

# PTHA POST



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## IN THIS ISSUE

- PTHA President's Corner, Robert Hutt
- Horsemen Update from Executive Director Jeffrey A. Matty, Jr.
- Horse Racing & Breeding: Gaming Funding Impact
- Legislators Tour at Parx Racing Backstretch
- PA Equine Coalition: Protecting the State's Agriculture Sector
- Attention Trainers
- Smarty Jones Exhibit
- Parx Summer Break
- Around the Oval
- PA Breeders - Yearling Show on 6/21/25
- NTL: Golf Outing on 6/14 & live races on 6/15 at Parx
- Mark your Calendar
- HPA
- PTHA Trophy Race Winners
- Memorial Day Picnic
- Horsemen Achievements
- Turning For Home Update
- Turning For Home Golf Outing - Recap & Thank you!
- From the Racetrack Chaplaincy
- Heartbeat of the Backstretch

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# JUNE 2025

THE PTHA WISHES ALL  
FATHERS A HAPPY  
AND LOVING DAY ON  
SUNDAY, JUNE 15!



Mr. Robinson of Grandview Farms in CT welcomes  
Seven Years Later to his daughter Kera's retraining program.

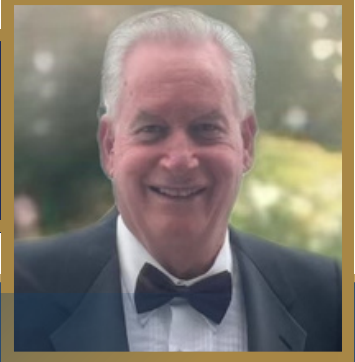
## SPECIAL THANK YOU

EQUI-PHOTO  
RUDY LAULETTA  
COLLEEN MATTY



# PTHA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

PTHA PRESIDENT  
Robert "Bob" Hutt



As we celebrate Memorial Day, I'd like to take a minute to thank our brave men & women who served in the military. I am a proud veteran, as was my father before me during WW II. It was truly an honor to serve this great country. Thank you to my brothers & sisters in arms for your service. And to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we honor and remember your loved ones on this day.

In other news, we had approximately 40 politicians come out to visit PARX from Harrisburg, our largest turnout ever! We gave all an up close and personal tour of two barns managed by Kate DeMasi and John Servis. We provided a behind the scenes view of all our hardworking men and women that it takes for a single trip to the Winners Circle. We then enlightened them about our after care program, Turning For Home, for our retired racehorses.

I then advised that the Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania is the only State Flag in the nation with two horses emboldened on it. Our flag represents that Pennsylvania is an agricultural state in which, without breeding & racing, it could potentially go bankrupt, as that's how important our industry is to the Commonwealth.

I felt it necessary to remind our esteemed politicians that the Racehorse Gaming Act was written in 2004 to protect horsemen - not the casinos. We derive our revenue stream by allowing the casinos to partner up with breeding & racing as we do not receive a single penny from the Commonwealth!

The Racehorse Development Trust Fund at its high water mark back in 2011/2012 brought in \$280,000,000 for our horsemen. Since then with casino expansion, adding table games, sports wagering and internet slot play in which we currently do not derive any income from the casinos, we've fallen on hard times!

In the last fiscal year, the RHDTF only brought in \$188,000,000, a decline of nearly \$100,000,000 for a 33% decrease. In order for Pennsylvania breeding and racing to be successful, we must be able to compete with our neighboring states in the form of purses offered to horsemen. I further explained that breeding and racing mattered because we provide 23,000 direct & indirect jobs; another \$1.6 billion dollars in annual economic impact across multiple sectors including agriculture, manufacturing & construction! We also generate \$68.8 million dollars in annual tax revenues via state income, sales, business & property taxes. We also help protect 1.3 million acres of open land which would be vulnerable to commercial development without breeding & racing because of our broad agricultural impact. Over \$721,000,000 by Pennsylvania's breeding & racing industry goes toward capital expenditures, wages/salaries & sales/services.

Last but not least, I said "please don't listen to your colleagues nor the casino lobbyists advocating that breeding and racing is a dying industry" as nothing could be further from the truth. Last month's 2025 Kentucky Derby peaked at a Record-Breaking 21.8 Million Viewers for NBC. Peacock achieved the highest traffic of all partnered streamers for the race. With the 151st Derby, NBC Sports had the largest streaming audience ever for a horse racing event, with an Average Minute Audience of 959,000 viewers. The network has achieved an average of more than 15 million viewers across all platforms for the last 10 of 12 Derbys. The only sporting event with a larger audience than the Derby is the Super Bowl. That's It! I ended by stating Mr. Hutt was willing, ready and able to come to Harrisburg to educate our legislators on how important breeding and racing is to the Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania. Until next time wishing you many winners!



# HORSEMEN

Update from  
PTHA Executive Director

Horsemen,

As we continue into Triple Crown season, I'm excited to share some of the highlights of the upcoming Summer Racing Season here at Parx Racing. This stretch of racing promises to deliver great competition, strong purses, and special opportunities for our dedicated horsemen and horsewomen.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, Father's Day, the National Thoroughbred League will be making their second annual visit to Parx Racing. Offering our horsemen increased purses over the span of three races in starter allowance conditions. The Philadelphia Stallions, owned by Dr. J, NBA Hall of Famer, will field a team through a selection process after the fields are drawn.

One of the most anticipated events of the summer will be PTHA Owners' Appreciation Day, Monday – August 18<sup>th</sup>. On this day, all purses will be doubled, offering a tremendous reward to the owners who continue to invest in Pennsylvania racing, specifically here, as members of the PTHA. It's our way of saying thank you for your unwavering commitment to our racing community. We know how much goes into campaigning a horse, and we want to ensure that your investment is both recognized and rewarded.

The PTHA remains committed to supporting our membership through advocacy, benefits, and events that promote the health and growth of our racing community. Just a few weeks ago, we hosted over 40 state legislators that made a visit to our backstretch. They were in awe of the hard work and preparation that goes into this industry from so many different individuals. We were able to get 2025 PA Derby Day on their calendars, Saturday – Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, which will be the pinnacle of our year.

Lastly, our last day of racing before our summer break will be Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The track will be closed for training from Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, re-opening for training on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Racing returns on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, PTHA's Owners Appreciation Day.

Thank you for your continued support, have a great summer with family and friends.

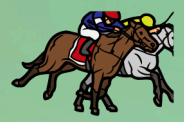
Jeffrey A. Matty, Jr.



PTHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Jeffrey A. Matty Jr.



# GAMING EXPANSION AND DECLINES IN FUNDING TO SUPPORT HORSE RACING, BREEDING



Decreasing Race Purses, Breeder Incentives Has Broader Implications for PA Agriculture Sector

## WHAT IS IT?

The Race Horse Development Trust Fund was created by Act 71 of 2004 (The Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act), legislation that legalized slot machine gaming in the Commonwealth with a primary intent to enhance live horse racing in the state.

## WHY WAS IT CREATED?

The governor and legislature wanted to ensure that rural, agricultural areas of Pennsylvania benefitted from legalized gaming. They also realized that gaming expansion would adversely impact the handle, or wagering on horseracing, which traditionally funded racing purses and breeder incentives.

## HOW IS IT FUNDED?

The fund is supported through a casino assessment that is calculated based on the slots gross terminal revenue at the state's six Category 1 casinos. The assessment, divided among all Category 1, 2, and 3 venues, has declined from 12% to 8.7% due to decreases in Category 1 slots revenue. Act 42 of 2017 states that the assessments "are not funds of the Commonwealth" and that "the Commonwealth shall not be rightfully entitled to any money" from the trust fund.

## WHY DOES HORSERACING AND BREEDING MATTER?



**23,000** Direct & Indirect Jobs are supported by the racing and breeding industry in Pennsylvania



**\$1.6 Billion** Economic Impact

across multiple economic sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and construction



**\$68.8 Million** Annual Tax Revenue

generated by the industry through state income, sales, business, and property taxes



**1.3 Million** Acres of Open Space

would be vulnerable to development without racing because of its broad agricultural impact

## DID YOU KNOW?



Because horsemen demand the top quality hay for their horses, the industry sets the market price for hay sales. The average horse eats 15 to 20 pounds of hay per day. The industry also drives straw sales, which is used for bedding.



Horsemen in the racing and breeding industry are major customers of the state's feed mills. For example, Brandt's Feed Mill in Lebanon, PA produces 4,000 tons of horse feed each year, 90% of which is sold to thoroughbreds.

The state's mushroom industry is reliant on PA's racetracks, breeding farms, and racing stables as a cost efficient source of manure for their crops.



Horsemen are key customers for equine transportation businesses, PA construction companies that build barns and fences, and manufacturers such as Farmco, a producer of horse feeders.



Pennsylvania is home to hundreds of thoroughbred and Standardbred horse breeders, including the 3,000-acre Hanover Shoe Farm, the world's largest Standardbred breeder. On average 900 horses live on the farm, cared for by 80 employees. Each year, Hanover buys 3 million pounds of straw, 4 million pounds of hay, and a half-million dollars' worth of feed from the local area, and ships over 9 million pounds of manure and hay to PA mushroom growers.

## GAMING EXPANSION & TRUST FUND TRANSFERS HAVE HARMED PA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR



**\$52.8 MILLION**

estimated decline in annual contributions to the fund for FY18/19 (\$241.2 m) compared to FY22/23 (\$188.4 m).



**15% DECLINE**

in funds in RHDTF available to support racing (eg. purses, breeder incentives) from FY18/19 (\$211.5 m) to FY23/24 (\$180.4 m) at a time when horsemen and breeders are paying more for feed, hay, straw, transportation, and other goods and services.



**78.2% INCREASE**

in total legal gaming revenues (before taxes) during the same period (FY18/19 to FY23/24), from \$3.31 billion to \$5.9 billion - due largely to gaming expansion (online gaming, Category 4 casinos, sports wagering and VGTs).

**\$452 MILLION**



has been transferred from the RHDTF to the General Fund since 2011. These funds were originally intended solely to fund purses and breeder incentives. The transfers and cannibalization from other forms of gaming have shaken confidence in the industry.



# LEGISLATORS TOUR AT PARX'S BACKSTRECH

On May 20, 2025, the PTHA, along with the PA Breeders Association, the PA Equine Coalition, and Wojdak, organized a tour of the Parx stables, where PA senators and legislators could experience firsthand what our equine industry is all about. During an engaging discussion moderated by trainers John Servis and Kate Demasi, they got a glimpse into the life of a trainer while learning about the community's involvement in horse racing. They also learned more about our proud TFH program. The PTHA and the PA breeders aim to demonstrate to our legislators how vital our industry is to Pennsylvania and how it ties in with the progress of our state. We thank everyone who attended the tour and those who made it possible.

# Pennsylvania





### The Challenge

- Pennsylvania's horse racing and breeding industry is facing a major crisis due to a significant decline in funding for purses and breeder incentives. Since FY11-12, funding for the Race Horse Development Trust Fund (RHDTF), which funds purses and breeder incentives, has decreased by 33% from \$280 million to \$188 million.
- This decrease is due to the cannibalization of Category 1 slot machine revenues, which have seen 5% to 10% annual declines, due to competition from other forms of gaming like online slots and table games, VGTs, sports wagering, and Category 4 casinos, as well as games of skill.
- Declines in purses and breeder incentives are forcing horsemen to send their horses to other states to race and breed. This has a spiral effect on the broader agriculture sector such as hay, straw, mushroom, and grain farmers; feed mills; veterinarians; tack suppliers; and others who rely on horsemen and breeders.
- Declines have forced PA's six race tracks to cut race days by 286 days per year (28%) since the 2010s. Thoroughbred breeding numbers have declined by more than 50%.
- The expressed intent of Act 71 of 2004, which legalized casino gambling in PA, was to enhance live racing and breeding, as well as ensure that rural communities and the agriculture sector benefited from gaming.
- Since Act 71 was adopted, other stakeholders/beneficiaries of gaming have received additional funding from expanded gaming revenue - such as online simulated slots and Category 4 casinos. While gaming revenues nearly doubled from \$3.1 billion in FY11-12 to \$6.1 billion in 2024, funding to benefit the state's agriculture industry - through horse breeding and racing - has dropped by one-third.



### The Solution

Without a stable level of funding, tracks will continue to cut race days and breeders will continue to opt to invest in other states where the industry has long-term financial stability. This will have a destabilizing effect on Pennsylvania's larger agriculture sector. If the Gaming Act is opened by the legislature, the Pennsylvania Equine Coalition asks legislators to stabilize funding for the horseracing and breeding industries by restoring funding of the RHDTF to \$235 million and ensure annual that the funding remains level to provide fiscal certainty to small business owners and investors. This additional funding could come from a portion of online slots revenues or an allocation from overall gaming revenues, which doubled in the past 14 years while funding for purses and breeder incentives dropped 33%. Some casinos are advocating for legislation to remove the minimum 1,500 slot machine requirement at Category 1 casinos. Because the industry is reliant on Cat 1 slot machine revenues to fund the RHDTF, it is imperative that any reduction in slot machine levels be accompanied with a new funding source for the racing and breeding sector.

### Why Horseracing and Breeding Matters

- 23,000 direct and indirect jobs are supported by the horseracing and breeding industry.
- \$1.6 billion annual economic impact across multiple economic sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, and construction.
- \$68.8 million in annual tax revenues generated by state income, sales, business, and property taxes.
- 1.3 million acres of open space would be vulnerable to development without racing because of its broad agricultural impact.
- \$721 million in direct expenditures each year by the racing and breeding industry in the PA economy for capital expenditures, wages/salaries, and goods/services.







VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
PATHA.ORG  
FOR UPDATED  
INFORMATION  
AND TO SIGN UP  
FOR TEXT ALERTS  
AND OUR  
NEWSLETTER.

CONÉCTATE AL  
SITIO WEB DE LA  
PTHA QUE  
TAMBIEN ESTA

EN **ESPAÑOL**



## **ATTENTION OWNERS AND TRAINERS**

**REMEMBER: THIS IS A PTHA ELECTION  
YEAR SO PLEASE UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS  
WITH THE PTHA OFFICE  
AND WITH THE  
PA RACING COMMISSION.**

**\*\*If you have questions about the PTHA  
elections please stop by our office.\*\***



### **PTHA'S NON-QUALIFIED PENSION PLAN**

Trainers, if you're turning 65 in 2025 and  
are fully vested in our non-qualified pension plan,  
there's something important you should know:

According to IRS rules, once you hit 65, your pension  
income is considered "constructively received." That means  
it's treated as taxable income—even if you don't take any  
money out of the plan. You'll get a 1099 for  
the full balance at the end of the year.

If you'd prefer to leave the money in the plan but want to  
withdraw enough to cover the taxes, we can help you. Just  
reach out to the office and we'll walk you  
through the next steps.

[www.LetsGoRacingParx.com](http://www.LetsGoRacingParx.com)

## WATCH LET'S GO RACING

Every Saturday at 10 a.m. on:



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Check out Parx Racing race day entries on  
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# SMARTY JONES

## EXHIBIT AT PARX RACING

Parx Racing, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen Association, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil an exhibit dedicated to Smarty Jones on May 3, 2025. The exhibit prominently displays the Hall of Famer's trophies from the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes,



along with other memorabilia. The ribbon was cut by Smarty Jones' trainer, John Servis (center), who was accompanied by (from left to right) Parx Racing track announcer Jessica Paquette, Director of Operations Rich Romano, Chief Operating Officer Joe Wilson, and PTHA Executive Director Jeffrey Matty, Jr.

Parx Racing and the PTHA would like to thank Mrs. Patricia Chapman for allowing us to display this memorabilia and giving all fans the opportunity to relive the most exciting moments of our champion Smarty!

The exhibit is open to the public daily on the main floor of Parx Racing.







# **PARX** **SUMMER** *Break*

**LAST DAY OF LIVE RACING  
WEDNESDAY - JULY 23RD**

**RACING RETURNS  
MONDAY - AUGUST 18TH  
PTHA'S OWNERS APPRECIATION DAY**

**TRACK CLOSED FOR TRAINING  
SUNDAY, JULY 27TH to SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD  
TRACK REOPENS MONDAY, AUGUST 4TH**

**[www.patha.org](http://www.patha.org)**



# AROUND THE OVAL by Dani Gibson

## Parx Racing horses take on the Jersey Shore at Monmouth Park

### **Kentucky Outlaw – \$100,000 Long Branch Stakes Winner - May 10th**

3 year old colt Kentucky Outlaw secured a decisive 1 ½-length victory in the \$102,000 Long Branch Stakes, providing owner-trainer Felissa Dunn with her first career stakes win. Despite previous gate issues, Kentucky Outlaw overcame a hesitant start, quickly catching up to the field and taking the lead with jockey Paco Lopez. The colt completed the one mile and 70 yards in 1:41.06 over several Parx based invaders, earning a free entry and start fees to the Grade 1 NYRA Bets Haskell Stakes on July 19. - May 10th

### **Takethemoneyhoney – \$100,000 Serena's Song Stakes Winner - May 11th**

4 year old filly Takethemoneyhoney delivered a thrilling victory in the \$100,000 Serena's Song Stakes with jockey Eliseo Ruiz aboard to narrowly defeat Catherine Wheel by a nose. The race featured a competitive field going 1 mile and 70 yards, including Grade 1 winner Power Squeeze, who finished third. Takethemoneyhoney's win was a testament to her tenacity and racing prowess. Trained by Mike Moore, owned and bred by Kasey K Racing Stable LLC, Michael Day and Final Turn Racing Stable LLC.

### **\$90,000 Spruce Fir Handicap - May 17th**

Kate's Cuban Kiss, a four-year-old filly trained by Steven Krebs for owner/breeder Hidden Acres 4-D Farm, recently delivered a commendable performance in the Spruce Fir Handicap at Monmouth Park securing a strong second-place finish with jockey Samy Camacho to winner Summer's Comin going 6 furlongs for NJ Bred fillies and mares with a zippy final time of 1:10.34

### **Buccherino – \$100,000 Mr. Prospector Stakes Winner - May 26th**

Buccherino delivered a commanding performance to win the \$100,000 Mr. Prospector Stakes at Monmouth Park, reaffirming his status as a top-tier sprinter. Ridden by Paco Lopez and trained by Alfredo Velazquez, the 4-year-old colt broke from the outside post and engaged in an early duel with Super Chow. Buccherino took command midway on the turn and held off late challenges from Subrogate and Dean Delivers to secure a one-length victory, completing the six furlongs in 1:09.47. Owned by Happy Tenth Stable and trained by Parx Racing Hall of Fame trainer Alfredo Velazquez.

# EQUINE DISCOUNTS



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you could be eligible for discounts  
Call 866-678-4289 to start saving!  
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[@myequinediscounts](https://www.instagram.com/myequinediscounts)

Photo Credit: NTRA/S. Hartmann



We'll be having our first PA Yearling Show

**JUNE 21, 2025**

at Brandywine Polo Club in Chester County.

Four categories, plus one for champion, will be offered with lots of prizes. For information and entry form go to [pabred.com](http://pabred.com) under the featured section.

**ONLY \$50 TO ENTER**

*We also will be paying two — \$20,000 bonuses split between the top-four 2yo and 3yo show participants, based on total earnings, not limited to PA races.*

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**Saturday, June 14 -NLT Golf Outing Invitational-**

**PHILLY LEGENDS  
SPORTS WEEKEND**

**HOSTED BY DR. J**



**JUNE 14: PHILLY LEGENDS GOLF CLASSIC:  
PLAY GOLF WITH DR. J AND EAGLES HEROES**

**JUNE 15: NTL PHILADELPHIA CUP: RACES,  
EAGLES MEET-AND-GREETs, FOOD, KIDS  
ACTIVITIES — FREE!**



**NATIONAL  
THOROUGHBRED  
LEAGUE™**

**The NTL Golf Invitational**

Hosted by Dr. J. Featuring Eagles Greats.  
One Exclusive Day.

Dear Valued Community Partner,  
This Father's Day weekend, join us for a special celebration where all proceeds benefit the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Charity, Inc. at the NTL Golf Invitational, happening Saturday, June 14 at Middletown Country Club, Langhorne, PA. Hosted by Dr. J and featuring appearances from Eagles legends, this is more than just a round of golf — it's a full experience built for Philly's finest.

Here's what's included:

- \* 18-hole team scramble
- \* On-course challenges + major prizes
- \* "Best of Philly" dinner, drinks, and an awards celebration
- \* Exclusive post-round clubhouse experience
- Cost is \$250 each for a foursome -

For reservations email [epugh@ntl.racing](mailto:epugh@ntl.racing) or call to 445-255-9461

**Sunday, June 15 -Special Live Racing Card-**

**JUNE 15**

**PHILADELPHIA**

**PARX RACING**

Hosted by Dr. J., Julius Irving  
Owner of the Philadelphia Stallions

**NTL RACES 8, 9 & 10**

For General Inquiries: [info@ntl.racing](mailto:info@ntl.racing)





# PARX RACING SPECIAL DATES MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Jun  
7**



Special Saturday at Parx:  
Belmont Stakes in Saratoga and  
Bark at the Parx

**Jun  
15**



Celebrate Fathers Day at Parx.  
Racing on Sunday June 15.  
Family fun, music and more!

**Jun  
15**



Enjoy a fun and exciting day with  
the National Thoroughbred  
League.

**Aug  
18**



The PTHA will be thanking all  
owners and trainers at our Annual  
Owner's Appreciation Day.

**Aug  
19**



Smarty Jones stakes at Parx!

**Sep  
19**



The best of Pennsylvania:  
PA Day at the Races

**Sep  
20**



2025 Pennsylvania Derby and Cotillion:  
The most exciting day in PA





# HORSEMEN'S PURCHASING ASSOCIATION



***FOR ALL YOUR RACING NEEDS AT PARX  
RACING, INCLUDING BEDDING, FEED,  
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AND MORE!***

## **STORE HOURS**

**Race Days  
Th.-Fr.  
Sat.**

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8 am to 4 pm  
8 am to 2:30 pm**

**Feed trailers open until 1 pm  
Ice House open until 2 pm on Race Days**

**CONTACT US:**

**Diane Day  
HPA Manager**

**267-223-3140  
dday@patha.org**





# PTHA TROPHY RACE

MAY 2025

MAY 6



## Hotpot

Owner  
RR Stable

Trainer  
Roberto Rosado

Jockey  
Dexter Haddock

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

MAY 13



## Quarterflash

Owner  
Top Notch Racing

Trainer  
Esteban Padilla

Jockey  
Jorge Vargas, Jr.

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

MAY 20



## Jacohare

Owner  
Santaella Stable

Trainer  
Jose M. Santaella-  
Calderon

Jockey  
Franklin  
Gonzalez, Jr.

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

MAY 27



## Modern Era

Owner  
Trin-Brook Stables

Trainer  
Uriah St. Lewis

Jockey  
Paco Lopez

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO





# Memorial Day Picnic



Sponsored by PTHA Charities, Inc. and Parx Racing, a Memorial Day picnic was held for all our racetrack workers last Thursday, May 29th. Our hardworking community, employees, family, and friends enjoyed a beautiful day with delicious food from Ron's Café and excellent music from DJ Dennis Lara.

Thank you to everyone who made this event possible.  
Stay tuned for upcoming events.





# Horsemen Achievements



**On Tuesday May 13, 2025 we gathered in the winner circle to congratulate trainer Randy Allen on his retirement!**

**Randy has been a long-time fixture on our backside offering a joke, a smile or countless stories of times that had passed. He rounds out his training years with 885 career victories. The PTHA wishes Randy nothing but the best on his next adventure!**



**Good luck, Ronnie Opitz!**

**Ronnie has been a valet at Parx Racing for many years. His family, friends, and colleagues wished him a happy retirement at a special race on May 3, 2025.**





From the desk of.....

## Danielle Montgomery

Program Administrator



### A Game of Gratitude

The PTHA Turning For Home Golf Outing at Bensalem Country Club was more than just a beautiful day on the greens with laughter, sunshine, and a few wild swings—it was a moment of unity. Horsemen, owners, sponsors, and teammates stepped away from the hustle and came together with one shared purpose: to thank the horses.

It felt especially poignant this year. As Smarty Jones finally prepares to take his place in the National Hall of Fame, I could not help but reflect on what that horse meant to all of us—and what he continues to mean.

**No Smarty, no passion. No Act 71. No Turning For Home. No pension program. No aftercare safety net.** That horse was not just Pennsylvania's champion; he was the catalyst that built an entire support system for the very horses who give us everything.

The golf outing is fun, sure. But the message? The message is even better.

At Turning For Home, we have retired over **4,500 Thoroughbreds**. That is not just a number—it is proof. Proof that when owners, jockeys, and trainers believe in doing things right, the model works. It means something when a trainer walks into our office and says, "This one's not injured, just not trying anymore." It means they trust us to write the next chapter before the last one turns sour.

Because our retirement program is about **timing, dignity, and respect**.

It works because the people of Parx Racing have committed to it. They honor the \$100 per start, the \$35 per winning mount, and the principle that the horse always comes first. The barn culture here is evolving. We see it in the way our trainers approach conditioning, how quickly our teams respond to the horses, and the responsible retirements of horses that still have potential—not just physical but emotional—left to give in another discipline.

As we welcome new legislators and stakeholders to Parx this month, we proudly show them that aftercare is not an afterthought here. It is embedded deep in the stalls of our barns. Our intake process leaves no one behind. Our finances are transparent. Our partner farms are the best. Our return-for-life policy is real.

We do not just hand off horses—we follow through.  
And we do all of it because **we love the horses first**.

When I first started this job, I remember the powerful title from Dr. Patty Hogan's talk: *"Don't squeeze the lemon dry."* Speaking to our horsemen on TFH Day, she meant not to run the horse into the ground. Stop injections that wear the cartilage out faster than they can heal. Listen to the horses and watch for signs. Pay attention. Know when they have given what they can. And if you don't know? Ask.

We don't have Superman's X-ray vision. That's why we rely on constantly improving diagnostics, skilled surgeons, and attentive horsemen who speak up when something seems off. When the exercise rider says a horse took a bad step, when a groom notices swelling, or when a trainer just feels like the fire isn't there anymore—that's when we step in, **before it goes sour**.

There's still juice in that lemon. And now, instead of pushing them past the point of no return, we're giving these horses the chance to do something more.

**We're making lemonade. And Dr. Patty Hogan should be proud of that.**

<https://youtu.be/I0A3ERiz6w0>

*Thank you for being part of this mission.  
With gratitude,*

**Danielle Montgomery**  
Program Administrator, Turning For Home



Dr. Patty Hogan

Photo - Hollywood Jet, safely rehomed because PTHA takes care of their own.



Photo - Ali Allen

Photo - Quickenning - first turn out at Maple Grace Farm in NH





# Turning for Home

## HORSE UPDATES



### Separate Ways (PA)

Dark Bay Gelding foaled March 10, 2020  
(Mastery - Giddy Up, by High Cotton)  
Trainer: Kathleen A. Demasi  
Owner: Pewter Stable and Politano, James  
Breeder: Forgotten Land Investment Inc



Separate Ways found his forever home at TFH's newest partner farm in Connecticut with Kera Robinson, a longtime adopter and now partner farm. From rehab to rehoming, Kera's care and compassion helped this gelding start fresh. His story shows that OTTBs are good for the soul and thrive off the track with the right guidance. We couldn't be happier for Separate Ways and his new family.



### Debbie's Surprise (KY)

Grey Mare foaled April 2, 2019  
(Tale of Ekati - Harbor Spirit, by Rockport Harbor)  
Trainer: Felix L. Flores-Coba  
Owner: Railsplitters Farm  
Breeder: John A. O'Meara



After 20 starts, Debbie's Surprise was retired by trainer Felix Flores-Coba and began a new chapter in Florida. She now lives with her owner and a group of matching "sisters," enjoying life off the track. With her newly roached mane and athleticism shining, this little mare has found her stride on the polo field. She's a great example of the diverse paths available to retired racehorses.



### Dangnabbit (MD)

Chestnut Gelding foaled April 2, 2019  
(Imagining - Dig in Now, by El Padrino)  
Trainer: Melecio Saldana Guerrero  
Owner: Michael F. Boyle  
Breeder: Kevin Patrick Morgan



Dangnabbit retired in December 2023 from trainer Melecio Saldana after 41 starts and has just begun making his mark in the show ring. The TFH graduate and his young adopter debuted in the short stirrup division this May, placing 5th in their flat class. They just missed the ribbons over fences, but showed incredible promise. We're proud of his kind demeanor and excited for what's ahead for this new team!



### Bayleaf (ON)

Bay Mare foaled April 2, 2016  
(Old Forester - Spicey Attitude, by Maria's Mon)  
Trainer: Louis C. Linder, Jr.  
Owner: Over The Moon Racing  
Breeder: Wynnwood Farms



After retiring from Parx, Bayleaf was sent to our Aiken Partner Farm with Lara Anderson to begin her retraining. She quickly took to eventing and was adopted by a junior rider who now competes her under the name *FGF Lovely Lady May* in both eventing and 4-H. Her adopter loves her sweet personality and says she's always playfully pestering their retired pony. Bayleaf is loved to pieces and continues to win over her owner's hearts every day.





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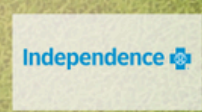

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# FUN DAY AT THE GOLF COURSE



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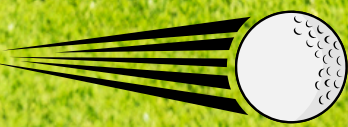
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Closest to the Pin winner  
Greg Newell



Long Drive winner  
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# Heartbeat of the Backstretch

By : Nikki Guzman

At PARX Racing, every morning brings a flurry of hoofbeats and heartbeats—stories of passion and perseverance echoing across the backstretch. One such story belongs to Angel Soto, a 25-year-old from Puerto Rico whose journey from walking horses to riding them is nothing short of inspiring.

When Angel arrived in Pennsylvania at 22, he was looking for a new start. He found it in the form of a job as a hot walker with trainer Carlos Guerrero. In those early days, Angel lived with jockeys, waking up in the pre-dawn hours to watch them train. Those moments lit a fire inside him. Seeing them ride every morning made him want to do it too.

At 25, Angel made the bold decision to climb into the saddle and begin training as an exercise rider. That dream came to life thanks to the mentorship of Deejaee Luna, a fellow exercise rider who took Angel under his wing. At a quiet farm, away from the noise of the track, Deejaee began teaching him the delicate balance of riding thoroughbreds.

Now, under the guidance of trainer Irving Rodriguez, Angel is preparing to take the next step as an official exercise rider at PARX. "On the ground, walking them is one thing," Angel explains. "But on top, you get to feel a whole different thing. It gives you adrenaline."



With a natural connection to the horses and a work ethic that never quits, Angel hopes to become a familiar face and a friendly spirit in the barn area. "I feel really comfortable here now," he says.

Looking ahead, Angel's dreams don't stop with exercise riding. "If God gives me the chance," he says, "maybe one day I'll be a jockey."

His advice to anyone thinking about stepping into the world of racehorses? "Don't think about it. Just do it. Follow the heart."

At PARX, Angel Soto is proof that with passion, patience, and the right people to guide you, even the biggest dreams can start with a single step—right alongside a horse

*If you would like to nominate someone for our feature, please stop by the PTHA office or email [nguzman@patha.org](mailto:nguzman@patha.org).*



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