28, the Senate Agricultural Tour made a stop on the backstretch to take a look at the new construction as part of their day experiencing the racing industry in the Commonwealth.

Aside from helping five retired Thoroughbreds from Philadelphia Park, our Turning For Home, sponsored by the PTHA, has gotten some national attention, being mentioned in trade publications including the BloodHorse and the Delaware Valley Horse. Trainers are encouraged to ask about this much needed program when it is time to find homes for their retired runners.

Best of luck to everyone as we move into the summer months of great racing here at Philadelphia Park!

Donald Reeder, President



## Equity Act Amends Tax Depreciation Schedule for Racehorses

The United States Senate and House of Representatives voted on May 22 to override President George W. Bush's veto of the 2007 Farm Bill.

The bill includes the Equine Equity Act, which amends the depreciation schedule for racehorses to a uniform three years. Under previous law, racehorses were depreciated over either three or seven years, depending on their age when placed in service—or in training.

Racehorses that were at least two years old when placed in service are depreciated over three years. Otherwise, they are depreciated over seven years.

The Equine Equity Act was introduced last year by Senators Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), Jim Bunning (R-Kentucky), and Blanche Lincoln (D-Arkansas).

"This crucial piece of legislation finally provides fair and equitable tax treatment to the Thoroughbred industry," said Alex Waldrop, president and chief executive officer of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA). The bill also contains two other provisions sought by the NTRA that will aid the horse industry. One provision makes breeders eligible for the first time for emergency federal loans following a disaster.

The NTRA will hold tax seminars in conjunction with major Thoroughbred sales. The programs will explain the new law as well as legislation changing the terms for Section 179 expensing allowance and for bonus depreciation.

## DeBunda Testifies at Gaming Committee Hearing



PTHA VP and board member Sal DeBunda spoke in favor of table games at the State's casinos, citing that gaming revenue from existing slot machines has enhanced the equine industry.

PTHA First Vice-President and board member Sal DeBunda presented testimony at the House Gaming Oversight Committee public meeting on May 15 in Harrisburg in favor of House Bill 2121 authorizing the addition of table games to the Commonwealth's emerging gaming industry. The Bill would allocate table gaming revenues to support Pennsylvania's horse racing program. The

PTHA has also asked for consideration of an additional 1% towards a new Horse Racing Marketing Fund.

DeBunda joined Robert DeSalvio, President of Sands BethWorks Gaming; Robert Soper, CEO of Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs; Robert Mims, gaming consultant; and Paul F. Spears, President of the Standardbred Horse Sales Company and Vice-President of Hanover Shoe Farm, touting the benefits, but also expressing concerns, to additional choices in gaming to the State's seven operating casinos.

The approval of table games, which include poker, blackjack, roulette and dice games, would offer additional choices to patrons, add many employment opportunities, and increase gaming revenue which would further enrich state property tax relief and enhance the horseracing industry.

In DeBunda's statement, he said that since November, 2006, gaming revenues from the slot machines have strengthened the racing industry through higher purses and breeding fund payments, and health care programs for horsemen. He demonstrated how winning

purse money is circulated throughout the local economy in the form of feed, blacksmith, trainer, and jockey fees. From January, 2007 to April, 2008, 85% of purse earnings were paid to Pennsylvania horsemen.

"We believe the State needs to establish and direct a portion of the gaming proceeds to a state-wide Horse Racing Marketing Fund," said DeBunda in his statement. "We envision this fund being jointly administered and directed by a panel of governmental and industry representatives."

Although House Bill 2121 has a long way to go prior to its passage, it is important that further gaming revenue continues to support horse racing.

"The PTHA believes that we have a moment in time to capture the remarkable growth for our state's equine industry," said DeBunda. "This is growth that will position us with the best equine programs in the nation, provide thousands of jobs, and preserve more farmland for feed crops and pastures, as well as more broadly disperse these benefits throughout our Commonwealth."



## "Elite" Group Graduates from Groom Program



Robin Hoffarth from Bricktown, NJ, checks out a horse's skull during a Groom Elite classroom session on equine teeth. Hoffarth works as a groom for trainer Joe Rispoli and hopes to eventually earn an assistant trainer's license.



The PTHA celebrated the graduation of Philadelphia Park's second class of Groom Elite students with a picnic lunch on May 17 on the backstretch. Certificates and Groom Elite jackets and t-shirts were awarded to each of the 12 men and women who passed the final exam after completing the five-week course on horse management.

The Groom Elite program, based in Lexington, KY, has been successfully educating horsemen at racetracks like Santa Anita, Fair Grounds, Prairie Meadows and Churchill Downs, since 2001. Executive Director Reid McLennan travels the country six days a week teaching everything from how to saddle a girthy horse to lessons on the anatomy of a leg.

The mission of the program is to provide horsemen the opportunity for personal and professional growth by teaching them about the horse, and enhancing their professional skills. Because many trainers do not have time to be teachers, they often expect their grooms to be knowledgeable and recognize lameness and injuries, although there is no formal schooling for this type of expertise, and there is no way to determine if a groom is capable of such responsibility.

**"...when they get a certificate proving they passed the course, they gain confidence in themselves..."**

"Sometimes grooms at the track are shown very little respect by the trainers that hire them," said McLennan, a longtime trainer himself who worked on the Midwest circuit. "But when they get a certificate proving they passed the course, they gain confidence in themselves, and therefore the trainers start to show them respect, too."

For Robin Hoffarth, one of this year's Groom Elite graduates who currently rubs horses for trainer Joe Rispoli, the certificate is a step towards getting her assistant trainer's license. The three hour-a-day classes, broken up into classroom and barn, covered a wide range of topics.

"Joe encouraged me to get involved with the program," said Hoffarth. "The classroom part of the curriculum is great. We learn anatomy and diseases of the skin and bones, while in the barn we found out about things you never think of, like what kinds of fans are the safest to use in hot weather around the horses, and how to take

(continued on page 7)

## Obituary

### Roland S. Aristone, Sr.

Our racing community joins the Aristone family in mourning the passing of Roland S. Aristone, Sr. who died on June 20. The father of Philadelphia Park trainer Philip Aristone, Mr. Aristone was known for his generosity, and above all, his love of God and family.

A well known Thoroughbred breeder and owner, he raced stakes winners including Real Note, Rocky Reef, Big City Blues, Sky Dive and Francinette, but was best known for multiple stakes winner Bombay Duck, a son of Nashua who was often ridden by Aristone's son, Menotti. Trained by Ben Perkins, Sr. Bombay Duck was purchased by Aristone from Spendthrift Farm after breaking his maiden as a two-year-old at the old Liberty Bell racetrack. Defeated by Foolish Pleasure in the final strides of the Wood Memorial, he earned a berth in the 1975 Kentucky Derby in which Foolish Pleasure won. Although Bombay Duck finished last, he blazed through the first six furlongs in record-setting fractions.

In 1954, he founded Roland Aristone General Contracting, and specialized in commercial and institutional building. Ten years later, he purchased 300 acres of property in Indian Mills, NJ, and developed his Indian Mills Stock Farm from the ground up with its training track and barns, as well as homes on the property for all of his children.

A religious man who attended church daily, Mr. Aristone built many of the Catholic churches and schools in the diocese of Camden.

Phil Aristone relates a story that demonstrates his father's strong character and deep faith.

"One year, my father attended Mass in the Cathedral in Camden the week before Thanksgiving and saw that the pastor had been giving out turkeys to the poor, but had run out with many people left to feed," said Phil.

"My father immediately wrote a check to the pastor for \$2,700 -- the cost of the extra turkeys," said Phil. "A few days later, we were at the racetrack. My dad was not a big bettor, but liked to bet the \$2 twin double at Garden State Park, where if you won the first race exacta, you'd cash in, and be eligible to bet the second half of what they called the Big E.

"I went to the window for him, and he hit the first half, and when he bet it back, the teller gave him the wrong numbers," said Phil. "But amazingly, those two numbers won and paid back almost exactly what he had given for the turkeys. He said it was God's will, and that He rewards us for doing good deeds."

Roland S. Aristone, Sr was a gentle and humble man who will be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his sons Roland, Jr., Phillip, Menotti, and Dennis, and daughters Lynne Keebler and Celeste, a sister, Hilda Madden, and 19 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren.



**(Retirement Program continued from page 1)**

try very hard to provide the best of care to any of these horses when they are injured on the track," he said. "But we cannot insure what happens to them when they must retire from these injuries. I am ecstatic about the formation of this new program, as our number one objective has always been the safety and welfare of the horse. This option for the owners is wonderful."

Trainers and owners wishing to place their horses with Turning For Home only need stop by the PTHA office where they will be asked to fill out a Horse Intake Form which includes owner, trainer and veterinarian information. A small donation, which is tax deductible, is requested

**"One or two years down the road, a trainer may ask us whatever happened to his horse, and we'll be able to tell him. It is a win-win situation for everyone," said Luna.**

"By placing a retired horse with Turning For Home, both owner and trainer are assured that the horse will be taken care of for the rest of his life after being given plenty of time to be let down from the track, or being rehabilitated from his injuries," said Luna. "One or two years down the road, the trainer may ask us what ever happened to the horse he put into the program, and we'll be able to tell him. It is a win-win situation for everyone."

Trainers should be willing to disclose any of the horse's physical problems, as no horse will be turned down from admission to the program, as long as the trainer is based at Philadelphia Park for at least six months of the year.

For more information on how to place a horse in the program, or make a donation, please see Barbara Luna in the Turning For Home office in the administration building on th backside, or email turningforhome@patha.org. (215-272-6716).

**Turning For Home, Inc., is a registered 501 c 3 non-profit organization. Any monetary donations made are tax deductible. If you would like to get involved with Turning For Home in its efforts to take care of retired Thoroughbred racehorses, following is a list of services and items that are much needed:**

**SUGGESTIONS FOR DONATIONS:**

- Shipping from Philadelphia Park to farm near Bernville, PA.
- Trimming of horses' feet before leaving for farm
- Round pen(s) for use in transitioning horses to turnout

All donations will be acknowledged on our website and in the next newsletter!



A puddle's as good as a pond for these youngsters between barns on the Philadelphia Park backstretch

**PTHA Trophy List**

DATE	OWNER	HORSE	TRAINER
1/5	Dan Borislow	Love It Hot	John Scanlan
1/12	Pat & Ron Scorese	Sharp	Randy Allen
1/19	Francis Puleo	Lil Boss	Louis Linder, Jr.
1/26	West Point Thoroughbreds	Cat on the Line	Guadalupe Preciado
2/2	Windhover Farm & Anita Racing Stable	Taurus	Alfredo Velazquez
2/9	Lizzie Whyllie	Hopping Seattle	Herold Whyllie
2/16	Herman Kinchen	Algonquin's Own	Herman Kinchen
2/23	Tim & Tanuja Murray	Agony	Charles Robbins
3/1	Par 3 Stables	Smokin the Wind	Jayne Vaders
3/15	Jimmie Gordon Gilbert	Cocomama	Leslye Bouchard
3/22	Evolution Stables	Monarch's Mystery	Dee Curry
3/28	Fitzhugh Farm LLC	Inventive	Richard Small
4/5	Joe & Jack Farms	Sweet Budi	Guadalupe Preciado
4/12	Armand Delaperriere	Preachin Heat	Anthony Pecoraro
4/19	Michael Dubb	Fevered Pitch	Richard Dutrow, Jr.
4/26	Joseph Asbell	Temptation's Call	Philip Aristone
5/3	Jayeff B Stables	Consider Me	Alan Goldberg
5/10	Team Five Star Stable	Firebrook	Alfredo Velazquez
5/17	E & G Stables	Irontron	Jayne Vaders
5/24	Heiligbrot Racing Stable	Seriously Gorgeous	Guadalupe Preciado
5/31	Wild Flower	Lisa's Night Out	Michael McCarthy



Every Saturday, a representative from the HIV and AIDS outreach program is available near the kitchen for the backstretch community with information on free pregnancy, HIV and AIDS testing. Spanish speaking men and women can call 215-957-7980 for appointments and ask for Carmen or Yolanda. Cancer screening, blood pressure, anemia and diabetes testing are also available.

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# From Rubble to Renovation!

Things are looking good on the backstretch with the Philadelphia Park barn renovation project well underway. The progress of Barn 28, now sporting new roofing, siding and windows, is chronicled here in photos. The old Barn 1 has been nearly demolished, and further rebuilding will continue until all 36 are redone. The project is part of Greenwood's Master Plan allotting \$25 million for complete backstretch improvements.



**April 2, 2008**



**April 16, 2008**



**April 23, 2008**



**May 10, 2008**



**May 31, 2008**



**June 23, 2008**

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### **(Groom Elite Program continued from page 3)**

care of a human who may have gotten hurt by a horse in a stall."

Beth Gory, whose husband, Mark, is a trainer, coordinates Philadelphia Park's Groom Elite Program, while trainer Peggy Tzortzakis and Dr. Craig Goldblatt, the state veterinarian, each teach a class or two during the session.

The program is sponsored by the PTHA and free to licensed Philadelphia Park backstretch employees, has received a mixed response from trainers.

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director of the PTHA, looks forward to the next Groom Elite session in 2009. "The PTHA is proud of our program and our Board is committed to continued education for our horsemen and women."



Congratulations to Philadelphia Park's Groom Elite Program Class of 2008! Each graduate earned a certificate, a t-shirt, and a Groom-Elite jacket, as well as a wealth of experience and knowledge from instructors Reid Mclellan, Christine Walls, Peggy Tzortzakis, and Dr. Craig Goldblatt. Graduates of 2008 are Susanne Paston, Jennifer Bonilla, Tammy Williams, Michelle Luttrell, Nikki Hertzog, Larry Blackwood, Robin Hoffarth, Emma Trudinger, Karen Glaster, Sandy Waldman, Ed Stemme, Jovana Radulovic and Mike Torlakovic.

### **ATLANTIC CITY MEET SPRING 2008**

The 2008 Atlantic City meet provided the perfect way to ease on into the summer months. Six days of turf racing on a nationally acclaimed course, and an impressive crowd of enthusiastic fans--just like the Atlantic City of 25 years ago!.

Thanks to our fellow Philadelphia Park horsemen who provided a festive picnic atmosphere on the backstretch for all who shipped in to support this popular meet.





## Inside the Track...

### A Closer Look at Those Behind the Scenes...

by Stephanie Snyder

The array of personalities one will find at the race track is like a trip to the Italian Market; spicy or sweet, there is likely someone who fits the "race tracker" profile. As a whole these individuals are often viewed as a pack of heathens, misfits who make a living through a sport with gambling at its core. But when the skin is broken, inside it is easy to see the love of competition, a weakness for adrenaline and the feat of training a race horse. This is what gets in the blood and makes people stay.

Race track renaissance man, Harry Wyner, will be the first person to agree. Born in Manchester, England on July 6, 1967, he started riding at the age of four. Not long after his first joy ride, Harry's Shetland pony flipped and sandwiched him with the ground. When he stood up laughing, a future with horses seemed inevitable.

At a mere ten years of age Wyner was teaching other children how to ride. He got into racing at the age of sixteen and for two years road steeplechase. Harry came to the United States when he was eighteen to visit his terminally ill mother, got married and called America "home".

By 1990, Wyner was riding races at Delaware Park, and continued until his horse went down at Laurel in 1994. "I broke the bottom of my tail bone. They put a screw and a metal plate in it," said Wyner. "The alarms go off when I pass through security at airports."

After the surgery and a few months of rehab Harry would be back in the saddle again. "I got back on horses probably six months after that, just jogging and ponying," said Wyner.

Harry's resume includes a long list of trainers he has ridden and/or trained for, Mark Hennig being one, along with training on his own license. However when it comes to horses and training, Harry says, "It doesn't matter what I did yesterday, only what I can do for you today."

He originally came to Philadelphia Park galloping horses for Bobby Camac, and returned in 2002, training a five horse outfit for Ted Hoover. But of all the classy thoroughbreds by which to be inspired—Derby and Breeders' Cup horses among them—



one of his favorites was a horse he rode at Delaware Park as a jockey.

"His name was Sociability, and he broke his maiden for \$5,000 on the dirt," said Wyner. "I told him (Terry Huwert) he was a grass horse, so he put him on the grass. He was 99-1, and he won, paying \$198. He was a nice horse."

"The next day I rode a horse named July Cotton for the same guy, he paid \$80," said Wyner. "The horse flipped on me in the paddock and broke my saddle. I had to switch saddles and put a new one on. I went wire to wire. For Wyner the dedication

and demand that comes along with the racing business eventually began to take its toll on his marriage. In 2004, he moved to Florida and gave up horses.

Three years were spent working for Direct TV, free from the elements and the constant threat of physical harm. "I hated every day of it but it was good money at the time," said Wyner.

By April of 2008, the lure of the race track brought him back to Philadelphia Park. On his first day he worked a horse five-eighths of a mile for his long time friend, Ralph Riviezzo.

"Harry left Philadelphia Park and we're all happy he's returned to the scene of the crime," said Riviezzo. "He's an excellent horseman and an excellent rider. He ventured away and had too much talent to stay away so he's back. Harry's an asset to Philadelphia Park and certainly to the riding colony."

Harry Wyner is currently galloping horses for Kim Swentkowski, Eli Betancourt and Ralph Riviezzo. If there were more hours in the morning the miles accumulated on hoof would be multiplied. Riviezzo said, "One of the things that makes exercise boys a cut above, is they're courageous, they're brave; they know what they're doing."

Though successful as a trainer, Wyner much prefers to be riding the thoroughbreds, teaching them to fly. It is often said one should never fall in love with them. But in one way or another, the true race tracker does, and it's what keeps him or her coming back. For Harry, it's "...the thrill, the speed, the enjoyment of it. The love for horses, it's inside my heart."

Stephanie Snyder has spent her lifetime with horses. Her aunt, Shirley Lojeski, is a breeder, so it was inevitable that riding and working with Thoroughbreds would become more than just a hobby. At one time a competitive show jumper, she took some time away from the ring and earned a Degree in Communication/Journalism with emphasis in photography at Shippensburg University near Gettysburg.

These days, she can be found in Barn 9 working as a groom for Eli Betancourt, and as she says "back to her roots with the ultimate equine athlete."

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Ed. 09/2007

## In Loving Memory of Our Friend

Frank J. Capasso, Trainer & Owner

August 29, 1949 – March 4, 2008

Father of Marciana, Dear Brother of Rosemary (Ralph) Verlengia, Uncle of Rosemarie

*If you knew Frankie, you would remember all the stories, the good eating, the attention to detail and neatness, the never ending laughing with that million dollar smile, but most of all —*  
**HIS LOVE OF HORSES**

*Until We Meet Again*  
----- Bob Mento





# Chaplain's Corner

## TAKE THE TIME

By Chaplain Jack Cordell

Few would deny that we live with lots of stress. The job, the commute, the gas prices (!), the appointments, the demands create the pressure cooker. A native of Germany told me that her sister complained that the word "stress" has seeped into the German language from English. Besides its toll on our health, stress causes us to hurry through everything, including our relationships. We make snap decisions and arrive at flawed conclusions about those around us. We expect microwave solutions to slow cooker problems, which require effort and patience over time. Hit a rough patch and, forget it – a friendship ends. But we simply need to take the time to move our appreciation of the person to a new level. It takes time.

We can say the same about our knowledge of God. It takes time. "Be still, and know that I am God" is his word to us in Psalm 46:10. Paul, the apostle, prayed for the early believers in Ephesus, "that you may know him [God] better." If we want to know God better, we have to slow down. We will find out more about God if we will pause, even stop, to listen to him in the midst of our hectic, activity stuffed lives.

God gives himself to those who take the time to know him. When we come quietly to him, God begins to speak more clearly to us through the events and the people who shape us. When we get still, God gets active. We learn so much more about him when we simply get still before him. Take the time. God will reward your quietness, not your quickness.

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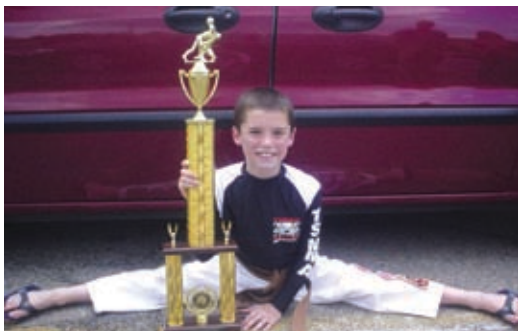
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# Backstretch Views



Eight-year-old Brian Swentkowski, son of trainer Kim and her husband, Bob, demonstrates the skills which earned him second place in the Grappling Division of Tiger Shulman's Mixed Martial Arts Tournament on June 1 in Morristown, NJ. A second grader at Valley Elementary School in Bensalem, PA, Brian will be going for his black belt on June 22. Good luck, and congratulations, Brian!

\*\*\*\*\*

We are all very happy to see Leslie Saunders back and healing well after surgery. We missed her when she was gone, and we'll all be glad to see her back in the HPA store and on the backside. Welcome back and best wishes for a continued recovery, Leslie!

\*\*\*\*\*

Past PTHA President Larry Riviello, attended the races recently after recuperating from his illness. Everyone was happy to see him, and we continue to wish him well. Cards and notes can be sent to his home at 52 South Brookside Rd., Springfield, PA 19064, or he can be reached on his "hotline" at 610-543-1764.

\*\*\*\*\*

Joe Salamone, Sr. passed away on May 24 at the age of 78. After retiring as a police Lieutenant in Philadelphia, he spent 20 years as a guard at the track. Our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Grace, and the rest of his family.

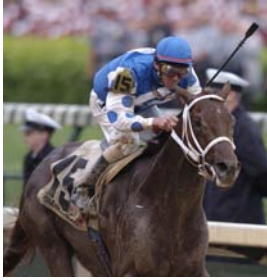
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Billy R. Prickett (center), son of William R. Prickett, many times leading trainer at Liberty Bell and Keystone Race Track, and E. Patience Gowan (also a trainer/owner) graduated from Florida Tech May 3rd with a degree in civil engineering. Most will remember "little Bill" coming to the track with Patience when she and W.R. had their horse vanning business out of Delaware Park. Congratulations, Billy -- we all knew you could do it!

\*\*\*\*\*

Chaplain Jack Cordell has finished his treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and is back organizing health care for our backstretch employees, handling chapel services, and staying available to all of us who need him. Looking very fit, the Chaplain says he can't wait to get his sense of taste back, as he misses enjoying his food!! We're all glad to see you back behind your desk, Chaplain.





Photos by Skip Dickstein.

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