

PTHA *POST*



WWW.PATHA.ORG

IN THIS ISSUE

- PTHA President's Corner, Robert Hutt
- Horsemen Update from Executive Director Jeffrey A. Matty, Jr.
- Attention Trainers
- Parx Summer Break
- Contact your Legislators
- THA: Horsemen's advisory from HIWU
- HISA Data & System Support meeting at Parx
- Mark your Calendar
- Owners & Trainers Appreciation Day on 8/18/25
- PTHA Charities: Second season of ESL Classes
- Congratulations, 2025 PTHA Scholarship recipients!
- Around the Oval
- PA Breeders: enter to win
- Turning For Home Update
- HPA
- PTHA Trophy Race Winners
- Heartbeat of the Backstretch
- From the Racetrack Chaplaincy
- Our condolences...

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JULY 2025

★★★★★
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!



SPECIAL THANK YOU
EQUI-PHOTO

PTHA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

PTHA PRESIDENT
Robert "Bob" Hutt



As we head into our annual summer break for maintenance we still aren't certain if we will have turf racing when we return. To be fair PARX management is doing everything they can to evaluate if they can fix the turf course to be safe. If not, replacing the turf course or installing a year round Tapeta (poly) course are other options on the table.

In other news, I would like to thank fellow Board member, John Julia, and PARX COO Joe Wilson for signing off on installing WiFi for the entire backstretch which has been a longtime in coming. John is to be commended for getting Comcast to invest nearly a half a million dollars on the project; that hopefully, will be completed before the end of the year. At long last we will have WiFi in the backstretch barns, dormitories, and recreation hall for all to enjoy. It opens up endless possibilities besides just entertainment. Your Board will explore with Racing Office management taking entries and letting you know the number of entries in each race in real time. It will also help with security to make sure that every owner and trainer is competing on a level playing field!

On Friday, August 1st, many of us will be traveling up to Saratoga to see our very own Smarty Jones, on his very first ballot, be inducted into the Hall of Fame. He was the ONLY ONE of sixteen modern day nominees on the ballot to be so honored. I would like to congratulate his owner, Pat Chapman, his trainer, John Servis, and jockey Stewart Elliott for sharing this GREAT horse with all Pennsylvanian's and America . The magic carpet ride Smarty took us on in 2004 will never be forgotten. Speaking of Smarty, please check out our brand new Smarty Jones wing the next time you visit PARX. Thank you Mrs. Chapman for sharing much of Smarty's memorabilia with us. I encourage everyone to join us for his inauguration. Seating for his induction ceremony is first come first serve so make certain to get there early as it's going to be a helluva Smarty Party.

Finally, enjoy your summer hiatus as we look forward to seeing everyone in August when racing resumes; then in early September at the Pennsylvania Derby and Cotillion. The best is yet to come during our spectacular fall meet. Thank you all for supporting PARX racing.

HORSEMEN

Update from
PTHA Executive Director

Horsemen,

As we head into the heart of summer, I want to express my gratitude for the continued commitment and passion each of you brings to the PTHA and Parx Racing. Our community is based on your hard work and dedication to the horses and the sport overall. While we may differ from time to time, an overall desire for racing to thrive here unites all of us.

With the summer break quickly approaching (July 25th to August 17th), I hope each of you finds some time away from the races. This brief pause allows us to reflect on the successes of the first half of the season while also preparing for what lies ahead. The late summer / early fall racing calendar promises to be as exciting as ever, with our marquee events right around the corner. August 18th marks PTHA's 2025 Owners and Trainers Appreciation Day, offering increased purses and PTHA merchandise to all who attend the luncheon. Secondly, the Pennsylvania Derby on Saturday, September 20th - serving as the centerpiece of our racing season.

The PTHA is proud to announce that our new partnership with Parx Racing and Comcast will provide the ability for horsemen to access WiFi throughout the backstretch. This service, along with all Comcast services provided, will be available to purchase by all trainers and members of the backstretch community. I want to thank the PTHA Board and Joe Wilson of Parx Racing for pursuing this venture. I spent many meetings with them to make this possible. Our last site-visit on June 30th provided us with everything needed to move forward. Construction will start during the break.

Looking beyond the races, this time of year also reminds us of the importance of leadership and clear vision. The strength and unwavering commitment of our current board have helped navigate both challenges and opportunities with a firm focus on the welfare of our horsemen and the long-term future of racing in Pennsylvania. As the year continues to wind down, I'm confident our membership will reflect on that track record.

We'll continue to keep you updated throughout the summer and early fall on all upcoming events, developments, and opportunities. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to the PTHA office with any questions or concerns.

Enjoy your summer!

Jeffrey A Matty Jr.



PTHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jeffrey A. Matty Jr.



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VISITING OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.PATHA.ORG

FOR THE LATEST
UPDATES. YOU CAN
ALSO SIGN UP FOR
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NEWSLETTER.

CONÉCTATE AL SITIO
WEB DE PTHA QUE
TAMBIÉN ESTÁ
DISPONIBLE PARA TI
EN

ESPAÑOL



**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.



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 WATER ICE DAY



Date: July 2, 2025

Time: 10am – 12pm

Location: PTHA Admin Building

FREE TO ALL HORSEMEN



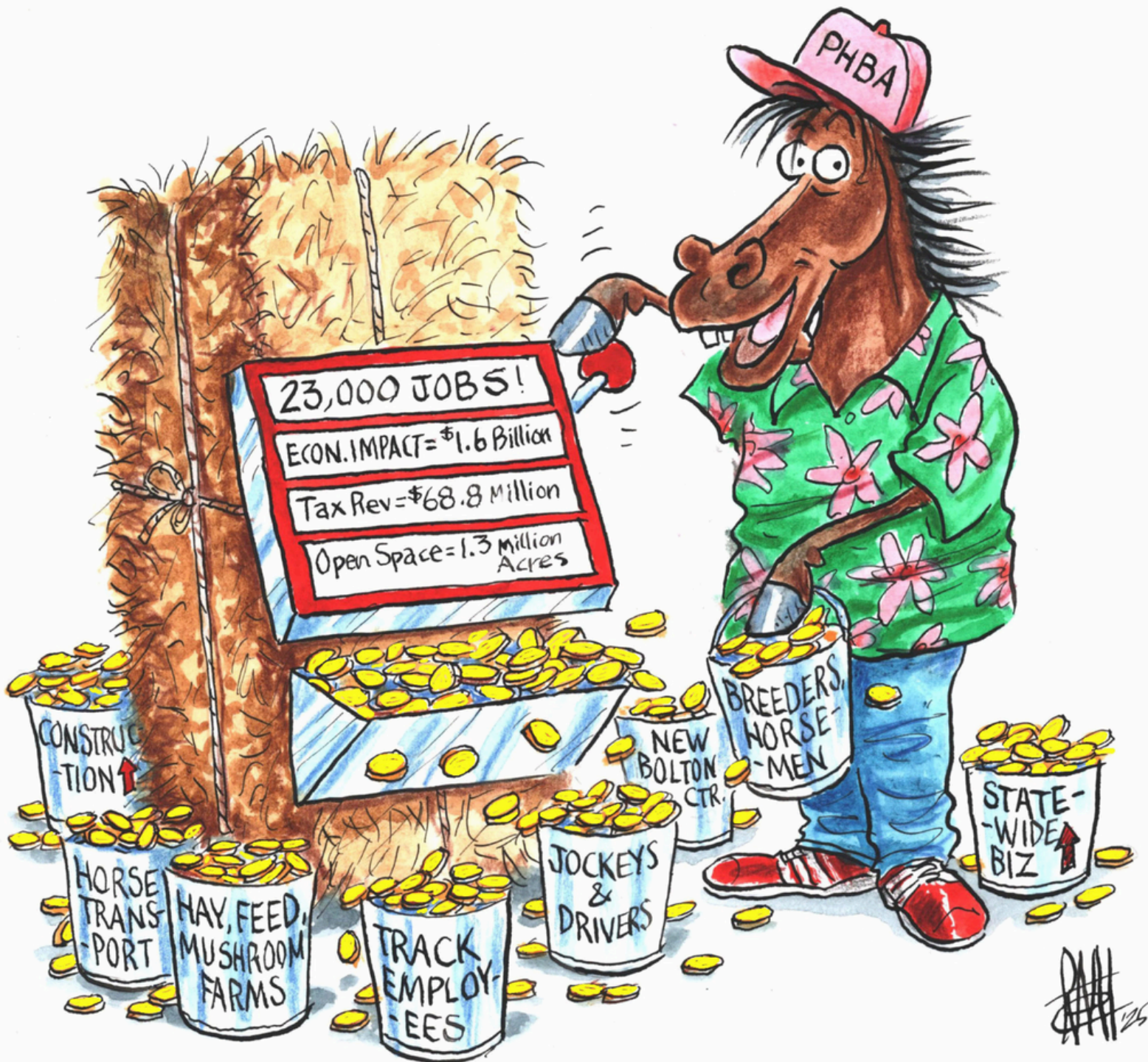
PARX SUMMER *Break*

LAST DAY OF LIVE RACING
THURSDAY - JULY 24TH

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

PENNSYLVANIA



BREEDING & RACING

Contacting Your Legislators

Racing Needs Our Collective Voice

The Pennsylvania State budget season is in full swing, but this year will be different than most. Unlike prior years, we're not forced to fight to stop withdrawals from the Race Horse Development Trust Fund. Rather, we are challenged to obtain our fair share of gaming revenue if the legislature opens the State Gaming Act. Revenue from Skill Games, unregulated and untaxed devices that mimic slot machines and can be found in countless corner stores, bars, and restaurants, along with Online Slots could be used to bolster our industry.

In 2004, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 71, the Race Horse Development & Gaming Act which legalized casinos and allocated a share of physical slot machines to the racing and breeding industry. Since that time, alternative forms of gaming were approved that funded many areas – with the exception of racehorse and breeding development. Brick and mortar slot machines at casinos are on the decline as the younger generation turns to online slots which have seen revenues increase by leaps and bounds.

It is up to us – the individuals who make up the horse racing, breeding and broader agriculture sector – to fight for our fair share and secure the long-term future of our industry. 'We are Agriculture' and the horseracing and breeding industry is responsible for 23,000 jobs, \$1.6 billion in economic impact, and the preservation of 1.3 million acres of open space in Pennsylvania. Very few jobs nor economic impact are generated by online gaming. Please contact your state legislators as soon as possible! Please do not wait!

<https://www.palegis.us/find-my-legislator>





Horsemen's advisory from the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU) regarding Adenosine and Hemo 15.

In recent months, HIWU has adjudicated several cases under the Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program related to adenosine, a vasodilator, and Hemo 15, a foreign product that lacks FDA approval. Neither substance has any valid veterinary use in the racehorse.

Both substances are categorized as an S0 Non-Approved Banned Substance and therefore are prohibited from Use in a Covered Horse or Possession by a Covered Person at all times. Hemo 15 and any compounded product mimicking Hemo 15, as well as any products containing adenosine, adenosine monophosphate (AMP), or adenosine triphosphate (ATP)* should be disposed of immediately.

As a reminder, the Presence, Use, Administration, Possession, or Trafficking of any Banned Substance is subject to a period of Ineligibility of up to two years, a fine of up to \$25,000, the disqualification of race results (as applicable), and public disclosure.

Horsemen or veterinarians with questions should reach out to sciencesupport@hiwu.org.

*Adenosine is also a component of AMP and ATP.

Yours,

The HIWU Team





HORSERACING
INTEGRITY
AND SAFETY
AUTHORITY



On June 18th, at the Parx Racing Rec Hall, the PTHA hosted a meeting for all trainers and assistant trainers, with HISA representative Erin McLaughlin, who specializes in data and system support.

The meeting offered step-by-step guidance on how to create a portfolio, register horses, add or delete data from the system, transfer records, and cover other relevant topics.

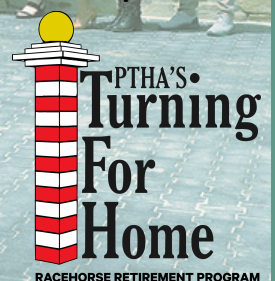
Attendees had the chance to ask questions and received all the necessary information to understand their HISA portfolio. They also received accreditation for attending the meeting.

The PTHA thanks everyone who participated and Ms. McLaughlin for her time and dedicated support.

For help with data & system support, please contact erin.mclaughlin@hisaus.org



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PARX RACING SPECIAL DATES MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**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
1**



Turning For Home Day on Labor Day, to celebrate and thank our partner farms and all who support our program!

**Sep
19**



The best of Pennsylvania:
PA Day at the Races

**Sep
20**



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

**Oct
21**



A day to honor and celebrate the 2025 Parx Hall of Fame inductees

**Nov
1**



Enjoy the action of the Breeders' Cup races during the special Saturday at Parx Racing

**Nov
28**



After a day of shopping, come to Parx to relax and have a good time enjoying live racing.

YOU'RE INVITED TO

PTHA's
Owners and
Trainers
Appreciation Day

MONDAY
AUGUST 18TH, 2025

LUNCHEON AT PARX RACING GRANDSTAND

- 3RD FLOOR -

MUST PRESENT YOUR PARX TRAINER/OWNER'S LICENSE



FOR MORE INFO,
PLEASE CONTACT THE PTHA OFFICE
215-638-2012

Parx Racing		
EIGHTY-SECOND DAY -- Monday, August 18, 2025		
(Entries Close on Tuesday, August 12, 2025)		
1	FIRST RACE Purse \$60,000. For Maidens, Fillies And Mares Three Years Old and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$30,000, For Each \$5,000 To \$20,000.	MAIDEN CLAIMING 125 lbs. 0 lbs. 3 lbs.
2	SECOND RACE Purse \$60,000. For Maidens, Three Years Old and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$30,000, For Each \$5,000 To \$20,000.	MAIDEN CLAIMING 125 lbs. 0 lbs. 3 lbs.
3	THIRD RACE Purse \$50,000. For Fillies Three Years Old or Fillies and Mares Four Years Old and Upward Which Have Never Won Two Races. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. Non-winners: Of A Race Since July 18.....3 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$10,000	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 3 lbs.
4	FOURTH RACE Purse \$50,000. For Three Year Olds or Four Year Olds and Upward Which Have Never Won Two Races. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. Non-winners: Of A Race Since July 18.....3 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$10,000	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 3 lbs.
5	FIFTH RACE Purse \$50,000. For Fillies Three Years Old or Fillies and Mares Four Years Old and Upward Which Have Never Won Three Races. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. Non-winners: Of A Race Since July 18.....3 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$20,000	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 3 lbs.
6	SIXTH RACE Purse \$50,000. For Three Year Olds or Four Year Olds and Upward Which Have Never Won Three Races. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. Non-winners: Of A Race Since July 18.....3 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$20,000	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 3 lbs.
7	SEVENTH RACE Purse \$55,000. For Fillies And Mares Three Years Old and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$15,000, For Each \$2,500 To \$10,000.	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 3 lbs.
8	EIGHTH RACE Purse \$55,000. For Three Year Olds and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$15,000, For Each \$2,500 To \$10,000.	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 3 lbs.
9	NINTH RACE Purse \$100,000. For Fillies And Mares Three Years Old and Upward Which Have Never Won A Race Other Than Maiden, Claiming, Starter, Or State Bred or Which Have Never Won Two Races or Claiming Price \$16,000. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. Non-winners: Of A Race At One Mile Or Over Since July 18.....3 lbs. (Claiming Races Not Considered In Allowances)	ALLOWANCE OPTIONAL CLAIMING 125 lbs. 3 lbs.
10	TENTH RACE Purse \$100,000. For Three Year Olds and Upward Which Have Never Won A Race Other Than Maiden, Claiming, Starter, Or State Bred or Which Have Never Won Two Races or Claiming Price \$16,000. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. Non-winners: Of A Race At One Mile Or Over Since July 18.....3 lbs. (Claiming Races Not Considered In Allowances)	ALLOWANCE OPTIONAL CLAIMING 125 lbs. 3 lbs.

Parx Racing		
EIGHTY-SECOND DAY -- Monday, August 18, 2025		
(Entries Close on Tuesday, August 12, 2025)		
11	ELEVENTH RACE PTHA President's Sprint \$75,000 Guaranteed FOR THREE YEARS OLD. By subscription of \$50 each which should accompany the nomination. A supplemental nomination fee of \$250 may be made up to the time of entry. \$100 to pass the entry box, \$100 additional to start, with \$75,000 guaranteed to be divided: 60% to the winner, 20% to second, 10% to third, 6% to fourth, and 4% to fifth. All starters, excluding starters finishing first through fifth, shall be paid \$1,500 each and the remaining purse monies will then be divided as described above. Weight: 124 lbs. Winners of a sweepstakes in 2024-2025 to carry an additional 2 lbs. Non-winners of \$45,000 in 2025 allowed 3 lbs. (Maiden, Claiming and Starter races not considered). Maidens allowed 6 lbs. Starters to be named through the entry box by the usual time of closing. A field of 14 horses will be drawn with the preference given as follows: Graded/Group stakes winners in order (I-II-III), stakes winners, Graded/Group stakes placed horses in order (I-II-III), stakes placed horses in order (2nd place, 3rd place), winners, then highest career earnings. The first three finishers in this race will receive free nomination, entry and starting fees to the 2025 Gallant Bob Stakes Grade II. A trophy will be presented to the winning owner. Nominations Close Tuesday, August 5, 2025	STAKES
12	TWELFTH RACE Purse \$65,000. For Fillies And Mares Three Years Old and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$30,000, if for \$25,000, allowed.....5 lbs.	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 5 lbs.
13	THIRTEENTH RACE Purse \$65,000. For Three Year Olds and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$30,000, if for \$25,000, allowed.....5 lbs.	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 5 lbs.
14	FOURTEENTH RACE Purse \$55,000. For Fillies And Mares Three Years Old and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$15,000, For Each \$2,500 To \$10,000.....3 lbs.	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 3 lbs.
15	FIFTEENTH RACE Purse \$55,000. For Three Year Olds and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$15,000, For Each \$2,500 To \$10,000.....3 lbs.	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 3 lbs.
16	SIXTEENTH RACE Purse \$50,000. For Fillies And Mares Three Years Old and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$7,500, if for \$5,000, allowed.....5 lbs.	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 5 lbs.
17	SEVENTEENTH RACE Purse \$50,000. For Three Year Olds and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$7,500, if for \$5,000, allowed.....5 lbs.	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 5 lbs.
18	EIGHTEENTH RACE Purse \$50,000. For Fillies And Mares Three Years Old and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$7,500, if for \$5,000, allowed.....5 lbs.	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 5 lbs.
19	NINETEENTH RACE Purse \$50,000. For Three Year Olds and Upward. Three Year Olds.....120 lbs. Older.....125 lbs. CLAIMING PRICE \$7,500, if for \$5,000, allowed.....5 lbs.	CLAIMING 125 lbs. 5 lbs.

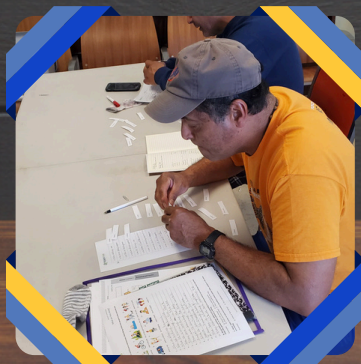


Sponsored by PTHA Charities Inc., the second phase of ESL (English as a Second Language) classes took place in May, offering four weeks of educational support for members of our Parx community. The equine-focused classes were led by teacher Katie Dotterer from AgvoKate, whose experience and dedication helped our students improve their language skills

and create a more inclusive work environment for personal growth.

The PTHA appreciates Katie's commitment, as well as Greg Newell, former PA Breeders Association president, and Jordan Peek, Project Manager of Chester County Economic Development Council, for their involvement in making this project possible.

Stay tuned for the next sessions!



Congratulations!

2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

*Cervantes, Gabriella C.
Collazo, Nicholas D.
Guzman, Nicole A.
DiPatri, Jessica L.*

*Padilla Jr., Horacio
Pape, Christina J.
Villanueva, Edgar N.
Williams, Bayan*



Photo by Equi-Photo

On June 15, PTHA Charities, Inc. presented a \$15,000 check in the winner's circle, representing the total amount of scholarships awarded to the 2025 Granny Fund recipients. PTHA Board members, along with families and friends, gathered for the ceremony to honor the cheerful winners.



Charities, Inc.



The Granny Fund

PTHA Charities, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization with an "E3" initiative: Essentials - Education - Experiences. Through the E3 initiative, PTHA Charities provides daily essentials to the men and women who call Parx Racing home, offers educational scholarships to eligible recipients, and organizes field trips to surrounding venues and pro-sporting events.

For donations, please contact our office at 215-638-2012.

www.LetsGoRacingParx.com

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parx



Check out Parx Racing race day entries on
www.LetsGoRacingParx.com

or scan here:

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AROUND THE OVAL by Dani Gibson

June 1st at Monmouth Park

The consistent mare Beach Daze finished third with NJ Bred fillies & mares in the \$86,700 Smart N Classy Handicap going 1 mile with regular jockey Adam Bowman, trainer Farrel Mann, owners All in Racing Stables LLC and J P S Stable.

June 5th Belmont Stakes Racing Festival at Saratoga

Hold Your Breath and jockey Kendrick Carmouche won in hand in front running fashion sprinting 5 ½ furlongs on the turf at the incredible odds of 29-1 for trainer John Servis, owners Main Line Racing Stable & Avalon Racing Stables in a \$110,000 Allowance Optional Claiming race.

June 14th - Parx horses took on stakes at Delaware Park

The talented colt Buccerino ran a valiant second place finish in the **\$100,000 Alapocas Run Stakes** going 6 furlongs with jockey Paco Lopez for trainer Alfredo Velazquez and owner Happy Tenth Stable.

3 year old colt Kentucky Outlaw and jockey Paco Lopez finished third in the inaugural **\$200,000 Delaware Derby** going the 1 mile & 1/16th distance for owner/trainer Felissa Dunn behind winner Admiral Dennis trained by Brad Cox.

June 15th held two PA Bred Stakes on Father's Day at Parx Racing

\$100,000 Unique Bella Stakes for fillies & mares was won by Carmelina and jockey Paco Lopez riding for trainer Butch Reid, Jr., owners LC Racing LLC & Cash Is King LLC taking the 6 furlong sprint in 1:10.19. This was Carmelina's seventh career win and her second consecutive win of the season, returning strong off a six-month layoff. Stablemate Confirmed Star rallied for a strong second place finish with jockey Eliseo Ruiz.

\$100,000 Page McKenney Handicap winner Houghton Shuffle for owner/breeder Melissa Houghton and trainer Bernard Houghton with jockey David Cora, who executed a gritty, late-running rally through muddy conditions going 6 furlongs over second place finisher Kohler's and jockey Frankie Pennington and third place finisher Ninetyprcentmaddie with jockey Paco Lopez in the irons.

Parx 3 year old fillies finish 1-2 at Monmouth Park in the \$100,000 Maryfield Stakes June 29th.

Not Too Late and jockey Sonny Leon sat the perfect trip to get the win for trainer Uriah St. Lewis and owner Trin-Brook Stables Inc. over a determined second place finisher Volleyballprincess for trainer Lou Linder, Jr. and owner Bran Jam Stable and David Clark with regular jockey Sonny Leon going 6 furlongs

EQUINE



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Photo Credit: NTRA/S. Hartmann

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PTHA'S
**Turning
For
Home**

RACEHORSE RETIREMENT PROGRAM

betPARX



ENTER TO WIN A JOHN DEERE ZERO TURN MOWER MODEL Z315E

Winner will be chosen
SEPTEMBER, 20TH 2025
at Parx during Pennsylvania Derby Day.

Come out and join us for a great weekend of racing,
which includes 10 stakes races featuring the G1 \$1 million
Pennsylvania Derby and Cotillion.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE
PA DAY AT THE RACES
AND PA DERBY DAY**

\$10/entry



PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION



*Generously donated
by the NTRA!*

Winner does not need to be present to win.
Proceeds benefit the PHBA & Turning For Home

Danielle Montgomery

Program Administrator



Rest Now or Rehab Later: The Value of Time in Managing Racehorses

At **Turning For Home, Inc.**, we're kicking off a new series designed to assist horsemen in maximizing both the longevity and profitability of their racehorses. One of the most important decisions any trainer faces is knowing when to step back and give a horse time—not after an injury, but before one. Choosing rest at the right moment is one of the most effective tools a horseman has for protecting both the horse and the business.

We hear it daily at intake: *"He came back a little off. I think it's time."* And that instinct is usually right. The challenge is recognizing the signs early enough to avoid crossing the line from manageable wear into serious injury. Horses tell us when they need time. Longer recovery after races, loss of appetite or condition, swelling that flares between works, or personality changes—getting grumpy, quieter, or more stressed—are all red flags. When performance starts tapering off without a clear explanation, that's the moment to stop and ask for diagnostics.

The veterinary data is clear. Studies show that nearly **90% of catastrophic breakdowns happen at sites where pre-existing wear or injury was already present**. Sesamoid fractures, tendon tears, and condylar fractures don't happen out of nowhere—they are the end result of accumulated micro-damage built up over time. This is exactly why regulators like HISA, veterinarians, and experienced horsemen are so focused on early detection and preventive management.

When horses do get hurt, the road back is long. A bowed tendon or suspensory injury typically means **six to twelve months off at a rehab farm—at approximately \$1,000 per month**. Even then, there's no guarantee of a full return to form, and the risk of re-injury remains high. Repairable fractures still require months away from training, careful rehab, and a slow rebuild. And chronic joint deterioration—"bad ankles" or knees—often signals the end of a racing career altogether.

By contrast, a simple rest period—**30 to 60 days at the farm**—costs the same **\$1,000 per month**, but without the physical and financial burden of major rehab. Horses come back fresher, sounder, and often mentally sharper. It's not just good horsemanship—it's good business. Horses that are managed with regular breaks statistically stay sounder, perform better, and last longer in racing. A major study of Thoroughbred trainers confirmed that horses given rest breaks earn **higher average earnings per start** than horses trained straight through. This reflects what old-school horsemen have known for decades: when in doubt, back off. Let them regroup, heal, and come back right.

It's also important to acknowledge that the current racing landscape has changed. There is no endless supply of horses. **We are facing a real shortage of sound, race-ready horses**. Buying another one isn't always a quick or easy solution. The cost to claim or purchase a replacement is a major, often unforeseen investment—and there are no guarantees that a new horse will be as sound, as honest, or as reliable as the one standing in your shedrow today. In many cases, **the smartest money is spent protecting the horse you already know**.

A prime example is local turf sprinter **Dubini**, trained by **Kate DeMasi** for **Pewter Stable**. After undergoing colic surgery—a career-threatening setback—he was given the necessary time off to recover fully. Not only did he return, but he came back strong enough to win the **\$100,000 Laurel Dash**, proving that time, patience, and proper management can lead to major success after adversity. Like many turf horses, Dubini also routinely got winters off—a longstanding management practice in racing that prioritizes rest and long-term performance. His career longevity is a perfect reminder that rest isn't lost time—it's an investment in future starts.

At TFH, we see the flip side every day. Horses that retire before major injury easily transition into second careers as the athletes they were bred to be. But many horses could also extend their racing careers if their connections stepped back early enough, before wear becomes damage. This isn't just about retirement—it's about smarter management while they're still in training.



Photo by Dani Gibson

This is the first in a series aimed at helping horsemen think differently about managing soundness, recovery, and performance. Our job isn't to tell you when a horse should retire—that's always the trainer's decision. But we are here to share tools, knowledge, and support to help make the best decision at the right time—whether that means rest, rehab, or retirement.

Turning For Home is backed for life—and so are the horsemen who use it.

For more information, visit:

- **Horsemen U Continuing Education:** <https://horsemenu.mclms.net> — Free online CE for trainers and assistants, with topics covering equine health, welfare, and management.
- **Educational Video Playlist:** [YouTube - Horsemen's Education Series](#) — Short, informative videos on injury prevention, diagnostics, horsemanship, and more.

For assistance with a retiring horse, advice on rehab farms, or questions about the program, contact **Turning For Home at 215-808-7562** or visit us at the **Parx ADMIN building**.

"The smartest money is spent protecting the horse you already know."

Danielle Montgomery— pull quote

Turning For Home

HORSE UPDATES



Mrs. Crews (FL)

Dark Bay Mare foaled February 8, 2016
(Brethren - I Love Abby, by Gottcha Gold)

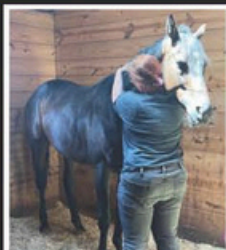
Trainer: Everton Smith

Owner: Evermine Racing Stable

Breeder: Richard Thompson & Shadybrook Farm Inc



Mrs. Crews marked a major milestone as Turning for Home's 4,000th retiree. Everton loaded up his faithful war horse mare to head off to retirement, giving her one last pat on the neck and wishing her well as she left for our partner farm. Thanks to June Hillman of Castle Rock Farm, she found her next chapter with adopter Heather in Maine. This spring, she foaled a lovely Anglo-Trakehner colt named Moonglow and has now started back under saddle with her colt in tow.



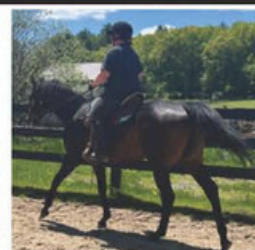
Bluey (KY)

Dark Bsy Gelding foaled April 12, 2019
(Commissioner - Lady Simpson (GB), by Yankee Victor)

Trainer: Eli Betancourt

Owner: L. A. Martinez

Breeder: Hugh Moore



Bluey, the kids' TV show reminds us, every horse—like every person—deserves a second chapter where they're seen, supported, and valued. After 36 starts at Parx, Bluey retired through Turning for Home and was placed with partner farm Krysta Nesbit in New Hampshire for a thoughtful rehab and reset. There, he found Amanda, a rider with a disability, and the two formed an instant bond. Now training toward the Special Olympics, Bluey demonstrates the power of the right match between horse and rider.



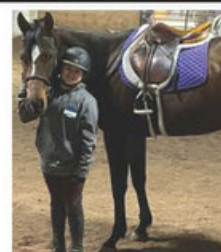
Hightime Valentine (FL)

Bay Mare foaled March 15, 2018
(Prayer for Relief - Primetimevalentine, by Affirmed)

Trainer: Michelle Castillo

Owner: Dante Carlo Stable

Breeder: Helen Barbazon & Joseph Barbazon



After retiring from Parx in September 2023, Hightime Valentine—now known as Valentine—was placed with Ears & Gears Stables, where she began her transition to a new career. This season, she made her hunter show debut with her young rider, Lilly, competing in walk/trot and short stirrup classes and gaining confidence with every round. By the end of the day, the pair brought home several ribbons and handled the atmosphere like pros. Valentine is showing that with a little help from knowledgeable trainers, Thoroughbreds can be just as reliable in the show ring as they were on the track.



Castle Casanova (NY)

TB, DK B/, H, foaled April 9, 2016
(Cairo Prince - Krakowviak, by Tale of the Cat)

Trainer: Jaime Bravo-Estrada

Owner: Jaime Bravo-Estrada

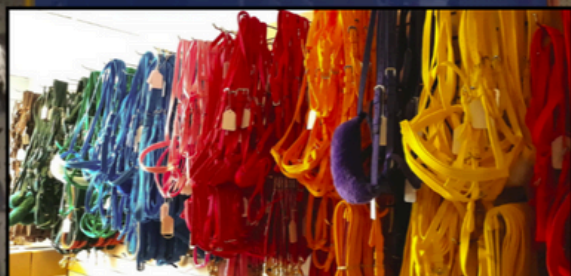
Breeder: Gallagher's Stud



Castle Casanova—now known as "Cass"—has had quite the journey. After being gelded and restarted at Full Gallop Farm, he was adopted and returned more than once, with each step shaping him into the horse he is today. This year, FGF Castle Casanova brought home Reserve Champion in the 2'3" hunters and a win in the War Horse In-Hand at the 2025 New Vocations Thoroughbred Charity Show. Cass isn't for just anyone, but with the right rider, he gives back tenfold. And Turning for Home is here to make sure he always has a safe place to land when needed.



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PTHA TROPHY RACE

JUNE 2025

JUNE 3



Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

Amazing Woo

Owner
Moshe Mark

Trainer
Michael Pino

Jockey
Jean Aguilar

Ninja Prize

Owner
Smart Angle LLP

Trainer
Michael Pino

Jockey
Eliseo Ruiz

JUNE 10



Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

JUNE 17



Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

Sunday Spirit

Owner
Jacinto Solis

Trainer
Jacinto Solis

Jockey
Frankie Pennington

Heartbeat of the Backstretch

By : Nikki Guzman

For **Richie Vega Jr.**, the path to a career in horse racing wasn't always a straight one. Raised in Bensalem and a proud graduate of Bensalem High School, Richie once envisioned a future as an engineer, not working with majestic, 1,200-pound athletes. But life—and love—had other plans.

"I originally wanted to be an engineer," Richie admits. "But I started working summers as a hot walker for my dad, and once we got a few more horses, everything changed." After graduation, Richie joined his father, longtime trainer Richie Vega Sr., at Parx Racing. What began as a temporary job walking horses evolved into a full immersion in the world of racing. As the barn grew, so did Richie's responsibilities. He learned to groom, care for, and eventually ride horses—all under the steady guidance of his father. "The more I worked with the horses, the more I fell in love and knew this is what I wanted to do," he says. "There's nothing like building a bond with them." They all have their personalities, and once you connect with one, it just grabs your heart. One of those horses was She Loves Munny, a chestnut filly bought as a two-year-old. She became more than just a runner in the Vega barn—she was Richie Jr.'s first grooming project until her retirement.



Over the years, Richie has become a jack-of-all-trades on the backside: groom, outrider, van driver, assistant trainer, and now, a student of the game with his sights set on taking the next big step: "Eventually, I want to get my trainer's license and start my business." Working alongside his father has been both a privilege and a challenge. "It's not always easy working with family," Richie laughs, "but there's no one else I'd rather work for. He's taught me what it means to work hard and be patient—because horses will teach you patience like nothing else."

He also credits the PTHA for supporting his journey. "The benefits they offer here are incredible. I was blessed to have two wrist surgeries covered, which let me continue doing what I love at full capacity." For Richie Jr., the racetrack is more than just a workplace. It's a classroom, a proving ground, and a place where dreams are beginning to take shape. "I hope one day I can accomplish the things my dad has and make him proud. Maybe one day, we'll both have our names in the Hall of Fame."

As he looks to the future, one thing is certain - Richie Vega Jr. isn't just following in his father's footsteps. He's blazing his own trail, one horse at a time.

If you would like to nominate someone for our feature, please stop by the PTHA office or email nguzman@patha.org.

From the Race Track Chaplaincy of America at Parx

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OUR CONDOLENCES....

June 29, 2025 - The Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association joins with our colleagues across the country and the entire racing community in mourning the passing of one of the most iconic and influential horsemen in our sport's history—*D. Wayne Lukas*.

Much has already been said and written about his extraordinary life, but simply put, he was a transformational figure in the modern era of Thoroughbred racing. His competitive spirit, professionalism, and unmatched record of success made him a household name well beyond the racetrack—one of the few in our industry recognized across all of sports.



Coach was a horseman of remarkable skill and unwavering integrity. He never courted controversy, once saying, "Just tell me the rules and I'll follow them." That philosophy, paired with his drive and vision, helped shape generations of horses, horsemen, and fans.

It is difficult to imagine a Triple Crown or Breeders' Cup without his presence. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and all those who had the privilege of learning from and working alongside him.



Alan M. Foreman, Chairman/CEO Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.

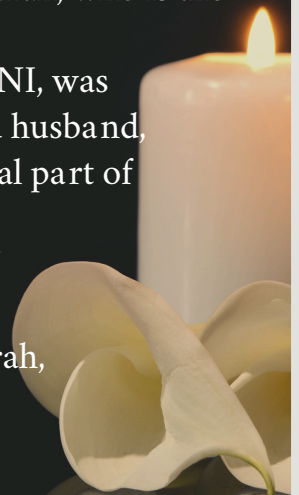


Parx recently lost our long-time audio/video technician, *Robert "Rob" Henry*. Rob started at Philadelphia Park over 25 years ago as a director and producer for Philadelphia Park, "Live" and the Racing Network. Rob worked alongside his wife, Sarah, who is the Parx Racing Broadcast Production Manager.

Rich Romano, Director of Operations for TRC/TRNI, was quoted as saying, "Rob was an incredible father and husband, and devoted Parx team member who was an integral part of the broadcast department for over 25 years.

He was bigger than life and a friend to all in the TV department. His loss is immeasurable."

We send our deepest condolences to Rob's wife, Sarah, daughter Alex, and sons Robert Jr. and T.J.



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