



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

June 2010

Volume 20 • Number 6

## Cecil County slots site aims to open in late October

The first ding-ding-ding of the state-wide slots program will ring out in late October, if all goes according to plan at Penn National Gaming Inc.'s Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County.

With 1,500 video lottery terminals awaiting the initial waves of customers, the Cecil County site will be the first facility to begin operating as part of the slots program authorized in November 2008. That program, which allows for a total of five sites, could eventually enhance Thoroughbred purses by as much as \$70 million per year.

Hollywood Casino Perryville is opening sooner than originally expected. A free-standing structure newly built to house slots, it is located at the MD-275 exit off of heavily traveled I-95.

Featuring an art deco style, the Cecil County facility has been designed along the same lines as the Hollywood Casino at Penn National.

## Maryland schedule during Colonial Downs

The MTHA Office at Laurel is open Mondays through Fridays, from 9 a.m. to noon, during the Colonial Downs meet, which extends through July 21.

Detailed information on services available to Maryland horsemen during the summer break in live racing appeared in last month's issue of this newsletter and is currently posted on the MTHA Web site at [www.mdhorsemen.com](http://www.mdhorsemen.com)

## Who killed Rosecroft Raceway? (It wasn't us...)

Rosecroft Raceway is going out of business. That comes as no great surprise. The harness track in Oxon Hill, Md., ceased regular live racing two years ago, and has existed as an off-track betting facility since then.

But it didn't have to happen like this.

Rosecroft's interests are blaming Rosecroft's demise on the Thoroughbred industry and its "unreasonable demands." Nothing could be farther from the truth.

In 2006, Thoroughbred and Standardbred interests entered into a 15-year

agreement that gave tremendous financial concessions to Rosecroft. In return for a \$5.9 million annual payment to the Thoroughbred industry, Rosecroft received access to Thoroughbred signals (attracting substantial business that otherwise might have gone to Laurel Park, which is located 32 miles from Rosecroft).

The agreement, which was designed to eliminate disputes over future revenues, also called for gaming proceeds

See **Rosecroft**, page 2

## NOW'S THE TIME TO SUPPORT YOUR PAC!

A major election looms in November. Marylanders will elect a governor, and all legislative seats will be up for vote. We must do our best to ensure that those who have supported the interests of the racing industry in the past have an opportunity to do so in the future.



Please help by making a donation to your Political Action Committee. Donations will go toward the election campaigns of state officials who hold the best promise for our industry. The Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC advocates for the entire Maryland Thoroughbred industry, while promoting the interests of horsemen.

Please make checks payable to **Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC**.  
Send checks to MTHA, 6314 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207.

### AMOUNT OF DONATION

\$100  \$250  \$500  Other

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

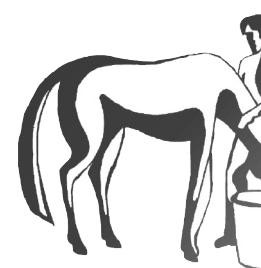
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

*By authority Wayne W. Wright, Treasurer*



## Horsemen's Counseling Program is here to help

by Bill Borchardt, LCSW-C, Track Counselor



Clinical depression affects 15 to 20 percent of the population in the U.S. Many people don't seek help for it because of misdiagnosis or because they simply feel they can't afford to see a doctor or therapist.

In the course of our lives we suffer from brief depression on and off; it's been referred to as normal blues or grief after a recent loss or disappointment. These episodes are short-lived and get easier in a relatively brief time.

Clinical depression is much longer in duration and reaches a level of helplessness and hopelessness that seems impossible to recover from. Some people have referred to it as "standing on the edge of a black hole and all it takes is to step into it." Difficulty concentrating, often accompanied by memory problems, leads to even more isolation and loneliness.

If in your dealings with friends and co-workers you notice someone with symptoms of sadness, unexplained crying for no apparent reason, difficulty sleeping, poor appetite and noticeable loss of weight, or if someone appears unmotivated to do anything and is irritable and miserable to the point of not being able to function normally, you should encourage that person to seek help.

All racetrackers have help with just a phone call or e-mail. Call Bill Borchardt (410) 542-4040; (301) 776-0404 and leave a message and call-back number, or e-mail [williamb3@hotmail.com](mailto:williamb3@hotmail.com).

## Rosecroft, from page 1

to be divided on an 80/20 percentage basis between Thoroughbred and Standardbred interests.

All remained reasonably calm until January 2009, when Kelley Rogers, president of Rosecroft's ownership entity Cloverleaf Enterprises Inc., announced that Rosecroft would pay no more than \$2 million annually from that point forward.

When Thoroughbred interests, including the MTHA, refused to accept the non-negotiable offer, Rogers "declared war" on the Thoroughbred industry.

The Maryland Racing Commission responded to the situation by withdrawing permission for Rosecroft to receive Thoroughbred signals.

Rosecroft proceeded to bankrupt itself with expenses incurred in lawsuits against Thoroughbred interests, as well as the Racing Commission, while pursuing other strategies aimed at inflicting harm on our industry.

The attempts, all of which ultimately failed, included restructuring the Racing Commission, revising the formula for division of slots revenue, and introduction of a bill in the 2010 General Assembly that would have allowed Rosecroft to operate as a casino outside the confines of the slots program approved by state voters in 2008.

Rosecroft has also blamed its troubles

on the fact that it was not among the sites specified for slots when the program was created—erroneously holding Governor Martin O'Malley partially at fault.

The truth is that Gov. O'Malley has always supported slots at race tracks, while his predecessor, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., did not.

Also, the overwhelming majority of the Prince George's County House and Senate delegations chose not to support slots at Rosecroft.

Rosecroft's troubles have nothing to do with slots, although the slots program could have helped the track survive if Rogers and his cohorts had had the patience to wait for slots revenue to arrive.

The problems were self-inflicted—Rosecroft no longer offered a desirable racing product of its own, but maintained a longstanding sense of entitlement regarding the Thoroughbred signals.

Rogers's unreasonable belief that Rosecroft was entitled to simulcast Thoroughbred races free, or nearly free, from compensation to the Thoroughbred industry forced a stand-off.

And Rosecroft, no longer able to survive within the circumstances that it created, eventually succumbed.

## Hoofprints

Committee to develop criteria for RFRA funding

Racing Commission members John Franzone, Ernest Grecco and David Hayden have been appointed to serve on the Maryland Racing Commission's committee that will establish regulations for minimum criteria for the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account (RFRA), the fund set to provide a portion of slots revenue for race track improvements.

### Fundraising barbecue for trainer Paul Rowland

A fundraiser will be held on Friday, July 9 for Fair Hill-based trainer Paul Rowland, who is battling cancer.

The event will raise money for medical expenses and support of Mr. Rowland's young children. It will feature food, fun, a silent auction and socializing at a family event for a good cause.

Time: 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Place: The Ed Walls Activity Center at Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area in Fair Hill.

For details or to volunteer, contact Michele Sanger at (406) 360-2252 or [michesanger@gmail.com](mailto:michesanger@gmail.com) or see the Facebook page.

### Jockey Club expands Tattoo ID Services with link to free auction history

The Jockey Club has made it easier than ever to find information on horses who have a tattoo but are not accompanied by foal papers.

Tattoo Identification Services, on The Jockey Club's Web site ([www.jockeyclub.com](http://www.jockeyclub.com)), provides registration information based on tattoo numbers.

Now anyone using that free service can follow a link to Free Auction Results—[www.equineline.com/Free-Auction-Results.cfm](http://www.equineline.com/Free-Auction-Results.cfm)—which contains a record of each time the horse has been offered at public auction.

### NTRA launches interactive virtual horse racing game

A virtual horse racing game, including levels of play for beginners to the most experienced handicappers, is up and running on the NTRA's Web site at [www.NTRA.com/virtualracing/](http://www.NTRA.com/virtualracing/).

Participation is free.

"It is a key component of our social networking strategy designed to grow the online community of horse racing fans," said NTRA vice-president Keith Chamblin.

## Thoughts, from page 4

support it can get, once the slots program gets rolling.

Some legislators unfriendly to the racing industry already are taking a hard look at the law that directs 7 percent of the slots revenue toward purses and breeders' funds.

In the 2010 legislative session, some Prince George's County legislators and others initiated legislation that attempt-

ed (unsuccessfully) to reduce or eliminate our share of the proceeds from slots.

None of these threats can be taken lightly. We must be prepared to stand our ground in coming years. And being prepared means establishing—and maintaining—a strong presence in Annapolis.

Sufficient PAC funds will allow the

MTHA to do its job of representing horsemen's interests to the fullest extent possible.

It's obvious which words constitute your own best response to this month's PAC solicitation—your signature on a check.

*/Arnold A. Heft, MTHA Director,  
Legislative Committee Chairman*

## Problems on the grounds?

For help with concerns involving stabling facilities during the summer break in live racing, contact:

Bowie—Victor (Blue) Marshall (240) 876-6414.

Laurel—Tony Edwards (443) 250-9872.

## IN MEMORIAM

**David Hutchison**, a Bowie-based owner/trainer, died in late April at the age of 67.

The MTHA extends heartfelt condolences to Maryland Jockey Club Chief Financial Officer Doug Illig, whose 13-year-old son, Andrew, died June 3 following a heroic battle with cancer.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published monthly by the

### Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

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Web site: www.mdhorsemen.com

The Horsemen's Newsletter  
reports on issues and events of interest  
to owners and trainers in Maryland.  
Your suggestions are welcome.

## Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum, MTHA  
Recreation Director. For information  
or to sign up for programs,  
call Dan at (410) 802-5798.*

### Soccer

The MTHA is sponsoring a free drawing for tickets to the world-class soccer match between Manchester City and Inter Milan on July 31 at M&T Stadium in Baltimore.

Sign-up sheets will be posted in the kitchens at Bowie and Laurel.

### Night at Camden Yards

The MTHA held its annual night at Camden Yards on June 24, with the Orioles vs. the Florida Marlins.

Twenty-five backstretch employees were chosen in a drawing for the free tickets. Winners included Matt Dillon, B.J. Jones, Mark Dillow, Jessica Etter, Amanda Rossman and Ricky Sweeney.

### Orioles tickets

Everyone who signed up is still in the running for the next two drawings of

free Orioles tickets and parking passes. The next drawing will be held at Bowie, in the kitchen, on July 17 at noon.

### Baysox tickets

Thanks to everyone who signed up for the Bowie Baysox tickets this season. The MTHA sponsored more than 75 backstretch workers with free tickets and parking passes.

### Poker

The next mock Texas hold 'em poker tournament is scheduled for July 12 in the Bowie track kitchen.

Sign-up sheets are posted in the kitchens at Bowie and Laurel.

### Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Robbie Bailes, Jim Ford, Gene Gilhooley, John Hammond, John Hartsell, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Jack Nimms and Caroline Stautberg.

## Horsemen's calendar

### RACING

**Colonial Downs** .....Now-July 21

**Laurel Park** .....July 31-Aug. 22  
Fall dates TBA

**Timonium** .....Aug. 27-29; Sept. 3-6

**JIM MCKAY MARYLAND MILLION DAY  
OCT. 2 AT LAUREL PARK**

**FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS  
AT TIMONIUM** (410) 392-5555

**Eastern Fall Yearlings** .....Oct. 5, 6  
Entries close July 12

**December Mixed** .....Dec. 6  
Entries close Sept. 20

### OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July  
Selected Yearlings** Lexington, Ky.  
(859) 255-1555. ....July 13, 14

**Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected  
Yearlings** Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
(516) 328-1800. ....Aug. 2, 3

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company  
Selected/Open Yearlings**  
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. ....Aug. 23-26

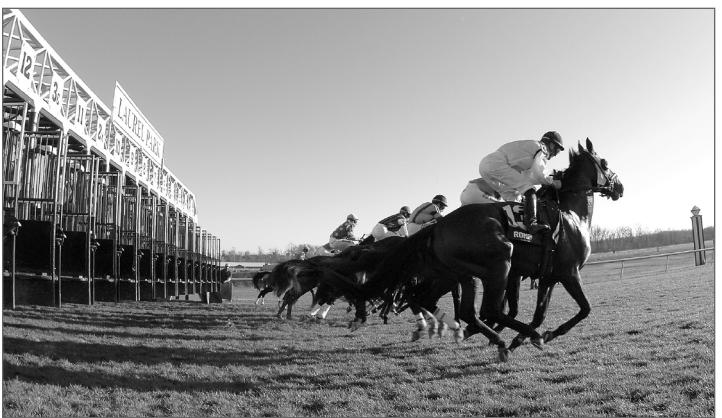
**Keeneland September Yearlings**  
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. ....Sept. 12-26

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company  
Fall Mixed**  
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. ....Oct. 18-21

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings**  
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. ....Oct. 25-27

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected Fall Mixed**  
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. ....Nov. 7

**Keeneland November Breeding Stock**  
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. ....Nov. 7-20



*Proposed summer dates: Saturday, July 31;  
Sunday, August 1; Friday, August 6 (twilight); Saturday,  
August 7; Sunday, August 8; Friday, August 13 (twilight);  
Saturday, August 14; Sunday, August 15; Friday, August 20  
(twilight); Saturday, August 21; Sunday, August 22.*



**MTHA**  
6314 Windsor Mill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

**June 2010**

## Laurel Park plans 11-day summer mini-meet

The popular mini-meet is expected to return to Laurel Park this summer. (Pending discussions between track management and the MTHA's Negotiating Committee, and approval by the Maryland Racing Commission.)

Laurel intends to offer 11 days of live racing, beginning Saturday, July 31 and continuing on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through August 22.

Twilight racing will be conducted on Friday evenings.

"The MTHA has always strongly endorsed the mini-meet," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "It provides welcome racing opportunities that help to bridge the gap between the closing of Pimlico in the spring and Laurel's fall meet. Those 11 days have become an important part of our program, and we urge horsemen to give the mini-meet their full support."

## Thoughts and comment

**Disappointing. . . frustrating. . . alarming. . .** I have been trying to come up with the right word to describe response to the Political Action Committee solicitation in last month's Newsletter. You can take your pick from any of the above.

Times are tough, but horsemen can do better!

I urge you to fill out the form on page 1 of this newsletter and send in your contribution today. As little as \$100—less than many of us spend on gasoline each month—can make a huge difference to our industry for decades to come.

Slots revenue will soon begin flowing into the Purse Account. That wouldn't have been possible without the help and commitment of many elected leaders in Annapolis.

This is an election year. In November, the office of Governor, along with every seat in the state Senate and House of Delegates, will be up for vote.

If we do not support the election-year efforts of those who have helped our industry, we run the risk of losing our core of support in the state's capital.

And this industry will need all the

See **Thoughts**, page 3

### MTHA Board of Directors

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