



# PTHA NEWS

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

2016 Issue #6

## More Racing Days On Tap for 2017

Parx Racing released its live racing schedule for 2017, bringing with it excellent news that the total number of racing days will increase to 170. Purse money will be spread out evenly throughout the calendar year. In addition, there will also be a 50% increase of purses on the biggest racing days, including Pennsylvania Derby Day, Labor Day and Owners Appreciation Day.

"We are pleased that we were able to work with frontside to increase the number of racing days in 2017," said PTHA Executive Director Michael Ballezzi, Esq.

### Cast Your Vote:

2016 PTHA General  
 Election Ballots are Out

#### President

- Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq.

#### Trainer/Director

- Philip Aristone
- Kathleen DeMasi
- Ronald Glorioso
- Robert Reid, Jr.
- John Servis

#### Owner/Director

- Lisa Allen
- Dr. Steven Appel, DDS
- Charles Asensio
- Michael P. Ballezzi, Esq.
- Wendy Preciado
- Nicholas Saponara

#### JANUARY 2017

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## President's Message

### Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq.

I am proud that in just several meetings of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission, we have accomplished a great deal towards the betterment of horse racing in our state. However, next on the agenda are some topics that are crucial towards keeping our sport viable. At our most recent meeting, we discussed one of the subjects at the top of

that list, integrity, and I anticipate that in 2017, we will set a precedent for the future of integrity in Pennsylvania. I am spearheading a campaign that will utilize the approximately \$2.4 million for marketing our industry in the Commonwealth. We have also set up a way for stakeholders to let their voices be heard during public sessions of Commission meetings.

Speaking of next year, I am happy to relay the news that

we have successfully negotiated with frontside to establish a solid racing schedule that will increase our total number of live race days to 170. The calendar for 2017 is competitive with others in the region and, weather permitting, includes a return to winter racing at Parx.

You will also note that Mike Ballezzi and I, along with your current Board, have been working with our insurance broker Lockton, Inc., to create

a revolutionary solution to the skyrocketing workmen's compensation rates. Be sure that you speak with David Griffin if you have not done so already.

By now you will have received your ballot for the PTHA Board General Election. Make sure that you cast your vote before the deadline on December 31st.

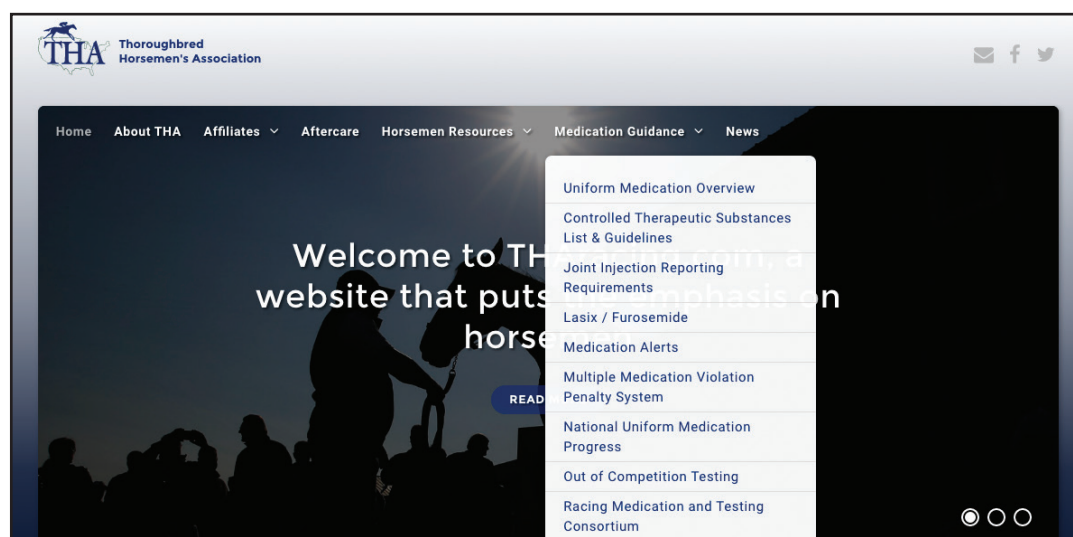
And finally, I hope that all of you have a great holiday season!

*Salvatore M. DeBunda*

## National THA Launches New Website

On November 30th, the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (THA) launched a brand new website at [www.tharacing.com](http://www.tharacing.com). The website is a one-stop shop for everything that horsemen need, including detailed medication guidance, resources such as rules & regulations as well as state commission information, equine aftercare and industry news.

The THA is the parent organization of the PTHA. The THA brings together the PTHA



with other member organizations from Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and New York, and has provided ongoing

leadership for consensus-based decision-making and policy implementation on such issues as medication; racehorse aftercare;

equine health, safety and welfare; protecting the integrity of our sport; and improving the economics for racing's participants.

# Parx Horsemen Around the Nation

## Oct. 8 - **PLUM PRETTY S.**

Parx Racing, 1 1/16 miles  
2nd - ADDIBEL LIGHTNING  
O: Albert R. Lupcho  
T: Marcos Zulueta  
J: Anthony Salgado

## Oct. 22 - **MAID OF THE MIST S.**

Belmont Park, 1 mile  
3rd - BREE'S GOT HEART  
O: Glenn Bennett  
T: Robert Reid, Jr.  
J: Angel Arroyo

## Oct. 22 - **MARYLAND MILLION DISTAFF STARTER H.**

Laurel Park, 1 mile  
3rd - GROOVY DANCER  
O: Janet Polachek  
T: Janet Polachek  
J: Feargal Lynch

## Oct. 22 - **MARYLAND MILLION TURF S.**

Laurel Park, 1 mile (T)  
2nd - SPARTIANOS  
O: Nick Sanna Stables LLC  
& Two Legends Farm  
T: Michael V. Pino  
J: Luis Garcia

## Oct. 22 - **MARYLAND MILLION SPRINT H.**

Laurel Park, 6 furlongs  
2nd - MORNING FIRE  
O: Mercedes Stables LLC  
T: Keith Nations  
J: Daniel Centeno

## Oct. 22 - **MARYLAND MILLION DISTAFF H.**

Laurel Park, 7 furlongs  
1st - ROCKIN JOJO  
O: Michael R. Cox  
T: Guadalupe Preciado  
J: Angel Cruz

## Oct. 30 - **PUMPKIN PIE S.**

Belmont Park, 6 furlongs  
3rd - DISCO CHICK  
O: Yaroslav J. Kolybabiuk  
T: Mario Serey, Jr.  
J: Irad Ortiz, Jr.

## Nov. 19 - **RICHARD W. SMALL S.**

Laurel Park, 1 1/8 miles  
2nd - DISCREET LOVER  
O: Trin-Brook Stables, Inc.  
T: Uriah St. Lewis  
J: Jose Flores

## ATTENTION TRAINERS

Please make sure to submit your 2017 badge list to both Chris Forbes for validation AND Stephanie Smith at the PTHA. Stable employees will not be eligible for health, dental or eyecare benefits until all paperwork has been properly filed. Take care of it early so that your employees can be ready for medical care at any time.

## Nov. 19 - **GEISHA S.**

Laurel Park, 1 mile  
1st - ROCKIN JOJO  
O: Michael R. Cox  
T: Guadalupe Preciado  
J: Angel Cruz

## Nov. 25 - **KEY CENTS S.**

Aqueduct, 6 furlongs  
1st - FILIBUSTIN  
O: Alan R. Cook  
T: Gregory D. Sacco  
J: Jose Lezcano

## GROOM ELITE 101



The **ONLY** nationally recognized certification program for grooms

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

Horse Behavior • Basics of Grooming • Conformation • Leg Structure  
The Horse's Mouth • Digestion & Feeding • Bandaging • The Racehorse Foot  
Horse Health Evaluation • Equipment & Tacking Up • Barn Safety  
Pre-Race Soundness, Holding Barn & Test Barn Procedures

Sign up in the PTHA Office by January 31, 2017.  
Classes are offered in English AND with Spanish translations.

## SPECIALIZED INSURANCE PROGRAMS

## FOR THE HORSE RACING INDUSTRY



The PTHA has asked Lockton to develop a specialized Workers' Compensation and General Liability Insurance program designed for Trainers and Backstretch employees.

We are currently collecting information from all trainers that are interested in:

- ✔ Coverage in all 50 states
- ✔ Gaining control of premium costs
- ✔ Benefiting from safety programs already in place

If you are interested in this program, just let us know. We will respond right away!

- ✔ Sign-up sheet in the PTHA office at PARX
- ✔ Call or text Dave Griffin at Lockton: (215) 779-1500
- ✔ Email: [dgriffin@lockton.com](mailto:dgriffin@lockton.com)

El PTHA le ha pedido a Lockton que desarrolle un programa especializado de Compensación de Trabajadores y Seguro de Responsabilidad Civil General diseñado para los entrenadores y empleados de Backstretch. Actualmente estamos recopilando información de todos los instructores que están interesados en:

- ✔ Cobertura en los 50 estados
- ✔ Obtener el control de los costos de las primas
- ✔ Beneficiándose de los programas de seguridad ya existentes

Si está interesado en este programa, háganoslo saber. Vamos a responder de inmediato!

- ✔ Hoja de inscripción en la oficina de PTHA en PARX
- ✔ Llamar o escribir a Dave Griffin en Lockton: (215) 779-1500
- ✔ Correo electrónico: [dgriffin@lockton.com](mailto:dgriffin@lockton.com)

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**50<sup>TH</sup> LOCKTON**  
ANNIVERSARY

# PTHA Moving for Group Workers Comp.

*On November 22nd, PTHA Marketing Director Nikki Sherman sat down with David Griffin of Lockton Companies to discuss the issue of rising workers compensation insurance rates, and how Lockton and the PTHA are working together for a solution. Founded exactly fifty years ago, Lockton Companies is the largest privately-held insurance brokerage in the world, and has grown from four to 6,000 employees.*

## **Q: Can you give us some background on workers compensation insurance in the equine industry?**

A: One of the realities of being in any business is that you have to have workers comp insurance. Whether you have two employees or you have 20,000 employees, you have to have coverage. And workers comp is a good thing because if you get really hurt on the job, you have some kind of a safety net so you can still make some kind of a living, even if you can't get back to work. The problem is that horsemen are very misunderstood by a lot of the insurance carriers. Many of those companies don't even want to touch policies for anybody in the equine industry because of the inherently dangerous business that it is. These are not ponies; this isn't a petting zoo. These are racing animals.

## **Q: How can horsemen currently go about obtaining workers comp insurance?**

A: We've learned that a lot of folks have had to go to what's called the State Fund, which is what's also known as the place of last resort. It's where you go if you can't get workers comp insurance from anybody else. And there's barely anyone else that wants to do it to begin with. Sadly, if you end up in the State Fund, they *really* don't understand anything about this business, so you're really going to get raked over the coals.

## **Q: This is a huge issue for horsemen, and Lockton has been brought in to seek a solution. What have you discovered so far?**

A: Well, we've been collecting information from PTHA member trainers and I've been seeing some of the highest rates I've ever seen. There's no reason for these rates to be so high. What we are now doing is we are in the early stages of putting together a prospectus, trying to get everybody to come together and get out of the State Fund or other insurance companies that don't quite understand the business, and ultimately

have the horsemen run their own workers comp program. Once everybody's in it and working together doing the safest things in the barns and on the track, we should be rewarded for that. At this early stage, once we get the information, to simplify it we're going to do a big spreadsheet and send it off to the underwriting people. What we would get back are some locked down rates that might be better than anything that anybody currently has. Hopefully we can start putting some serious money back in the pockets of the horsemen.

## **Q: Has Lockton put together group workers comp insurance before?**

A: Absolutely; it's not a new concept. It's actually something that's been done for years in different industries. Home health care workers, for example, that's a tough industry too - you could be in somebody's home and fall down their stairs - just like you have dangerous environments in the barn out here. So, we put together a program for those folks, many thousands of people, and it was a huge success. Doctors also often work together with their medical malpractice insurance as a group rather than individually.

## **Q: Obviously everyone has wanted this for awhile. Now that you have been interacting with trainers here, have you had any feedback from horsemen?**

A: I've never met a nicer group of people; every single person answers their phone, which is really different in this day and age! But absolutely, 100% of the people said to me, 'Yes, please help! This is great, what do you need?' This has been tried before but the thing that's changed is that the leadership at the PTHA has aligned itself and really gotten behind this to get some of the obstacles out of the way. We are looking to become a model for other tracks across the country. I want this to become a legacy for the PTHA and its members.

# Club

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Friday 11:30am-4am  
Sat 3pm-4am Sun 3pm-2am  
Free Lunch Buffet M-F  
Happy Hour 4-6

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Phila., PA  
215-289-6969

Open M-F 11:30am-2am  
Sat & Sun 1pm-2am  
Free Lunch Buffet M-F  
Happy Hour 5-7pm



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HORSE BREEDERS  
ASSOCIATION

## PHBA's 7th Annual Stallion Auction

Start:  
**Thursday January 26th**  
12:01 a.m.

End:  
**Saturday January 28th**  
11:59:59 p.m.

The auction will take place online at [thoroughlybred.com](http://thoroughlybred.com)

You must register through their website by clicking  
"Registration" on the home page to place bids.  
Registration is free.

This year's stallions will be announced on **pabred.com** as well  
as through PHBA email communication.

All proceeds benefit PHBA's political action committee (PAC) and  
PA OTTB placement organizations.



# Parx Racing Roundup

## PLUM PRETTY STAKES

A small but talented field of fillies and mares went to post in the \$100,000 Plum Pretty Stakes for registered PA-Breds on Saturday, October 8th at Parx Racing. The group included defending champion Bound and stakes winner Maybe Tonight, as well as graded stakes-placed Disco Rose and stakes-placed Keystone Kelly. However, it was WMT Stable's homebred Trace of Grace who jumped right out to the front and never looked back, drawing off to capture her first career stakes win by 4 1/2 lengths. The three-year-old daughter of Petionville was ridden by Edwin Gonzalez for trainer T. Bernard Houghton.



Photos: Nikki Sherman

## CHRISTOPHER ELSER MEMORIAL STAKES

What looked like a sure thing in the \$75,000 Christopher Elser Memorial Stakes was anything but that in the end. Odds-on favorite Greatbullsofire was exiting a thrilling victory in the Maryland Million Nursery on October 22 at Laurel Park and had captured the attention of Parx bettors right from the get-go. However, also garnering support were West Point Thoroughbreds' The Walk, who finished fourth most recently in the G3 Futurity at Belmont Park, as well as maiden winner O Dionysus. The race came down to those three, with The Walk and O Dionysus each taking turns putting a head in front before the latter began to edge away in mid-stretch. O Dionysus finished a strong 2 1/4 lengths ahead of The Walk under easy urging from Jevian Toledo. The two-year-old son of Bodemeister, out of the Flatter mare Safe Journey, was trained by Gary Capuano for Marathon Farms, Inc.



O Dionysus wins the Christopher Elser Memorial Stakes.



O Dionysus wins the Christopher Elser Memorial Stakes.

## UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN GETS HIS FIRST WINNER - AT PARX

Pennsylvania freshman sire Uptowncharlybrown got his first winner on November 8th when True Sweetheart ran off with a \$20,000 maiden claimer at Parx Racing. True Sweetheart was one of just two in the race making her career debut, but trainer Ed Coletti, Jr. had the dark bay filly ready to roll. Apprentice jockey Leroy Pinero expertly guided her to a ten-length romp for owner/breeder syndicate Fantasy Lane Stable. Uptowncharlybrown stood in 2016 at Glenn Brok's

Diamond B Farm for \$1,500 (pay when you win).

## REGISTERED WHITE COLT RUNS AT PARX

It is very rare for a Thoroughbred to be registered with The Jockey Club as white, and even more rare for a white Thoroughbred to race at Parx. On November 19th, a three-year-old white colt named Painted Patchen did indeed compete in a \$20,000 claimer at Parx Racing, ultimately finishing a fast-closing fourth.



Painted Patchen

# 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
- Pushed for better workers compensation guidelines and rates
- Formation of a 9-member Racing Commission, of which 5 members are actual horsemen working in the racing industry (*photo left*)

## RACING

- Regulation of maximum purses and pay-to-last funds
- Committee to elect new members into the Parx Racing Hall of Fame
- Fall Festival of Racing rewarded horsemen with increased purses
- Represent horsemen before the Board of Stewards, PA Racing Commission & state legislature



## BACKSTRETCH IMPROVEMENTS

- New barn construction completed
- New state-of-the-art safety rail installed on racetrack
- Refurbishment of admin building
- Paved entire backstretch
- Trees planted between each barn, per an agreement with frontside on the beautification plan (*photo left*)

## EQUINE MEDICATION

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



## BENEVOLENCE

- Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund for stable employees & trainers or their children working at Parx
- Sponsor of the Bucks County YWCA's 2016 Teen Volunteer of the Year Award (*photo left*)
- Sponsor of many holiday parties and chaplain events
- Sponsor of bike rides benefitting wounded veterans & illnesses

# ...Hard at Work for Parx Racing Horsemen in 2016

## HEALTHCARE

- LaSalle University nurses on-site twice weekly for all backstretch personnel (*photo right*)
- Health & dental insurance offered to qualifying Parx-based trainers & their families
- Benefit Trust health & dental care offered for backstretch employees



## MEDIA

- Sponsor of weekly television show *Let's Go Racing* & sponsor and distributor of Craig Donnelly's *Parx Racing Analysis*
- PA Derby broadcast live on Comcast SportsNet (*photo left*)
- Sponsor of *Post Time with the Greek* radio show
- PTHA News mailed to 3,000 members

## HORSEMEN'S PURCHASING ASSOCIATION

- Feed, shavings and more offered to horsemen at affordable prices
- Offered safety helmets & vests at reduced rates for compliance with track regulations
- Sponsor of the Chaplain's Children's Christmas Party
- Nutrena promotion of 1 free bag of feed for each set of 9 bags purchased extended to be a year round offer



## TURNING FOR HOME

- Third annual Turning for Home Day at Parx Racing
- Nearly 2,000 total horses entered program since opening in 2008, with over 200 in 2016 alone
- Nearly 200 horses adopted into new homes in 2016
- More than 20 horses adopted with intent to attend the Thoroughbred Makeover; ultimately 10 horses and adopters competed

## AND MORE . . .

- Pension plan for eligible trainers
- Fax, copy, notary and provider of checks for the Racing Commission licensing
- Weekly PTHA trophy race
- Sponsorship of softball (*photo right*) & soccer leagues





## 2016 Thoroughbred Makeover Drives Adoptions

### Thoughts from Program Administrator Danielle Montgomery

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

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



Since May of 2008, 1,960 horses have been awarded safe retirement through Turning for Home. Over 200 Parx trainers have donated horses, with larger barns placing as many as 18 horses per year and smaller barns averaging three each year. For the owners who wonder what our three-week waiting list is all about, it depends mostly on the open stall space created by adoptions.

The safe adoption of TFH horses is the most important goal of our program. To that end, we support retraining and advertising for each of our horses when they are ready. One of the most useful recent resources for placing horses has come through the Retired Racehorse Project (RRP), a non-profit program founded by Stuart Pittman in order to promote the Off Track

Thoroughbred (OTTB) in a variety of second careers. Promoting the breed through their magazine, website and promotions, as well as the \$100,000 Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium held annually since 2014, the RRP has driven adoptions of recently retired racehorses up nearly 10% for TFH and other track-based organizations.

In 2016, more than 20 horses were specifically purchased due to their eligibility for the Thoroughbred Makeover (having raced within the last two years but not restarted under saddle until January). These horses are retrained for the competition by top trainers across the country, giving them a great advantage over non-restarted racehorses for safe futures. Of those planning to attend, ten TFH horses ultimately

traveled to Kentucky in October for the competition, with three TFH horses finishing in the top ten of their division.

In just two years of the Thoroughbred Makeover, TFH horses have competed in nearly every discipline, including polo, barrel racing, show hunter, show jumper, dressage, eventing, freestyle and competitive trail in front of more than 2,500 spectators. Already, top trainers have adopted TFH horses specifically for the 2016 Thoroughbred Makeover, including 2014 Working Ranch winner Clovis Crane (Combat Diver, trained by Scott Lake) and 2014 overall Most Wanted Thoroughbred champion Lindsey Partridge (Here Comes Adri, trained by Leslye Bouchard), as well as Amanda Takacs (Aunt Glee, trained by Ned Allard).

### TURNING FOR HOME HORSES COMPETING AT THE THOROUGHBRED MAKEOVER

Racing Name	Year	Rider	Discipline(s)	Racing Trainer	Racing Owner
Legal Ring	2015	Nicole Valeri	Barrel Racing	Keith Nations	Kasey K Racing Stable LLC & Nations Stable LLC
Show Bill	2015	Shariah Harris	Polo	Ney Pessanha	Bleu Max Stable
Star Factor	2015	Kasey Evans	Show Hunter	Susan McBride	Derby Boys Racing Stable
Brannaman	2016	Kelly Lupton	Competitive Trail, Freestyle	J. Guadalupe Guerrero	J. Refugio Guerrero
Estaticator	2016	Joanna Hagan	Show Hunter	Ney Pessanha	Ney Pessanha
Gift of the Crown	2016	Jennifer Osterman	Dressage	Susan McBride	Susan McBride
Honorable Judge	2016	Kelly Page	Dressage	Robert E. Reid, Jr.	Roll Z Dice Racing Stable
It's in the Safe	2016	Rebecca Ramsey	Dressage	Alfredo Velazquez	Mark Valentine
Jennifer Q	2016	Jessica Werner	Dressage	Herold Whyllie	Emerald Racing Stable LLC
Philly Freedom	2016	Claire Lokken	Freestyle, Show Jumping	J. Guadalupe Guerrero	John Loyle
Salisbury Knight	2016	Amy Kaplan	Dressage, Eventing	Uriah St. Lewis	Guyana Rocky LLC
Samurai Sam	2016	Kelly Lupton	Show Jumping	Susan McBride	Hidden Haven Farm
Streakin' Easy	2016	Dorothy Crowell	Eventing, Dressage	John Rodriguez	Anthony Butler

# SPOTLIGHT ON TFH PARTNER FARMS

Turning for Home has assembled a talented network of Partner Farms who have accepted the challenge of providing racehorse aftercare to the horses of Parx Racing. *Spotlight On TFH Partner Farms* allows the racing world to meet some of these selfless horsemen and horsewomen.



## Black Oak Farm

Egg Harbor, New Jersey

Partner Since: 2013

Total Horses: 100    2016 Adopted Out: 33 (and counting!)



Black Oak Farm has been breeding, raising, shipping, rehabilitating, and boarding horses for over twenty years. The farm located just outside of Atlantic City, N.J., and consists of a 22-stall foaling barn & an 11-stall rehab barn, as well as multiple large paddocks. In just over two years of partnering with Turning for Home, Black Oak Farm has placed more than fifty horses into new homes. Kelly Lupton rides, markets and places the horses while her mother Gina Lupton handles the daily horse care and rehabilitation. For the past two years, Kelly has competed in the Thoroughbred Makeover at the Kentucky Horse Park. This year, she took Turning for Home graduates Samurai Sam and Brannaman (*bottom*), and also assisted with the adoptions of fellow Makeover competitors Estaticator, Gift of the Crown and It's in the Safe.

Turning for Home has provided nearly 2,000 Parx racehorses with a safe retirement.

Now, for just \$150, you can treat your equine friend to a warm paddock blanket made from soft velour and terry cloth, and embroidered with our logo.

Proceeds directly benefit the horses of Turning for Home.

Call 267-223-3418 for details.



# Backstretch Views

## *Our Condolences...*



HPA saleswoman **Leslie Saunders** lost her mom, **Rachel Saunders**, on October 20, 2016. Rachel worked as a lab tech at the Rhode Island Veteran's Hospital and loved historical research. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may

be sent to the American Cancer Society or the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation.

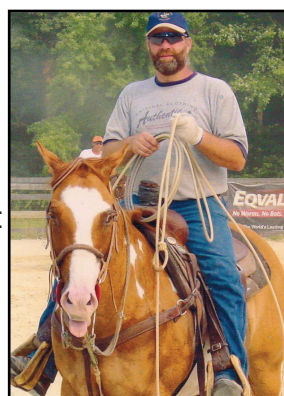


**James Pennington**, grandfather of leading jockey **Frankie Pennington**, passed away on October 17, 2016. "Poppa" was a retired truck driver and also owned J&J General Dirt Work. Condolences may be left online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).



Longtime horseman **Bill Reed** passed away this fall. He most recently worked for

**Kate DeMasi**. A lovely "send-off" was held in his honor in September, with many memories shared, including some featured in the photo above.



**Joe Goodz** passed away at his home on November 12, 2016. Joe was a reknowned farrier and also loved to ride. Among other family members, he is survived by his wife Lori, daughters Lauren and Charlene, and grandson William. In lieu of flowers, Joe's family requests that donations be sent to Turning for Home.

## *Babies, Babies, Babies!*



New Parx trainer **Luis Carvajal, Jr.** and wife **Giannina** had their first child on October 19th. His name is **Fernando Carvajal**. Just look at that adorable face to the left!

Trainer **Pedro Granville** and wife **Sugeily Pena** welcomed daughter **Catherine Nicole Granville** on November 12th. The happy family stopped by the PTHA office just a week later, and posed for this lovely photograph to the right!



## **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 to [nsherman@patha.org](mailto:nsherman@patha.org).

## *What Great Athletes!*



The **PTHA Softball Championship** took place on October 2, 2016, with the **Jockeys (red)** taking on **Team Coletti (yellow)**. The **Jockeys** captured the title, while **David Castillo** was crowned **MVP**.



Trainer **John Scanlan**, groom **Jeff Wolfe** and owner **Sonny Termine (Positive Connection Stable)** are all smiles after Sonny's recent induction into the **Pennsylvania Softball Hall of Fame**.

## *Out & About...*

**Joyce Kleppinger & Dr. Shari Silverman** dressed up for Halloween this year. Take a look at Joyce's amazing makeup job!

For anyone wondering how he's doing, former Parx trainer **T. Miller** is alive and well, enjoying his well-earned retirement in Kentucky!



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## Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

<sup>8</sup>“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

<sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.””

- Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)

I have read that there are 365 times that angels appeared to people in the Bible. Being the inquisitive person that I am, I looked and have not found that many, but I did find over 250, and am willing to admit that I may have missed some. I will say that almost every time angels appeared they said, “Do not be afraid.”

The “Do not be afraid” message was always in the midst of other pretty important messages that they had to impart, so I am thinking that humans need to be reminded that we should not be afraid. I know one of the last things I would want to admit is that I am afraid of anything. Now I should say that the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) declare about a half dozen times that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom – but aside from God – don’t be afraid.

Psychology tells us that fear is one of the four to eight (the number varies a bit) basic emotions; and, angels (messengers of God) tell us not to fear over and over again. So maybe we need to be reminded that other than a healthy fear, reverence and awe of God; and, given we are living in relationship to God and His plan for us, we don’t need to be afraid.

In the world today, even with all the social safety nets and insurances, we have a lot that we can worry and be anxious about (maybe fear). *Will I be able to continue to afford those things; will I continue to keep the job that provides those things and more; will I continue to perform and satisfy the people I love; will I be able to; etc.; etc.; etc.?*

It is good to know that God says to us over and over again through His angelic messengers, “Don’t be afraid”. Maybe others will leave us, or reject us because we change, are not as energetic, beautiful, strong, healthy, and wealthy – but not God. God loves us with an everlasting, unconditional love – that’s the message of Christmas! God so loved and loves us, God sent His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him, does not even have to fear death, but can have everlasting and abundant life! (John 3:16)

Remind yourself that God has told us we have nothing to fear - as fear rises up. Say a quick prayer asking God to help you and God will help you because He loves you and His will is that we not live in fear. And celebrate the season with peace and joy within your heart and goodwill to those around you by the power of God - Amen!

## Chaplain's Children's Christmas Party

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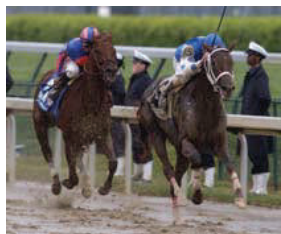
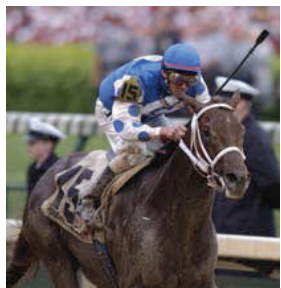
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