



# PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter  
*We ARE Pennsylvania Racing*

Volume 1 2013

## Proposed Budget Would Result in Less Money for Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund

HARRISBURG, PA – The Pennsylvania Equine Coalition expressed concern that the Corbett Administration's proposed budget would divert a total of \$31,159,000 from the Race Horse Development Fund to the state's General Fund and other budget line items. This comes at a time when the industry is experiencing significant declines in revenues going into the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF), which will likely result in a \$5 to \$15 million decrease in funding available to supplement purses and provide race horse breeding incentives compared to the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

"Rather than seeing a net gain in funding compared to last fiscal year, the Coalition projects we will see a \$5 to \$15 million decrease in funding due to a significant decline in revenues going into the Race Horse Development Fund," said Pete Peterson, spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Equine Coalition. "While less money is being diverted to other budget items, our projections show



PA horsemen have benefitted from Act 71 and the allotment of slot machine revenue which increased purses, improved the backstretch conditions, and created pensions and health insurance.

significant declines in money going into the fund. That's bad news for the industry, considering that breeders incentives are already down and some tracks were forced to reduce their purses by 10 to 13 percent this year."

While the proposed diversion of \$31,159,000 from the Race Horse Development Fund is less than was diverted in the 2011-2012 fiscal budget (\$48.2

million) and the 2012-2013 fiscal year (\$54.2 million), it comes at a time when the industry is experiencing significant decline in revenues going into the Race Horse Development Fund. Funding for the Race Horse Development Fund is based solely on gross terminal slot revenues of the state's Category 1 casinos – a designation given to casinos which host equine racing. Funding (continued on page 3)

## Parx Apprentice Suarez Third in Eclipse Award Voting



Nineteen year old former bug rider Angel Suarez won his first race in Puerto Rico, moving to Parx Racetrack in 2012. He turned journeyman on February 9. Photo by David Cruz/El Dia

On a recent cold day in January, it was business as usual on the Parx backstretch for jockey Angel Suarez and his agent, Donna Servis. Just having returned from Gulfstream Park and the January 19 Eclipse Awards where Suarez finished third in the voting for Leading Apprentice.

For the second year in a row, Servis had attended the prestigious event with her eye on the title, last year with Rosario Montanez, who finished second in the voting. Suarez, the leading apprentice in the nation in earnings (\$3,366,126) and Servis had been optimistic about their chances, but were honored to be respected by their fellow horsemen. "Angel is the whole package," said Servis, the daughter of the late Jack Servis, who had handled the books of riders including Rick Wilson, Stewart Elliott, and Tony Black. "He is the definition of honor and dignity."

"Most of these kids get so much so fast they become difficult to deal with," said Servis. "I know, I lived through it with my dad. Angel has not let this go to his head. He is the same human being he was a year ago." (continued on page 3)



Donna Servis and Suarez contemplating the condition book at Parx.

## President's Message

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esquire



In just a few short weeks, we will be gathering to recognize the best of Parx Racing's 2012 season. Our annual Horsemen's Awards Banquet has been growing every year, the strength of our industry apparent by the support our owners, trainers and jockeys demonstrate by attending this yearly event in support of their fellow horsemen.

Last year, we were proud to award Rosario Montanez the Leading Apprentice Jockey title after he finished second in the Eclipse Awards. His former agent, Parx's Donna Servis, recently returned from the 2012 Eclipse Award ceremony in Florida with Parx bug rider Angel Suarez, who, with the highest earnings of the nation's apprentice riders, finished third.

Pennsylvania stallions were represented in the Horse of the Year category with Morton Fink's homebred and Breeders Cup Mile winner Wise Dan (Wiseman's Ferry) and Breeders' Cup Classic winner Fort Larned (E Dubai) leading the nominations. Wise Dan scored the honors, along with Champion Older Horse and Turf Male. Dana Point Farm in Lenhartsville is the home of Wiseman's Ferry, while Northview Stallion Station in Peach Bottom stands E Dubai.

We all know our how strong our product has become on the national scene, and it was very exciting to realize that the rest of the country is acknowledging it, too!

We have come a long way in the past four years, as Act 71 has provided great incentive for owners, breeders, trainers and other equine-related businesses to grow in the Commonwealth.

While we understand the fiscal challenge in balancing the state's budget, we ask Governor Corbett to honor his commitment to the racing industry and stop diversion from the Racehorse Development Fund into the general fund. This year, competition from other casinos in the surrounding states and the opening of another casino in Pennsylvania, have decreased the funds generated by slot machine revenue that would go towards the RHDF. With Governor Corbett's anticipated 2013-2014 budget our funding is again subject to cuts.

Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and I are prepared to to present our message again in Harrisburg.

We'd like to thank the legislators that supported us last year, and ask them to do so again. We'll continue to represent our owners, trainers and breeders to protect what we have built.

*Salvatore M. DeBunda*  
President



Revenue from slot machines has decreased due to competition from surrounding states and other casinos in the Commonwealth.

## Lasix Ban For Two-Year-Olds Rescinded in PA

The ban on the use of race day Lasix for two-year-olds in PA was rescinded by the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission on Thursday, January 24 as a result of the combined efforts of PTHA President Salvatore DeBunda, Executive Director Michael P. Ballezzi, and Archer and Greiner attorneys Pat Doran and Gary Fry.

Lasix (furosemide) is a diuretic which has proven effective in preventing EIPH, or "bleeding" from the lungs in racehorses. "Banning the use of Lasix on race day would present a potential health hazard to two-year-olds, as well as a negative economic impact on racing," said PTHA Executive Director Michael Ballezzi.

"We'd like to thank the PA Horse Racing Commission's Chairman Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Commissioner Ray D. Hamm, Commissioner Alan Novak and Executive Secretary Daniel Tufano," said Ballezzi. "The resulting decision to allow Lasix on race day for two-year-olds is an example of the cooperation between horsemen and regulators which is in the best interests of the industry."



(continued from page 1)

for the Race Horse Development fund does not come from table games and is not based on slots revenues at non-racetrack casinos.

Each of the Category 1 casinos saw decreases in gross terminal revenues for the month of January that exceeded the state's average decline of 1.19 percent for all casinos. As a result, the decline to the Race Horse Development fund is more than quadruple the decline in overall gross terminal revenues.

Funds generated from slot machine gaming to the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) decreased by 6.19 percent or \$1.33 million for the month of January compared to January 2012. The cumulative decline for the first seven months of the fiscal year -- June 2012 through January 2013 -- is \$7.69 million or 4.83 percent. These declines are a result of increased competition facing Pennsylvania's racetrack casinos as a result of the opening of casinos in the neighboring states of Ohio, New York, and Maryland -- as well as the opening of an additional casino in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

"Horse owners, breeders, and business owners made investments in Pennsylvania based on the commitment that funding to the Race Horse Development Fund would be fully restored after this fiscal year," said Peterson. "Just as other Pennsylvania businesses require a 'degree of certainty,' so too does the equine racing industry. For

many in our industry, running a breeding operation or owning and racing horses is a break even proposition at best. The declining revenues and diversion of money from the Race Horse Development Fund will negatively impact countless small businesses in Pennsylvania that make up and serve the horse racing industry. We are only asking that policymakers keep their promise that the four-year diversion of funding from the racing and breeding fund would end after this fiscal year."

Under the Administration's budget proposal, the Race Horse Development Fund would again see the diversion of millions of dollars to the state's general fund. The proposed 2013-2014 would also divert an additional \$15.6 million to programs that were previously supported with General Fund dollars.

According to economic data from the Department of Agriculture released in 2010, between 2001 and 2008, the economic impact of the racing industry in Pennsylvania more than quadrupled thanks to Act 71. In addition, the Department of Agriculture stated that due to the Race Horse Development Fund, the overall economic impact of the equine industry increased by 380 percent to \$3 billion with employment more than tripling from 13,870 to more than 41,100.

"As a result of Act 71, many new businesses have relocated to Pennsylvania and the breeding of Pennsylvania horses has increased substantially," said Peterson. "And we have seen a significant amount of open space and farmland preserved

as horse farms, breeding facilities, and training centers. But the pace of business investment in Pennsylvania's equine and horse racing industry faltered in 2009 following the legislature's passage of a temporary four-year, 17 percent assessment on our industry. If we want to jumpstart economic investment in Pennsylvania, we need to work to restore full funding for live racing and breeding."

"While we understand the budget challenges facing the Administration, over the course of the past four fiscal years, the equine racing industry has lost approximately \$200 million in funding toward the General Fund," said Peterson. "The coalition is unaware of any other industry in the state that agreed to such concessions in an effort to help address the budgetary issues facing the state government."

The coalition believes that the downward revenue trend will continue due to increased out-of-state competition from other casinos in Ohio, Maryland, and New York and increased gaming competition within the Commonwealth such as a casino in Valley Forge and the prospect that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board may award a license for a new Philadelphia casino.

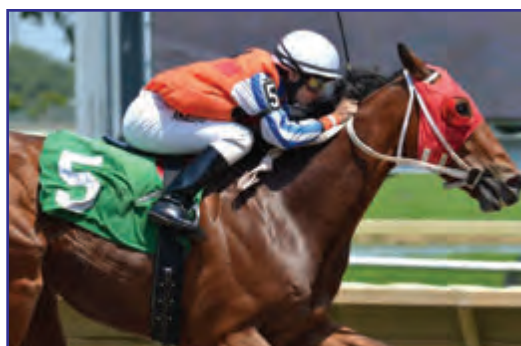
In addition, the enhanced small games of chance law and the potential expansion of lottery gaming to include Keno and other virtual games of chance will further erode slots play at racetrack casinos, which will decrease revenues for the Race Horse Development Fund.

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Suarez is 19 years old and won his first race out of the Agustin Mercado Reveron Jockey School in Puerto Rico, which he entered at the age of 16.

He and Servis had made the most of his apprentice year in the United States, keeping a hectic schedule of riding at Parx during the day and Penn National at night.

"This has always been a team effort," Servis said. "That's why I get so choked up when I talk about it. I do believe in



Suarez demonstrating the winning form that earned him a nomination for the nation's Leading Apprentice.

good karma, but we have gotten so much support from so many people. Angel has ridden for just about every trainer on the grounds, except for maybe four. I checked. We don't have first call with any of

the big outfits, but chose to ride for everyone."

Suarez rode as a journeyman for the first time on February 10, the day Servis' newest apprentice, Ivan Perez, made his career start.

As a 10 pound bug, Perez' background differs from Servis' previous riders, as the 22-year-old has prepped for his career at Parx working his way up with the local trainers. Montanez and Suarez had ridden races prior to signing on with Servis.

"This is new for me," said Servis, whose first rider a few years ago was a young woman with a 10 pound bug, who disappeared after three days on the track. "Never heard from her again," said Servis. "Ivan will be the first rider with no experience. But he just needs to keep getting on horses and learning. He has the benefit of knowing everyone at the track, having worked for them in other capacities."

Servis has finally become confident in her ability to bring a young rider around. "For me personally, I didn't feel like I had achieved my own goals until this past summer," she said. "But I know enough about the business to realize you can never assume that what you have today will be there tomorrow. But I really love my job, and am at home here on the Parx backstretch."

## A Very Important Trio...

*Those most responsible for the welfare of a racehorse are the owner, trainer and veterinarian. But ask any owner how often he or she speaks to the veterinarian, or the trainer how frequently he discusses treatment with an owner, and you may (or may not) be surprised at the answers.*

*Dr. Scott Palmer's recent article published in the Paulick Report made it clear that the across-the-board lack of communication between members of this very important trio needs to be addressed. The former President of the AAEP and a leading spokesperson on medication and racing issues, Palmer believes that creating a "toolbox" of best business practices could change the culture of the racing industry for the better.*

*"The issue has come to a head due to the high cost of having a racehorse," said Palmer. "A starting point to solving this is to open the lines of communication."*

*Following is a reprint of the portion of the article addressing this mostly untouched topic. Check out Racing Medication and Its "Shades of Grey" in the Paulick Report at NTRA.com for the article in its entirety.*



Dr. Scott Palmer owns the New Jersey Equine Clinic and is former chairman of the AAEP Racing Committee.

During the past three years the AAEP held focus group discussions with Thoroughbred, Standardbred and Quarter Horse owners, trainers and veterinarians across the country. During these face-to-face meetings, open roundtable discussions were used to identify the concerns of each of the three groups.

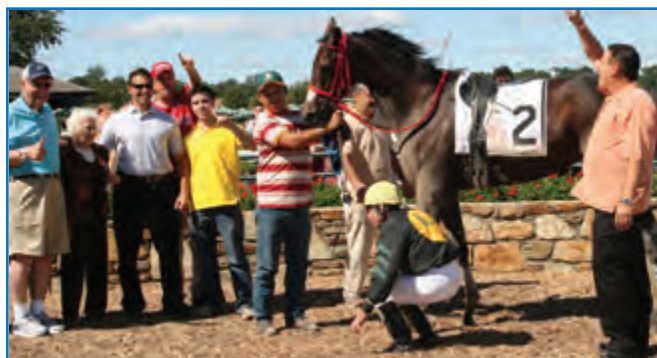
Owners feel that veterinary costs are out of control, communication with their veterinarian(s) is poor, and they feel like they are working for the trainer, not the other way around.

Trainers are concerned that they are not attracting new owners to the game, that owners will move their horses to another trainer if they don't use medication to be competitive, and they feel that they must "manage" both sides of the relationship. Veterinarians believe that accounts receivable are out of control. They are worried that trainers will fire them if they don't do what the trainer wants. They are frustrated that trainers don't want them to communicate with owners and view veterinary service as a commodity.

At the Arizona Symposium on Racing and Gaming last year, Bill Wright, a prominent Standardbred owner, emphasized the challenges of making a profit in racing and suggested that trainers need to "manage" veterinarians, not just "let them run loose." A prominent trainer Karl Broberg indicated that reliance on veterinarians sometimes stems from losing streaks and the need to remain competitive. He suggested that "fear feeds on itself so a trainer may let a veterinarian run his barn." In a Bloodhorse.com posting Tom LaMarra summarized the plight of racehorse owners in terms of a dysfunctional business model wherein the costs of training and racing exceed available purse money. The perceptions and concerns expressed over the past three years are just as relevant today as they were when the AAEP held the focus group discussions.

Veterinary bills can be difficult to understand and may include expensive state-of-the-art diagnostic technology such as digital radiography. Proprietary medications such as Gastroguard, Hyaluronic Acid and Marquis can also increase "maintenance" costs of racing. We can all appreciate how frustrating it can be to get a \$1,000 vet bill for what we thought was a healthy horse, particularly if there was no prior communication to indicate a need for these professional services or medications.

Remember who is the top of all of the owner-trainer-veterinary schematics. The horse owner needs to set the tone for this relationship. The owner is the "CEO" of this operation. At the start owners must decide how much involvement they want to have in this business relationship. Do they want to set a budget, do they want to be involved in the selection of the veterinarian who treats their horses. Do they want to be involved with treatment decisions and therapy options? Are they in their comfort zone in this role? Do they need education to prepare them for that responsibility? Can we provide on-line webinars or other educational programs that can fill this need? The single most important thing an owner can do to reduce the cost of veterinary services is to hold a face-to-face meeting with his trainer and veterinarian and clearly define his expectations for professional services for his horses. The way to improve transparency and trust is through communication and client education. In many cases the "sticker shock" of a monthly veterinary bill can be softened by a simple phone call educating the owner about the need and rationale for a treatment plan that may include expensive medications. Having everyone on the same page with regard to medication improves the welfare of the horse, controls costs and helps to improve the business model of racing.



It takes a combined effort to make it to the winners circle, but it is the owner/trainer/veterinarian "trio" that, like a marriage, possesses an intellectual and emotional side which often makes communication a challenge.

Dr. Scott Palmer





# New Jersey Equine Clinic

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Scott E. Palmer, V.M.D., A.B.V.P. Jennifer J. Smith, D.V.M., A.C.V.S.

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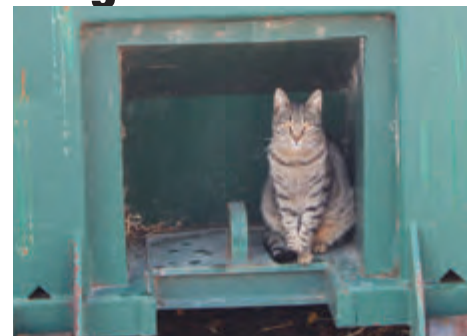
## Dr. Michelle Elgersma Makes A Change

Dr. Michelle Elgersma, known as much for her care of the backstretch cat population as she was as an associate to Dr. Dan Hanf, has joined her husband in Pittsburgh and retired from her Parx Racetrack practice after 11 years. Elgersma is studying veterinary acupuncture and alternative medicine, and plans to open her own practice.

While at Parx, she singlehandedly started the Trap-Neuter-Release program, which has cared for over 360 cats, including vaccinations and emergency care. The PTHA teamed up with Elgersma, funding the shots and surgeries while she trapped and transported the many feral and stray cats that populate the barn area.

The results of her devotion to the hundreds of felines at Parx have resulted in a decrease in new litters of kittens and unwanted cats. Her testing of cats for lethal diseases has made the current population smaller and much healthier.

Her work at the track will be continued by Cathy Somers. All of us wish her good luck in her new endeavors, and want to assure her that both 2 and 4 legged creatures will miss her!



No doubt a friend of Elgersma, this cat has made his observation point a shavings container on the backstretch.



## Parx Jocks Wear Helmet Cams as Part of Documentary Film

It was “riders up” at Parx Racing on February 5th for a special “mock race,” in which jockeys and a horse wore cameras to demonstrate the excitement and thrill of Thoroughbreds and riders in motion.

Parx jockeys Roberto Alvarado, Victor Molina, Frankie Pennington, Stewart Elliott and Maria Remedio, worked five racehorses out of the starting gate from the 5/8 pole to simulate the action of a live race. Molina and Alvarado wore helmet cameras, perched atop their heads, while one of the horses sported a camera on her belly attached to girth, peering between her front legs watching hooves and legs galloping over the dirt track at 30 mph.



Parx rider Roberto Alvarado sports a helmet cam as part of the documentary “Spirit and Speed,” which promotes the racing industry in PA.

Tony Black, a spokesman for the jockeys, as well as a leading Parx rider, was scheduled to participate in the staged race, but was injured in a spill three weeks earlier, fracturing his collarbone. He acted as “technical advisor” to the documentary’s producer, Greg Matkowsky, but had been the jockey to first try out the helmet cameras.

“I galloped and breezed horses with the helmet camera months ago, trying it out before we actually filmed anything,” said Black. “I remember sitting in the starting gate one day with the camera, and looking through the green bars of the gates before they opened, and thinking how exciting it would be for someone to see our view of a race,” said Black. “It just struck me how long the stretch looks, what the view is like behind the gate, and I realized how much I take for granted. It is amazing with all of its action and with the helmet cams, we can share that with the public.”

Matkowsky, who has been working on the film for over a year, has interviewed trainers, jockeys, horse and farm owners, and filmed every aspect of the industry including foaling to horse retirement in Pennsylvania.

“The tragic sensationalism that the media gives to racing is such a minor fraction of the story,” said Matkowsky. “The commentary in this film from those who participate in the sport speaks from the heart. It should be very clear from the film that the sport is filled with people who love racing, and in particular, love the horses. To present the sport to be filled with problems is a huge inaccuracy.”

The event, which took place at 11 a.m. prior to the day’s regular card, was part of a documentary called “Spirit and Speed,” which promotes the Thoroughbred racing industry in Pennsylvania and is sponsored by the PTHA. The hour-long film is produced by WVIA and expected to premiere on April 29.



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WVIA documentary producer Greg Matkowsky checks the footage on Victor Molina’s helmet cam after a “mock” race in which five fillies with jockeys broke from the gate and worked 5/8s of a mile.

# Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

**If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels... If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains... If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)**

I have a message for you – Thank YOU! It is a message from hundreds of people who, together, we have helped in 2012. I have heard thank you many times throughout the past year on your behalf and am happy to now pass it along to all of you without whom I would not be able to help so many. When benevolences are provided throughout the year I always remind the people receiving the gifts that there are many loving and caring people around the track, in the community, and in churches who support the Chaplaincy so that these kindnesses can be done. It surely is an encouragement to know that one is surrounded by such goodwill, especially, when times are dark and difficult.

A wonderful song written by Ray Boltz, titled “Thank You for Giving to the Lord”, tells of a person who has just arrived in heaven and is met by people who were blessed by the generosity of this person during the person’s life. One verse has these lines, “One by one they came, far as your eyes could see. Each life somehow touched by your generosity. Little things that you had done, sacrifices made, unnoticed on the earth - In Heaven now proclaimed. And I know up in Heaven you’re not supposed to cry but I am almost sure there were tears in your eyes - As Jesus took your hand and you stood before the Lord - He said “My child look around you - great is your reward.”

This is a great song that has several You Tube videos to the words and music. You will be blessed to listen to one or more of them. Let me share with you the chorus of this song – “Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am a life that was changed. Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am so glad you gave.”

I know that we are not saved by works. It is only by grace, through faith in the gift of God, by which we are saved and can enter into heaven; but I am heartened that there is much good and vital faith around here – knowing that the Scriptures also teach us that faith without works is dead.

One of my favorite proverbs from the Bible book of Proverbs can be translated, “The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself (11:25).” Sometimes waters/watered is translated refreshes/refreshed. I thought this proverb to be propitious as I thank all of you who have so generously given. As a river cannot flow through a valley without that valley being blessed as well as the land to which the river continues on to, know that you who allow yourselves to be channels of God’s blessings will not fail to be mightily blessed in this life and the next.

So called “little things that you had done, sacrifices made, unnoticed on the earth, in Heaven now”, already, are being proclaimed and great is your reward. Thank YOU! Thank you for making 2012 such a great year!

**And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.  
But the greatest of these is love. - 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)**

## CHAPLAIN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2012

Of the many recipients of the Chaplain's help this year, the children of backstretch employees experienced the most exciting time at the annual Christmas Party held in the rec hall. Hosting the biggest crowd ever, Chaplain Rick Bunker and his many wonderful volunteers and donors provided 1,000 age appropriate gifts for over 300 children. The



many families who attended the festivities were treated to food, crafts, music and a visit by Santa Claus.

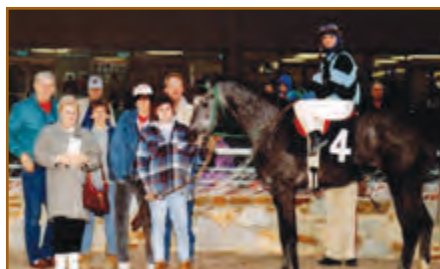
Last year, In 2012, the PARX Racetrack Chaplaincy gave out 27 beds and 18 high quality air mattresses, 329 boxes of food, 89 turkeys with all the ‘fixins’, 49 coupons for a free turkey or ham, 236 blankets, 68 good or new jackets, 18 microwaves, 9 refrigerators, 31 bicycles, 87 book bags filled with school supplies, 49 Bibles, over 650 socks, countless hats, scarves, gloves, towels, wash cloths, sheets, pillows, toiletries, loaves of bread, and more. There were 37 Chapel n’ Chows in 2012 as well, and most of these provided many meals of leftovers. We in coordination with the PTHA and the Racing Office provided over 2,000 meals through the meal ticket and meal card program at Ron’s Backstretch Cafe.







# Backstretch Views



Steve Capanas scored his 300th victory aboard Thunderlucious for trainer Marty Fallon

## Racing Community Mourns Death of Former Rider Capanas

Steve Capanas, 1988 Eclipse Award winning apprentice jockey, recently passed away in his home in PA. A native of Somers Point, NJ, Capanas had been working at Baskin-Robbins when a customer suggested he become a jockey because of his size. Capanas began working at Garden State Park Racetrack, with trainer Marty Fallon in 1985, starting from the ground up as a hotwalker.

"The first time I got my feet off the ground was when he let me sit on the stable pony, Speckles," Capanas had said. "That was a big thing for me, too, because I had never been on a horse in my life."

Fallon had brought up many young riders during the Keystone era, including Matt Vigliotti, who was inducted into the Parx Hall of Fame last year and was also a nominee for an Eclipse award as leading apprentice.

Capanas rode for 18 years, winning 1,224 races. His best season was in 1988, when he won 300 races and over \$2.4 million in purses. He loved golf, fast cars and animals, and was known around the backstretch for his smile and generosity. After he stopped riding races in 2004, he stayed at Philadelphia Park, galloping horses.



Joe and Jamie Williams, from Green Lane, PA, compete weekly in rodeos, often against each other, hoping to win prize money and championships. "It is much more than a hobby," said Joe.

*Photo by Jeremy Drey/Reading Eagle*

## Parx Blacksmith Joe Williams Part of Rodeo Team

When Joe Williams is not shoeing horses at Parx Racetrack, he is usually on the road with his wife of seven years, Jamie, his 4-year-old son Cooper, and a trio of Quarter Horses heading to a rodeo.

Jamie, the first woman to ever qualify for the Circuit Finals in team roping, and Joe, a two time circuit champion, practice together at their farm in Green Lane, PA, but have different partners in competition.

"We have a good marriage, and I want to keep it that way," said Joe.

The pair met in a rodeo during high school, and break Quarter Horses on his mother's Start to Finish Farm. His mother, Anita Spinelli, has Thoroughbreds in training with Diane Day.

As members of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, the pair continue to seek sponsorships. The PTHA helped sponsor their recent trip to the Farm Show rodeo in Harrisburg.



Jamie Williams spends some time with four-year-old Cooper, who often travels to rodeos with his parents and has already learned how to rope.

*Photo by Jeremy Drey/Reading Eagle*

## Horsemen Raise Money for Fusco's Young Grandchild

The PTHA is raising money to help 4-year-old Franky Talley, grandson of the late Mark Fusco. Franky was diagnosed with Pontine Glioma, which is a tumor in his brainstem. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Please stop in the PTHA office or call 215-638-2012 and make a donation for this young boy's medical care.

A Beef and Beer fundraiser was held on February 22 at the Hilltop Athletic Association, but the doctor's expenses are very high and we hope to continue to collect donations.

All proceeds will be given to his mother, Tiffany Fusco.

## Want to Join the Turning For Home Team?

Turning For Home has come a long way since we took our first horse into the program in 2008. (Yes, we'll be five years old in May 2013. Time sure flies!). It is because of your support that the PTHA's Turning For Home has emerged as a leader in the racing industry and a model program for many North American racetracks.

Part of the reason that we are successful is because of our team of talented and caring horse people who have helped us to feed, rehabilitate, and reschool our horses on farms located in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New Hampshire and Virginia. We could not accomplish our mission of giving every retiree from Parx a chance at a new career without South Jersey Thoroughbred Retirement, Off the Track Thoroughbred Adoption, After the Races, New England Retirement Center and Lisa Molloy Training Center.

### Do you know of anyone who'd like to join this team?

If you fit this profile, you could be what we are looking for:

- ☐ Organizations with non-profit or pending non-profit status. We can guide you through this process.
- ☐ People with the desire to share our mission to prevent Thoroughbred horses from slaughter by providing them with re-schooling and approved adoptive homes.
- ☐ Horse people that are experienced in handling a Thoroughbred horse that has had no off track experience, and which also may have an injury.
- ☐ Caring individuals who understand the time needed and have the desire to screen adopters and do regular follow-up on each horse. We require each group to be able to take back any horse that needs to be returned by an adopter who can no longer keep him.
- ☐ A facility which follows the AAEP Guidelines for Equine Rescue and Retirement Facilities ([www.aaep.org](http://www.aaep.org) under Guidelines).

Many of you may already re-home Thoroughbreds off the track, or know people who do. The benefits of jumping on board with Turning For Home, rather than going it alone include:

- ☐ Each of our horses arrives with complete veterinary information, race records, and conformation photos, which already saves time and money on your part.
- ☐ We pay for the care of every horse up front, and schedule shipping to the farms at our cost. Our experience shows that a green, sound Thoroughbred spends up to 3 months being let down and reschooled before he is adopted, and our one time fee reflects that. On the other hand, our up front fee for horses that are undergoing rehabilitation after surgery, or after other track injuries can require more time, and therefore, more money for top care.
- ☐ Turning For Home gets many, many inquiries about horses for adoption -- we even have our own adoption application. We send all of our inquiries on to you, increasing the chance of every horse getting a great new home. Our website, Facebook page and newsletter pay tribute to the groups that help us, which further attracts adopters to your organization. We often schedule photo shoots and video presentations from our farms, which also spreads the word and increases your visibility
- ☐ Each group sets their own adoption fees, which are not shared with Turning For Home. We feel you have done the work, you know the horses best once they get through with their schooling, and you are responsible for the follow-up.

Enough about us.

We want to hear from you! Please contact Barbara Luna at **215-272-6716**. Let's talk about how all of us can better provide for these great athletes when they are finished racing. Join our team, and share our success stories.

**P.S. And if you are not a "horse person," but like the idea of our team, please consider volunteering for fundraising and helping us promote our program at our booth at the track and at horse shows.**

**Barbara Luna, Program Administrator • [turningforhome@patha.org](mailto:turningforhome@patha.org) • 215-272-6716**  
**Our office is located at Parx Racetrack, in Bensalem, PA.**



# Turning For HomePage



## Once again, the Turning For Home Annual Silent Auction is March 20, 2013 at the Annual Horsemen's Awards Banquet.

Please help by donating gift baskets, gift cards or certificates, art work, event tickets, wine, jewelry, or ? Proceeds will go towards the racehorses from Parx racetrack who need rehabilitation, retraining and new careers. No item is too small as we can make anything into gift baskets thanks to our wonderful volunteers, Joi Hollinger and Debbie Ulmer. Items can be dropped off in the TFH or PTHA office on the backstretch. See Barbara Luna, or call her at 215-272-6716. THANKS in advance.

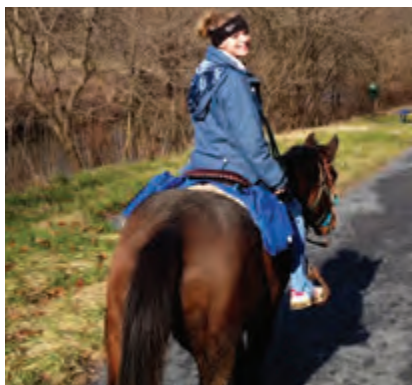
Tickets to the banquet are \$25, and the festivities will be held on the third floor of the grandstand this year.



Lord of Arete, adopted by Debbie in Mullica Hill, NJ



Butcher Herb (aka Chance), with adopter Alix



Supportive Lover (aka Enzo), with adopter Jess

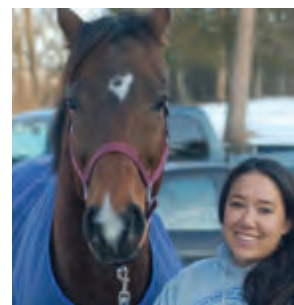


### LOOK WHO'S POSTER BOY FOR THE USEA!

Many thanks to South Jersey Thoroughbred Rescue and Retirement which helped My Son MJ (aka Pogi) into a great home with Maggie Zock. The above photo on the United States Eventing Association's membership card shows him enroute to winning his first Novice event at the Virginia Horse Trials in Leesburg, VA. Lynn Symansky is aboard.



Maninja with adopter in MA



Overbid and Carly



Many thanks to Ron Finley of Ron's Backstretch Cafe on the Parx backstretch for his recent donation to Turning For Home. The Finley are very active in providing great food for all of the holiday meals for track employees, as well as the summer barbecues and the popular Pig Roast. Thanks, Ron, for all you do!

### Friendly Reminder to Trainers whose horses are going into TFH:

Please remove horse's hind shoes and trim, and trim or reset fronts. We will not pick up a horse without this being done.

TURNING FOR HOME, INC. IS A 501 c 3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO PREVENT PARX RACING'S RETIRED THOROUGHBREDS FROM SLAUGHTER.

CALL 215-272-6716 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A DONATION. WWW.TURNINGFORHOME.ORG. P.O. BOX 300, BENSALEM, PA 19020

**Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association**  
**P.O. Box 300**  
**Bensalem, PA 19020**

**215-638-2012: Fax 215-638-2919**  
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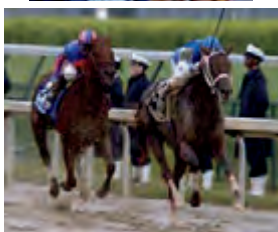
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Photos by Skip Dickstein.

# LET'S GO RACING TV SHOW

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