



# PTHA NEWS

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

Volume 6 2014

## Nasa Splashes Down in PA Nursery



Nasa wins the PA Nursery on December 6, 2014.

Ten years after Smarty Jones captured the heart of the nation, his son Nasa took the very race that Smarty won as a juvenile - the seven furlong Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes. Many of the connections were identical, as Nasa is a homebred for Someday Farm, and is trained by John Servis. Last year, Stewart Elliott moved on to a new circuit, so Kendrick Carmouche has been aboard for the colt's four starts, including a 9 1/4-length maiden victory at Laurel Park.

The compact bay colt has proven versatile, running well both on the lead and coming from just off the pace, which he showed most recently when finishing third in the Christopher Elser Memorial. When the gates opened for the Nursery, Nasa jetted out to the early lead, and kept right on going, clearly enjoying his first trip over the sloppy surface.

New York invader Instructor Kunu ran a solid second under Ramon Moya for trainer John Terranova. While still a maiden, the chestnut son of E Dubai now boasts black type on his resume for owner Ken Geren. Blitzensmajikreign jumped up at odds of 34-1 to finish third, one race after breaking his maiden by eight lengths.

Nasa is the first offspring of Smarty Jones to triumph in the Pennsylvania Nursery, and is a full brother to Centralintelligence, who won the 2013 Grade 1 Triple Bend Handicap at Hollywood Park.



Owner **Pat Chapman** embraces longtime trainer **John Servis** after the PA Nursery.



Nasa with groom **Sal Ruiz**.

## Parx Preps Lead to Breeders' Cup Success

And we thought last year was good!

In 2013, Parx Racing produced the second-place finishers of four Breeders' Cup races, including both the Classic and Distaff. Everyone hoped for a banner follow-up in 2014, but what a surprise it was to watch first this year's G1 Cotillion Stakes heroine Untapable, and then the G2 Pennsylvania Derby winner Bayern, storm to victory at Santa Anita Park.

This year, sixteen thoroughbreds with connections to Parx contested the prestigious Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships, proving that Parx Racing is *the* spot for horsemen to place their athletes when preparing for a successful fall campaign.

Check out pages 4-5 for a full recap!



Breeders' Cup Classic & Pennsylvania Derby hero, **Bayern**.



Breeders' Cup Distaff & Cotillion Handicap heroine, **Untapable**.

Photos: Nikki Sherman



## President's Message

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esquire

What an incredible year it has been at our racetrack here in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. Not only did we attract an unbelievable set of competitors for our signature races, but the winners of those two races - the G1 Cotillion Handicap and G2 Pennsylvania Derby - used those prep races as springboards for the biggest weekend of racing in the country. I would like to acknowledge how proud we are at Parx that Bayern and Untapable are now Breeders' Cup winners, and leading candidates for Horse of the Year, as well as their respective divisions of the Eclipse Awards.

I would also like to congratulate Brian Sanfratello on his appointment as Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association. All of us at the PTHA wish him well in this expanded position, and are thrilled that we will continue working with him as part of the Equine Coalition, as well as our PHBA/PTHA partnership.

Last month, I was truly humbled when I received the Circle of Excellence Award from *SmartCEO*, and was recognized as a leader in the non-profit sector of Philadelphia. Thank you to Executive Director Mike Ballezzi, as well as the rest of the PTHA Board, the PTHA staff, and everyone else who has worked with me over the years to make sure that the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has successfully served its members. Without this help, we would not be able to provide crucial assistance for horsemen, ranging from health insurance to legal advice; pension benefits to doubled purses on Owners Appreciation Day; college scholarships to racehorse retirement; and so much more.

And finally, as 2015 rolls into view on the horizon, I would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season, and hope that you have a great new year!



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Guess Who (p17): Eli Betancourt & Lynn Jones



# Parx Horsemen Around the Nation

## October 4 - **TEMPERANCE HILL S.**

Belmont Park, 1 5/8 miles  
1st - EVER RIDER (ARG)  
O: Waldorf Racing Stables  
T: Marya Montoya  
J: Javier Castellano

## October 11 - **PLUM PRETTY S.**

Parx Racing, 1 1/16 miles  
2nd - PRIMO VIA  
O: LA Thoroughbreds  
T: Philip Aristone  
J: Eri Luis Vaz

## October 11 - **CORNUCOPIA S.**

Parx Racing, 6 furlongs  
1st - WINNING IMAGE  
O: Martin Scafidi  
T: Michael Charles Aro  
J: Anthony Black

## October 11 - **FIRST RESPONDER S.**

Parx Racing, 1 1/16 miles  
2nd - YOUNGOTTHATGOINFORU  
O: Touchdown Stable & Kamikaze Stable  
T: Philip Aristone  
J: Jacqueline Davis

## October 18 - **MARYLAND MILLION CLASSIC S.**

Laurel Park, 1 1/8 miles  
3rd - TURBIN  
O: Kasey K Racing Stable & Nations Stable LLC  
T: Keith Nations  
J: Inoel Beato

## November 1 - **XPRESSBET BREEDERS' CUP SPRINT (G1)**

Santa Anita Park, 6 furlongs  
3rd - PRIVATE ZONE  
O: Good Friends Stable LLC  
T: Alfredo Velazquez  
J: Martin Pedroza

## November 8 - **MILLIONS TURF PREVIEW STAKES**

Gulfstream Park, 1 1/16 miles (T)  
3rd - BREITLING FLYER  
O: Rontos Racing Stable Corp.  
T: Lisa Guerrero  
J: Leandro Goncalves

## November 16 - **CHRISTOPHER ELSER MEMORIAL S.**

Parx Racing, 6 1/2 furlongs  
3rd - NASA  
O: Someday Farm  
T: John Servis  
J: Kendrick Carmouche

## November 16 - **DONNA FREYER S.**

Parx Racing, 6 1/2 furlongs  
3rd - PATTITUDE  
O: Robert Bone  
T: Keith Nations  
J: Victor Carrasco

## November 29 - **CIGAR MILE (G1)**

Aqueduct, 1 mile  
1st - PRIVATE ZONE  
O: Good Friends Stable LLC  
T: Alfredo Velazquez  
J: Martin Pedroza

## November 29 - **SWATARA S.**

Penn National, 1 1/16 miles  
2nd - ADIRONDACK KING  
O: MarchFore T'breds  
T: John Servis  
J: John Bisons  
3rd - YOUNGOTTHATGOINFORU  
O: Touchdown Stable & Kamikaze Stable  
T: Philip Aristone  
J: Angel Castillo

## December 6 - **GARLAND OF ROSES S.**

Aqueduct, 6 furlongs  
2nd - WINNING IMAGE  
O: Martin Scafidi  
T: Michael Charles Aro  
J: Anthony Black

## December 6 - **PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY S.**

Parx Racing, 7 furlongs  
1st - NASA  
O: Someday Farm  
T: John Servis  
J: Kendrick Carmouche  
3rd - BLITZENSMAJIKREIGN  
O: Kirwan Equine Group, Inc.  
T: Marcos Zulueta  
J: Michael Ritvo

## December 6 - **CLAIMING CROWN GLASS SLIPPER S.**

Gulfstream Park, 1 mile  
3rd - PEBBLE BEACH BABY  
O: Marisa Lizza  
T: Ramon Preciado  
J: Orlando Bocachica

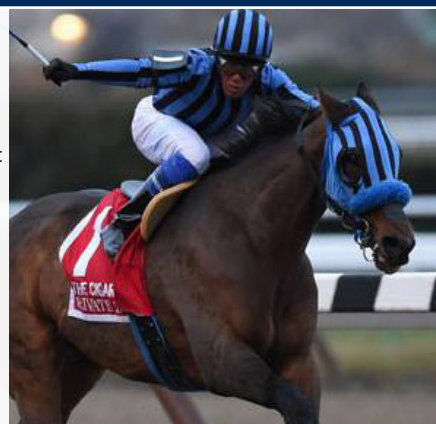
## December 6 - **CLAIMING CROWN CANTERBURY S.**

Gulfstream Park, 5 furlongs (T)  
2nd - MR. ONLINE  
O: Tim E. O'Donohue Racing LLC  
T: Michael Pino  
J: Mario Pino

## December 6 - **GIN TALKING S.**

Laurel Park, 7 furlongs  
2nd - DARLING SKY  
O: Swilcan Stable & The Harp Racing Stable  
T: Robert Reid, Jr.  
J: Joe Rocco, Jr.

**Private Zone** took his second Grade 1 win of the year with an emphatic romp in the **Cigar Mile Handicap** at Aqueduct on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The gelding has been trained this year by **Alfredo Velazquez** for owner **Good Friends Stable LLC**. **Martin Pedroza** was given the leg up again for the Cigar Mile.



Trainer **Alfredo** & his wife **Anita Velazquez**, jockey **Martin Pedroza**, and multiple members of the **Good Friends Stable LLC** syndicate accept their trophies from the Cigar Mile Handicap.

It took less than a month after her first career stakes victory before trainer **Marya Montoya** snatched her second. **Ever Rider (ARG)** won the October 4th **Temperance Hill Stakes** at Belmont Park for owner **Waldorf Racing Stables**. The handsome grey was ridden to victory by **Javier Castellano**.



Owner **Waldorf Racing LLC** (**David Wright** with fiancée **Elizabeth Dale**), jockey **Javier Castellano**, trainer **Marya Montoya** and husband **Ross Montoya** accept the trophy for the Temperance Hill.

Photos: Adam Coglianese

## December 6 - **WILLA ON THE MOVE S.**

Laurel Park, 6 furlongs  
3rd - DISCO CHICK  
O: Freedom Acres, Inc.  
T: Mario Serey, Jr.  
J: Jacqueline Davis

## December 6 - **CLAIMING CROWN RAPID TRANSIT S.**

Gulfstream Park, 7 furlongs  
3rd - MONTY HAUL  
O: Dawghouse Stable  
T: Philip Aristone  
J: John Bisons

# Parx Preps Lead to Breeders' Cup Success



California Chrome gallops at Parx Racing.

## BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC

**Bayern (1<sup>st</sup>)** walloped the fields in both the Breeders' Cup Classic and the PA Derby, a race that featured three Classic contenders.

## California

**Chrome (3<sup>rd</sup>)** captured the hearts of the entire racing industry this past spring with his Triple Crown attempt. He then made his fall comeback right here in the PA Derby, but experienced bad racing luck and ended up sixth. Also exiting this year's PA Derby was third-place finisher **Candy Boy (6<sup>th</sup>)**, who had finished second or third in five graded stakes events entering the Classic. In addition, four-year-old **Moreno (14<sup>th</sup>)** joined the trio of youngsters after finishing second in last year's PA Derby.

## BREEDERS' CUP DISTAFF



Close Hatches at Santa Anita.

**Untapable (1<sup>st</sup>)** cemented the sophomore filly championship with her easy win in the Cotillion Stakes this year, and then put her name in the mix for Horse of the Year honors by streaking home first in the Breeders' Cup Distaff. This was her first try against older mares, in a field that included last year's Cotillion winner, **Close Hatches (11<sup>th</sup>)** was nothing

short of brilliant throughout her career, which included a second in last year's Distaff. She began this season with four straight victories, but tailed off going into the fall, and is now retired to owner **Juddmonte Farms'** broodmare band.

## BREEDERS' CUP SPRINT

Parx trainer **Alfredo Velazquez** has handled the training of **Private Zone (3<sup>rd</sup>)** since this past summer, with his most recent start being a victory in the G1 Vosburgh Stakes at Belmont Park. The little bay gelding has flourished with Velazquez, and rewarded owners **Good**

## Friends Stable

with a solid third-place finish in this year's Sprint.

**Fast Anna (5<sup>th</sup>)** is a son of 2006 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies heroine **Dreaming of Anna** and top sire **Medaglia**

d'Oro. He made his Breeders' Cup prep in the G3 Gallant Bob Stakes at Parx Racing, where he finished second behind hometown colt **Favorite Tale**.



Danny Velazquez gives a leg up to Martin Pedroza aboard **Private Zone**, for his dad, trainer **Alfredo Velazquez**.

## BREEDERS' CUP TURF

Parx-based jockey **Eriluis Vaz** rode **Hardest Core (8<sup>th</sup>)** in the Breeders' Cup Turf, one race after guiding the gelding to victory in the G1 Arlington Million last time out. They also won an allowance race right here at Parx in June. **Hardest Core** nearly sprang the upset in the Turf, ranging up to the lead within the first half-mile and setting the pace until he tired at the top of the stretch.



**Hardest Core** and **Eriluis Vaz** during the Breeders' Cup Turf.

## BREEDERS' CUP DIRT MILE

**Golden Ticket (8<sup>th</sup>)** went into the Dirt Mile looking to improve upon his second-place finish in last year's edition. The son of **Speightstown** had run third in the 2012 PA Derby.

World traveler

**Pants On Fire (3<sup>rd</sup>)** made his career debut right here at Parx Racing before becoming a multiple graded stakes winner. And with the best finish of all in this year's Dirt Mile, **Tapiture (2<sup>nd</sup>)** shortened up to a mile after his second-place finish in this year's PA Derby, and closed late to finish second in the final strides.



**Pants On Fire** at Santa Anita.



## BREEDERS' CUP FILLY &amp; MARE SPRINT



Sweet Reason at Santa Anita.

Two fillies returned to sprinting after contesting this year's Cotillion Stakes. Lightly raced **Little Alexis** (9<sup>th</sup>) was fourth at Parx after being the first filly to arrive in Bensalem that week. In addition, Cotillion second-place finisher **Sweet Reason** (8<sup>th</sup>) was one of the top three-year-old fillies this

season, having grabbed two straight G1 races in New York.

## BREEDERS' CUP TURF SPRINT

Popular gelding **Tightend Touchdown** (6<sup>th</sup>)

rose up from the claiming ranks, all the way to a multiple stakes winner. This was his second year contesting the Breeders' Cup Turf

Sprint; last year he finished second behind Mizdirection. Multiple G3 winner **Marchman** (13<sup>th</sup>) ran third in this year's Parx Dash before experiencing a rough trip in the Turf Sprint.



Tightend Touchdown at Santa Anita.



Freddy and Danny Velazquez were all smiles in the paddock, along with Parx Director of Racing **Sal Sinatra**. Freddy trained third-place finisher **Private Zone** in the **Breeders' Cup Sprint** (G1).



The **PTHA** was represented by horsemen all the way out in California! Even the groom of **Tapiture** wore an **Owners Appreciation Day** hat while schooling at Santa Anita Park.



**California Chrome** at Santa Anita.



**Cary Street** won the **Las Vegas Marathon** (G2) at Santa Anita on Breeders' Cup Friday. While the race is no longer a Breeders' Cup event, it is notable that Cary Street last ran in the **Greenwood Cup** (G3) right here at Parx on Smarty Jones Day.



**Eriluis Vaz** in the paddock at Santa Anita.



**Candy Boy** in the paddock at Santa Anita.



Trainer **Mike Aro** (center) with his nephew **Matt Walsh** (left) and fellow Mid-Atlantic trainer **Mike Gorham**.



# Why Breed & Own in Pennsylvania?

- > **\$35 million** paid in PA-Bred Awards, Purses & Bonuses
- > **500** days of racing at 3 PA racetracks
- > **500+** restricted races just for PA-Breds
- > **22** restricted stakes races totaling **\$1.68 million** in purses
- > **Breeder award bonus of up to 30%** of purse earned on all races (1st through 3rd), with no cap on earnings
- > **Bonus of 25%** of purse earned to owner of PA-Sired horse in all PA-Bred stakes races (1st through 3rd)
- > **Bonus of up to 40%** of purse earned to owner on overnight races (1st through 3rd), with no cap on earnings



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**Around the Oval at Parx Racing**



Photos: Nikki Sherman





Photos: Nikki Sherman

Brian and Terry Sanfratello with homebred Mystical Rain.

**Q: How did you become involved in the racing industry?**

A: My wife and I had friends of ours who used to come to the racetrack on Saturdays, and they owned a horse. I had said, "Maybe we'll give this a shot and see what happens". So in 1995, we claimed our first horse with Marty Fallon as our trainer. We really had no horse experience before that claim, so everything was a challenge.

**Q: How about the breeding aspect of the industry?**

A: The first horse we bought at the sale in 1996 was a Maryland-bred and became a multiple stakes winner - Truth and Nobility. So we were spoiled. When she was retiring, we didn't really want to sell her, and we thought we might give the breeding end of it a shot with her. So that's why we bought the farm in 2000. Since then we've bred 26 horses and - knock on wood - every one of the horses that we've bred has been a winner.

**Q: You've been involved in the PHBA for a long time. How did that start?**

A: I thought that if we were going to be involved in the horse business, we should get involved in the breeders' organization. I've been on the board about 13-14 years and went through all the seats and eventually I became the President.

**Q: What have you learned while working with the PHBA?**

A: I think the most important thing is to make sure that the legislators - because they're constantly turning over - understand how much breeding and racing does for the economy in Pennsylvania. It's basically the lack of knowledge with the legislators that hurts us the most because when you have someone that gets up in caucus and says, "We should take this much money from the Race Horse Development Fund". And people who don't know any better just think, "Sounds like a good idea".

My goal is to get out and talk to as many legislators as possible and go over what breeding and racing does for

## Horsemen's Profile: Brian Sanfratello

*The Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association (PHBA) recently named Brian Sanfratello as the organization's Executive Secretary, after he had previously served as the board's president for four years. He is a retired financial representative as well as a former Marine Sergeant. Brian and wife Terry formed Briter Stable in 1995, creating the name by combining their first names. The couple has three children - Michele, Daniele and Nicholas - and seven grandchildren.*

Pennsylvania. I can't tell you how many times I've been in Harrisburg. Any time you have a fund as big as ours, and a budget that's as bad as Pennsylvania's, you're going to have people that want to use some of that money. Trying to convince them that

it's not their money usually doesn't work. This was an agreement between the casinos, the horsemen and the state. You get your share, they get their share, we get our share. But we've done well and stabilized the money coming out of the Race Horse Development Fund, so that's been helpful and we're very proud of that.

**Q: Here's the big question - why should people breed their mares in Pennsylvania?**

A: Over the past few years, we've been able to develop a consistent restricted race program and that's because of the help from both horsemen's groups and ourselves. It's important because people can take their mare wherever they want. Why should they breed here? When someone says to me, Maryland's the place to go, I say to them, well, you have 149 opportunities in Maryland because that's how many race days they have. We have 500 race days here. This year we'll probably have 550 restricted races. So where's the best opportunity for you to win with your horses? In Pennsylvania.



The Briter Stable silks reflect the "bright" pronunciation of its name.



Brian's granddaughter named C J's Cheezit, who was recently retired through Turning for Home.

## Senator McIlhinney is PTHA Man of the Year



On Saturday, October 11th, the PTHA proudly presented a very special award, one that is only offered when someone does something truly beneficial for our industry. PTHA President Sal DeBunda was on hand to honor this year's recipient of the PTHA Man of the Year Award, Senator Charles T. McIlhinney, Jr.

For many years, Senator McIlhinney has been a legislative leader in Harrisburg, working hard to protect horsemen. He understands how important the racing industry is to the Pennsylvania economy, and has used his strong voice in the Senate to support our horsemen.

## Octoberfest Closes Out Fall Festival



Winning Image

Rain for Octoberfest at Parx Racing has become the norm over the past few years, and this year was no different. In the morning, runners of the human variety came out to participate in

the annual 5K and Fun Mile Walk. Proceeds from the event benefitted The Foundation for Breast & Prostate Health.

The most thrilling race of the day occurred in the \$75,000 Cornucopia Stakes, as the incredible Mike Aro-trained mare, Winning Image, found yet another gear in the final yards to take her tenth career stakes victory for owner Martin Scafidi. The daughter of Southern Image was slated to be retired last year but was kept in training after being stranded at Parx during last winter's quarantine.

She was ridden by Parx Hall of Famer Tony Black, which brought his number of career victories to a brilliant 5,209. Winning Image has compiled a career record of 14 wins from 32 starts, and earned over \$700,000.



Page McKenney

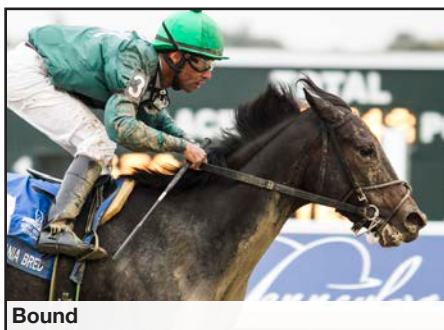
One race later, Frankie Pennington guided Page McKenney to victory in the the \$75,000 First Responder Stakes. The race came off the turf after the morning rain, which resulted in a number of scratches, taking the field down to six starters, and allowed Touchdown Stable

& Kamikaze Stable's Yougotthatgoinforu to draw into the field from the AE. The Phil Aristone trainee ended up being bet down to the favorite in the mile and a sixteenth event, and prompted the pace throughout, before finally succumbing to Page McKenney in the final furlong.

The First Responder was Page McKenney's second career stakes win. The four-year-old chestnut gelding finished up in 1:44.20 while drawing away by 2 1/4 lengths over Yougotthatgoinforu.

In the \$75,000 Plum Pretty Stakes, three-year-old Bound under Kendrick Carmouche pulled away to an easy 3 1/2 length victory while posting a mild upset. The daughter of Jump Start paid \$22.20 to win for owner Barlar LLC and trainer T. Bernard Houghton. Phil Aristone ran an unlucky second again, this time with favored Primo Via.

Earlier in the day, six gray geldings broke from the starting gate in the annual Silver Goblin Starter Handicap, a one mile race that was moved to the dirt course due to track conditions. Swilcan Stables' Ricky Tick drew off at the top of the stretch to take the victory under Diego Sanchez for trainer Butch Reid.



Bound



Ricky Tick





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# The Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

## LEGISLATION



- Representation in Harrisburg by legal professionals who are fighting for the rights and monetary benefits of Parx horsemen
- Write appeals for rulings against horsemen
- Saved millions of dollars from being diverted away from the Race Horse Development Fund
- Represent horsemen before the Board of Stewards, PA Racing Commission & state legislature

## RACING

- All-time record handle of \$10,396,671 on PA Derby Day
- 16,000+ in attendance for PA Derby Day
- Pennsylvania Derby & Cotillion produced Breeders' Cup Classic & Distaff winners
- Keep constant records of the purses that are being distributed, including pay-to-last and breeders funds
- New class of nine inducted into the Parx Racing Hall of Fame



## BACKSTRETCH



- Fax, copy, notary and provide checks for Racing Commission
- Benefit Trust, health & dental insurance coverage
- Pension plan for trainers
- Weekly PTHA trophy race
- Sponsorship of softball and soccer leagues
- Continuation of new barn construction
- Support of a trap, neuter and release program for the feral cat colony

## MEDICATION

- Spearheaded the elimination of steroids in racehorses in the state of Pennsylvania
- Established uniform medication guidelines and penalties for the East Coast and Illinois
- Implementation of a third-party Lasix administration program
- Support of a unified penalty system for drug positives in racing, to create a level playing field among all horsemen





## ...Hard at Work for Parx Racing Horsemen in 2014

### BENEVOLENCE

- Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund for stable employees working at Parx or parents employed at Parx
- Sponsor of multiple bicycle rides benefitting wounded veterans & illnesses
- Sponsor of the Bucks County YWCA's 2014 Teen Volunteer of the Year Award
- LaSalle University nurses on-site twice weekly for all backstretch personnel



### MEDIA



- Sponsor of radio show *It's Post Time*
- Creator of weekly television show *Let's Go Racing*
- Sponsor and distributor of handicapper Craig Donnelly's free *Parx Racing Analysis*
- PTHA News, a bi-monthly newsletter, mailed to over 3,000 PTHA members
- PTHA website completely redesigned and linked to PTHA Facebook page

### HORSEMEN'S PURCHASING ASSOCIATION

- Feed, shavings and more offered to horsemen at affordable prices
- Weekly featured products at reduced rates
- Regular holiday sales
- New coupons and promotions printed all year
- Agway promotion of 1 free bag of feed for each set of 9 bags purchased now extended to be a year round offer



### TURNING FOR HOME



- A model program for other racetracks
- Safe retirement for any racehorse based at Parx Racing under a current Parx trainer
- Nearly 1,500 total horses since opening in 2008
- More than 200 horses entered program in 2014, an increase of more than 70 horses than 2013
- 140+ horses adopted in 2014
- Facebook page "likes" nearly doubled since 2013



# GRADE 3 MILLIONAIRE

## *Weigelia*

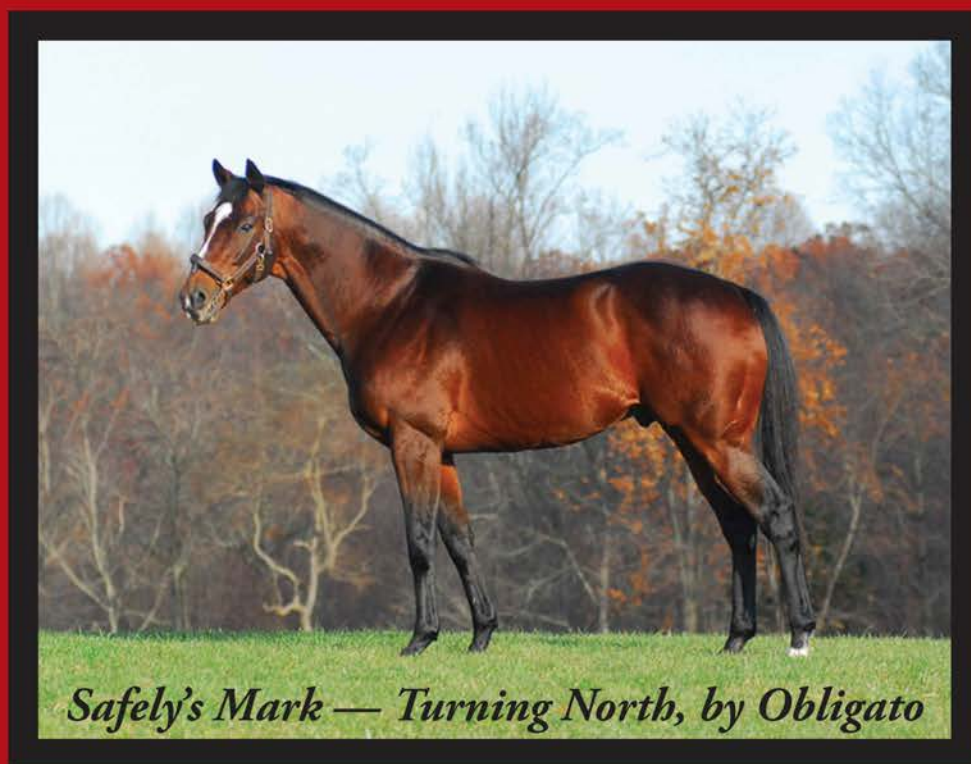


Photo Courtesy of Barrie Reighaler

*Safely's Mark — Turning North, by Obligato*

**Ran Nine 100-plus Beyers and TWO New Course Records:  
6 furlongs 1:07 at Belmont Park, 5 furlongs in :55 at Monmouth Park**

**W****EIGELIA** won eight stakes on dirt and turf, including G3 Carry Back S. (scoring 108 Beyer), G3 Kenny Noe Jr. H. (with a 103 Beyer), \$150,000 Jack Dudley Sprint H. twice (107 and 109 Beyers), \$100,000 Ponche H. (106 Beyer), Western Borders S. (104 Beyer), etc. He placed second in four stakes, including the G1 King's Bishop S. (105 Beyer), \$140,000 Icecapade S. (100 Beyer) etc. He placed third in nine additional stakes, including the G2 Smile Sprint H., G2 Amsterdam S. and G3 Jaipur S. **TOTAL EARNINGS OF \$1,077,708.** His sire, **SAFELY'S MARK**, by **DANZIG**, and out of an Eclipse Award Sprinter **SAFELY KEPT** and his dam, **TURNING NORTH** from the winning G1 family of champions **DAVONA DALE**, **SEEK GOLD**, etc. makes Weigelia a worthy choice.

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## PTHA President Sal DeBunda Recognized by SmartCEO

Philadelphia *SmartCEO* magazine named Salvatore M. DeBunda winner in the Nonprofit category of the 2014 Circle of Excellence Awards at a live event in Philadelphia, where he was recognized for his leadership of the PTHA.

“On behalf of the PTHA, I am honored to have received the Circle of Excellence award which further promotes the importance of racing in Pennsylvania,” said DeBunda. “Not many people realize it, but horse racing in Pennsylvania is a vital part of the state’s economy. It generates \$1.6 billion in annual economic activity and is responsible for the preservation of thousands of acres of farmland as open space. The racing industry supports more than 20,000 hard-working Pennsylvanians who rely on the industry for their jobs, including blacksmiths, stable hands, track workers, horse trainers, jockeys and drivers, veterinarians, and farmers who produce feed.”

Now in its fourth year of celebration in Philadelphia, the Circle of Excellence awards honor leaders who have successfully taken their companies to the forefront of their chosen industries.



“The Circle of Excellence finalists have shaped the Philadelphia business community in ways that have not gone unnoticed. They are distinguished leaders in their fields of business and have found unbelievable success,” said Jaime Nespor-Zawmon, President of SmartCEO Events. “We are proud to recognize them for their achievements and excellence. They have set the bar high and are admirable role models for the Philadelphia community.”

## Mere Inches Separate Horses in South Carolina Stakes



Miss Bullistic.

On Saturday, November 16th, two sets of juveniles competed for \$75,000 each at Parx Racing. The special stakes races were restricted to horses who had spent ninety days in South Carolina and

paid a nomination fee to the South Carolina Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (SCTOBA).

The Donna Freyer Stakes drew a field of ten two-year-old fillies that would go six and a half furlongs on the dirt. Post time favorite was Kawfee Fa Marfa, who had broken her maiden in her debut in a stakes race at Delaware Park. Second choice was Miss Bullistic, who won the Selima at Laurel Park on the turf in September. Also drawing interest in the betting was the undefeated Mondor, who broke her maiden by more than ten lengths in her debut at Laurel.

Stakes-placed Saluda took the early lead at the start, with Keith Nations’ Pattitude prompting the pace alongside Mike Pino’s Lust for Diamonds. When entering the stretch, Saluda began to fade as Pattitude surged to the front and the closers began to move. At the wire, less than a neck separated the top four horses – Miss Bullistic, Mondor, Pattitude and Lust for Diamonds.

Winning filly Miss Bullistic was trained by Hamilton Smith for owner Kathleen Willier. She was ridden to victory by Jevian Toledo. The dark bay daughter of Bullsbay stopped the clock in 1:20.26.

One race later, the 6 1/2 furlong Christopher Elser Memorial produced a similarly close finish. The overwhelming favorite was Someday Farm’s Nasa, a PA-bred son of Smarty Jones who had broken

his maiden by nearly ten lengths on September 27th at Laurel. The only stakes winner in the field was Duff, another PA-bred colt by Candy Ride, who won the Mark McDermott Stakes at Presque Isle Downs two starts back.

The stakes-placed gelding Stonebriar jumped out to the lead under Sheldon Russell, and nearly took the race wire to wire, battling first with Ramon Preciado’s Kensington Kid and then with the fast-closing Duff. At the finish, Duff held a head lead over Stonebriar, thus pushing his career earnings over the six-figure mark.

Daniel Centeno guided Duff to victory for The Elkstone Group LLC and trainer Ron Potts. The duo finished the Christopher Elser Memorial in 1:19.25.



Duff.

Photos: Barbara Weid | EQUI-PHOTO





RACEHORSE RETIREMENT PROGRAM

## TFH Year in Review

Thoughts from Program Administrator  
Danielle Montgomery



For the second time this year, **Teddy King** helped TFH by shipping more than 10 new retirees to a few of our southern partner farms in North and South Carolina.

For the Turning For Home, 2014 has been a successful year full of exciting changes, new farms, more horses, and great people. Under the guidance of PTHA President Sal DeBunda, Executive Director Mike Ballezzi, and Board of Directors, we are proud to run one of the best programs in the country that enables racehorses to enter second careers.

In a short time, we will hit the 1,500-horse mark. We save horses that have no other place to go, placing an average of 18 per month with quality retraining farms within three weeks, without undue hassle or large donation fees for the owners. We stay true to the Mission Statement that has lead the way since May 15, 2008 when TFH opened its doors as the first year-round racetrack to have a retirement program for injured or non-competitive Thoroughbreds:

*"PTHA's Turning for Home, Inc. provides safe haven & secure futures for Philadelphia Park's Thoroughbred racehorses when their careers have ended by placing them with approved adoption or rescue organizations or adopters in order to insure that no horse ends up at auction or slaughter."*

Unfortunately, there is still a huge threat to our noble athletes in the form of auctions, kill buyers, and transport out of the country to inhumane slaughter factories, as the map below by Alex Brown attempts to illustrate. We continue fighting to prevent any of our horses from having to endure that plight. Even more has to be done to educate the public and ensure that all horses are sold with strict No-Auction contracts to homes that have been carefully screened. It is our job to warn everyone that we, as Horsemen, will not stand for our horses to be dumped and we will not tolerate anyone in the industry who is so careless.



Alex Brown's horse slaughter project map.

In 2008, 118 horses went through, proving that there was a need for our program, and in 2014, 220 horses received our assistance to be safely retired. Over 150 horses have found new adoptive homes this year alone, and with the addition of new farms, we are

able to provide care for 50-70 horses while they get the time they need to transition to their new careers.

What sets our program apart is the dedication of our Board to provide for veterinary care and the amazing, caring work that our farms provide to correctly rehabilitate, retrain and rehome our horses. As always, transparency is important; trust and a good reputation are everything; and every day we wake up to do the right thing. We implemented taking screening radiograph sets with the help of our attending veterinarians, so that small fractures can get caught early and our farms have more confidence representing the horses accurately. We are able to pay for the procedures or surgeries that will enable a horse to transition into a second career, and by doing so save many more lives. Anything we can do to help a horse become adoptable, and stay in a good home, we do. We also pick up about a horse per month, either from our program or a needy Parx horse that is in jeopardy, and with the help of the former owners, trainers, and breeders, we make sure those horses are safe too.

Owners and trainers continue to believe in TFH and its mission, and their faith is justified. Many potential adopters were able to see TFH horses in action at the Horse World Expo in Harrisburg last March. We continue to support OTTB incentive programs in an effort to promote the Thoroughbred breed as a viable option for all equine disciplines, as well as maintain websites and social media pages to network our horses. Everything we do is aimed at placing horses into loving homes, and all the adoption fees support the farms in their matching efforts. It costs our program an average of \$3000 per horse to do this.

The faith in our program, and the success stories that make our hearts swell, are testaments to the fact that the TFH model works. The PA Breeders have increased their support, and the Parx jockey colony not only continued their support, but also helped by interacting with excited young fans at our autograph table. Parx Racing continues to aid the retirement efforts, and we have devoted supporters mentioned on the next page who fill in the gaps and allow us to help each and every Parx horse that needs us. We count on owners donating to TFH with every win at Parx, our program veterinarian Dr. Tom Lurito who donates hundreds of hours to examine our horses, and our volunteers who work table sales on big race days.

A lot has been done in six years, but there is still a lot more to do. Caring for our retired Thoroughbreds is a never-ending road. We are grateful to all those who have helped, and will continue to help, along the way.

Turning for Home, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to find homes for Parx Racing's retired thoroughbreds.

P.O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020 • 267-223-3418 • [www.turningforhome.org](http://www.turningforhome.org)



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*There are so many people who contribute their time to our organization that we know we are missing many from this list. Thank you to everyone, from the bottom of our hearts!*



# 2014 Adopted Horses

'11 Run Aurora Run  
Abby's Record  
Acro's Game  
Adios Harry  
Agents Bruce  
Altoid Girl  
Alyphillie  
Amoracchius  
Armed Intelligence  
Aunt Isabella  
Ballymurphy  
Be Brave  
Bella Bertie  
Ben's Hurrah  
Best Five  
Bialystok  
Big Ardan  
Big Blackjack  
Blazen Grace  
Boy Has Rhythm  
Brandeis  
Brother Leo  
Brush With Love  
C Lady's Fancy Cat

Captain Nightcap  
Catchingthebreeze  
Change Promised  
Change the Verdict  
Cherokee Mystery  
Clare Castle  
Cloud Empress  
Commanding Lead  
Core Inflation  
Crushin Rock  
Curve Ball  
Dancin Sue  
David the Great  
Dover Point  
Dynamic Chime  
Echo's Cutie Pie  
Enzed  
Executive Session  
Five Star Plus  
Formal Music  
Galofmydreams  
Giacokhan  
Glorious Memories  
Good Attitude

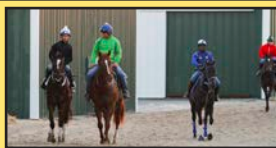
Gotta Bugatti  
Grizzle  
Half Blood Prince  
Halo's Got Even  
Headwing  
Hong Kong Nights  
Hot Bride  
Ibdancingtoo  
Indygo Fashion  
Iness Bay  
It Only Takes One  
Itsarockband  
Jaleos  
Jamestown Captain  
Jaz E Jaz  
Leawood Teel  
Lemon Ghost  
Lost Fortune  
Loving Dove  
Lucky Zip  
Lyrical Rhythms  
Maggiesothersister  
Manhattan Train  
Meem the Dream

Miss Dunnriddle  
Mission Doll  
Moonlight Splitter  
Moreforyourmoney  
Moriah Rising  
Mt. Silverstone  
Mugsy's Pass  
Murphy's Storm  
Nanny Cay  
Needtogetpaid  
Noifswatsorbutts  
Northern Glow  
Optimistic Cat  
Parlor Tricks  
Perfectly Lovely  
Pretty At Dawn  
Rachy Nicole  
Raftery  
Raptor One  
Ready to Play  
Regimental  
Retzski  
Rev It Up Chris  
Robinera's Afleet

Rod's Five Star  
Roman Games  
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Seaboa  
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Sent Forth  
Serenading Shari  
Shrimp Cocktail  
Siete Machos  
Sixty Four Model  
Smart Owner  
So Coool Too  
Sovereign Debt  
Speed Zone  
Speight Me  
Star Walk  
Sting Boy  
Straight On  
Street Haven  
Suances Luck  
Sum Diva  
Sweet Medley

Sweetsouthernambar  
Talk for Sate  
The Mad Piper  
The Registrar  
Thefivesecondrule  
Three Hour Tour  
Tippy Toes  
Tiz a Jungle  
Tiz Sunshine  
Tomas the Bowler  
Tourliani  
True Joanie True  
True Visionaire  
Vanquisher  
Victoria's Vision  
Westye's Dream  
White Rabbit  
Wicked Disco  
Wicked Dreams  
Wicked Lady  
Xrayder  
Yuki  
Zastera  
Zoom Zoom Zoom





# Backstretch

## Condolences...

Trainer **Eddie Papaycik**, 82, passed away on October 22, 2014. He was a brother of the late trainer **Charles Wahler** and the late Annabelle Millili, as well as Geraldine Hicks. Eddie was a veteran of the Korean War. As a trainer of racehorses, he was known for the care he gave to his horses. Donations in his memory may be sent to St. Ephrem Church, 5400 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, PA 19090.



Marketing Director **Nikki Sherman** lost her grandfather, **Robert Lesher**, on November 25, 2014. He is survived by his wife Joan, along with three daughters, ten grandchildren, and two great-

grandchildren. One daughter, **Linda Sherman**, was a former owner of racehorses at Philadelphia Park. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to Abington Hospice at Warminster, 225 Newtown Road, Warminster, PA 18974.



**Pete Zanette** passed away on November 18, 2014 at the age of 72. He was involved in horse racing for forty-five years as an owner, trainer and breeder. In addition, he was a regular pony rider, and could usually be seen taking horses

to the starting gate each afternoon at Parx. Pete is survived by two sisters, Rose Messino and Veronica Goffredo, and a brother, Anthony Zanette. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to St. Elizabeth's Building Fund, 300 W. Babbitt Avenue, Pen Argyl, PA 18072.

**Sharon Hild**, 75, passed away on November 21, 2014. She was married to trainer **Glenn Hild** for 52 years, and also leaves behind her son Jack Hild, grandson Jimmy Hild, and great-grandson Philip Pascuzzi II. Sharon and Glenn owned Broken Word Farm in Arkansas for a long time, where she acted as farm manager. The Hilds kept a string of horses at Philadelphia Park for a number of years.

## Get Well Soon...



Best wishes to **Cheryl Finocchiaro**, who recently broke her collarbone. She is engaged to PTHA President **Sal DeBunda**.

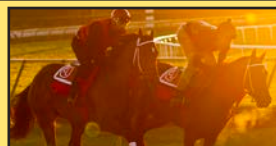
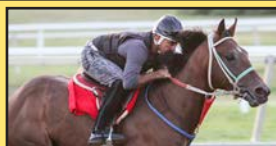
## Thank You...

We want to express our gratitude to everyone who donated towards two exercise riders who were recently injured. **Lisa Whitaker** was hurt in September, while **Adrian Delgado** fractured two vertebrae during a training accident in October. He will be unable to work for at least 2-3 months.

## Do you have any news for Backstretch Views?

We're always on the lookout for backstretch views. Contact **Nikki Sherman**, Marketing & Publicity Director, in the Turning for Home office, or send over an email at [nsherman@patha.org](mailto:nsherman@patha.org).

# atch Views

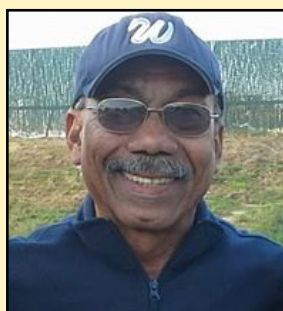


## Good Luck...



**Sal Sinatra** accepted the position of Vice President and General Manager of the Maryland Jockey Club. He had been Director of Racing at Parx for over 15 years.

**Bobby Velez** retired in November after a long career that saw him work with such quality horses as KY Derby winners Spend A Buck and Smarty Jones.



## A Visit to Parx...

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, young riders from **Ashford Farm** in Conshohocken, PA were treated to a day at the races. They were able to meet riders **Tara Hemmings, Maria Remedio** and **Tony Black**, pose in the winner's circle after one of the day's races, and even received some pink goggles from **Turning for Home!**

## Congratulations...

A special congratulations to the **2014 PTHA Softball Champions**, who were managed by trainer **Phil Aristone**. The team finished up the season undefeated, and were given their trophies on October 19<sup>th</sup> by the Parx Jockeys after the fifth race. To add to the excitement, Phil's horse Call Tiger won the fifth race, too!



## Guess Who...

Do you know these horsemen from their younger days? Answers on page 2.





# What Ever Happened to...?

## ... ROSE CATHERINE

*Turf Amazon Stakes - September 25, 2010*

Rose Catherine was a spectacular turf sprinter for Todd Pletcher, who campaigned the daughter of Speightstown for owner Paul Pompa, Jr. After two unimpressive tries on dirt, Pletcher switched Rose Catherine to the grass, and a star was born. She broke her maiden by 8 3/4 lengths while setting a new track record for six furlongs on the inner turf at Belmont Park, and followed that up with a solid second place finish in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf.

The nearly black filly made her Philadelphia Park debut in the 2010 Turf Amazon Handicap while sporting a three-race win streak. Despite a poor start, which often eliminates any chance in a five furlong sprint, Rose Catherine managed to gather herself together and take the lead before the first call. She then drew off down the stretch, stopping the clock in a brisk :57.46 under rider Javier Castellano.

After the Turf Amazon, Rose Catherine tailed off, though she did win once more in the Nonsuch Bay Stakes in New York as a four-year-old.



Nowadays, Rose Catherine resides at Taylor Made Farm in Nicholasville, Ky. Her first registered foal is a handsome, solid bay colt by Kentucky Derby winner Big Brown (*pictured above*) who was born March 1st of this year.

## ... XTRA HEAT

*Critical Miss Stakes - August 26, 2000*

One of the greatest racehorses to ever set foot on the grounds of Philadelphia Park was Xtra Heat. The little bay mare hit the board in 33 of 35 lifetime starts, an incredible feat that included 26 victories and career earnings of \$2,389,635. Xtra Heat began her career with six wins, a streak that included her sole race in Pennsylvania.

Trainer John Salzman, Jr. saddled Xtra Heat for the six furlong Critical Miss Stakes during the summer of 2000, a race in which she gave as much as ten pounds of weight to her fellow two-year-olds. The disadvantage simply did not matter; Xtra Heat was just *that good*, leading from gate to wire while maintaining her undefeated record.

Xtra Heat would go on to win the Grade 1 Prioress Stakes at Belmont Park en route to being named Eclipse Champion Three-Year-Old Filly. She also ran second by less than a length in the 2001 Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1), finishing ahead of such high quality horses as Caller One, Kona Gold, and Left Bank.



Photos: Nikki Sherman

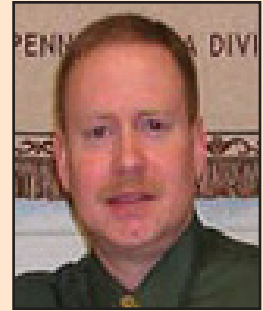
Since retiring at age four, Xtra Heat has resided at ClassicStar in Lexington, Ky, where she has had mild success as a broodmare. Southwestern Heat (Gone West) and Elusive Heat (Elusive Quality) are both listed stakes winners. Her most recent foal is a bay filly by Congrats (*pictured above*) who was born on February 18, 2014.

# Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

**“The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.”**

- Isaiah 60:19 (NIV)



This is the first thing I am doing to get ready for Christmas (the passage at the top of the page is a reading for the first day of Hanukkah which is starting on the evening of December 16th this year). The Chaplaincy actually is getting ready for Christmas all year but things do speed up right after Thanksgiving. And – writing this Chaplain's Corner is one of my 'first things' as far as getting my spirit ready.

What do we have to do for our spirits to be 'ready'? I have been answering that question in regards to Thanksgiving for the past couple of weeks in my daily devotions and chapels. Shouldn't we just be ready for these special days – always? Always ready to celebrate and thereby the more ready to fully receive all the blessings that our God showers upon us every day. Yes, I suppose that is a great idea.

But we, most of us, aren't ready – always. And so there are days, times, and seasons set aside by the wisdom of our faith and God to celebrate the historic blessings by which God showed Himself in extra special ways. Remembering these historic events and celebrating them on these holidays will help us to know that God wants to be with us every day.

If you are reading this it is not too late for you to celebrate, to commemorate, to be changed, and to be better than ever before. Ebenezer Scrooge implores the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, "Spirit!...hear me! I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse. Why show me this, if I am past all hope?"

You have great cause and reason to be filled with hope. No matter what difficulties you are in the midst

of, God can help you overcome. And, the promise of Christmas is that even in that one difficulty that will one day overcome us all – even in death – there is the promise of a better life. The passage above promises us that even when the sun no longer shines and thus the moon no longer reflects its rays to give some light to the night, "the LORD will be your everlasting light."

Not just any light, but "your" light, is what the LORD promises to be for us. And, of course, the promise is not just for a day or a season, but forever. The God of the Bible longs to be in a daily and personal relationship with you because of the great love that He has for you. God wants to be your light because we need light – everyone needs light.

There was a Court of the Ancient Temple in Jerusalem where there were four golden candlesticks that, according to the Mishnah, were so high each was reached by ladders. There was a bowl of oil on each of these candlesticks and on the special days when lit, they shone so brightly that all Jerusalem reflected this light. The Babe of Bethlehem stood in this court on one of those special days and declared, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The religious leaders picked up stones to stone Jesus for declaring what, to them, was blasphemy. But this was neither the time nor the manner for him to die and somehow he "hid himself."

We will soon celebrate the birth of this Jesus - "Time and tide wait for no man." Turn to God and in a moment - you will be ready! God is always ready and waiting for you because - God loves you!

## Upcoming Events

- Sat., December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
**Children's Christmas Party**  
Recreation Hall
- Wed., December 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm  
**Christmas Eve Dinner & Chapel Service**  
Recreation Hall
- Thu., December 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm (free)  
**PTH's Christmas Fellowship Meal**  
Ron's Backstretch Cafe





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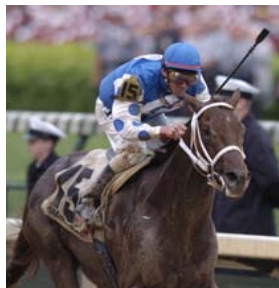
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Photos by Skip Dickstein.

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