



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

September 2010

Volume 20 • Number 9

## Penn National may delay opening of Cecil County slots site

Penn National Gaming has indicated that it will delay the opening of its slots site in Cecil County while state officials consider the legalities of its dual role as the proprietor of that facility and co-owner of the Maryland tracks.

Penn National's Hollywood Casino Perryville had been expected to open in late September as Maryland's first slots site to begin operation.

The State Lottery Commission conditionally approved the license on September 16. However, the Baltimore *Sun* reported that the commission "did not rule on claims by Baltimore-based Cordish Cos. that Penn National breached its licensing agreement."

The law does not allow an individual or business entity to own more than one VLT facility. It also prohibits a license holder to interfere with another licensee.

Penn National's attorney has argued that the company's role in supporting the campaign against slots at Arundel Mills mall is protected by a constitutional right to engage in political speech.

Regulators are awaiting guidance from the State Attorney General's office.

### Lip tattooing

Lip tattooing is available at Laurel on Sundays and Mondays and at Bowie on Tuesdays.

To arrange for this service, call Frank Saumell at (410) 419-5872.

## Maryland Horse Council betrays horsemen

The MTHA has withdrawn its membership in the Maryland Horse Council (MHC), due to the MHC's misguided support for the proposed casino complex at Arundel Mills mall. (See *MTHA President Richard Hoffberger's Thoughts and comment on page 4*.)

Upon the urging of several individuals, most notably Ken Holt, who is currently seeking election as the Republican candidate for Baltimore County Executive, the MHC has aligned itself with the group lobbying for a video lottery terminal (VLT) facility at the Arundel Mills Commercial District.

"Since VLTs, or slots, were first proposed in Maryland some 15 years ago, the MTHA has consistently advocated for slots at race tracks," said Mr. Hoffberger. "Under the present situation, when Laurel Park's very existence is

threatened by the prospect of a major casino just 10 miles away, the issue takes on much greater urgency."

The MHC, while expressing a desire to support and unite the entire Maryland horse industry, has itself emerged as a divisive faction.

It attempts to garner support with a so-called "opinion survey" of MHC constituents conducted several months ago. The survey (posted on the MHC Web site, [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org)) vilifies Laurel Park's owners, and is clearly designed to create a favorable image for the Arundel Mills casino.

The MTHA is dismayed that the MHC, and its president, Steuart Pittman, have chosen to become publicly involved in this issue, and to take a stance so obviously at odds with the best interests of Maryland racing.

### Anne Arundel County Voters

**Vote AGAINST Question A  
Cast Your Vote  
To Stop Slots  
at Arundel Mills Mall**



# Maryland Million Day schedule

**Jim McKay Maryland Day:** October 2 at Laurel Park.

**Post time:** 12:35 p.m.

**Training hours at Laurel on Maryland Million Day:** 5:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. No break.

**Reminder to trainers:** A one-hour concert will follow the fifth race.

Horses will walk to the paddock and home the wrong way on the race track. They will come onto the track at the five-eighths gap. Only the winners will be allowed to walk home the regular way in front of the building.

## Unwanted Horse Coalition can help

The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) has a variety of materials designed to improve the outlook for horses who can no longer race.

These include *Own Responsibly: Guidance for Current and Potential Horse Owners*, a handbook with chapters on programs that extend the useful lives of horses, questions to ask when trying to place a horse, and the tax ramifications of contributing your horses to a charitable organization.

All materials are available for download on the UHC Web site, [www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org), or contact Ericka Caslin at (202) 296-4031, [ecaslin@horsecouncil.org](mailto:ecaslin@horsecouncil.org).

## Thoughts, from page 4

for the most part to accept our assessment of the situation.

But appearances, as we all know, can be deceiving. As outlined in the article on page 1 of this newsletter, the MHC has betrayed Thoroughbred horsemen—not just the MTHA, but each and every individual whose livelihood depends on the continuation of a full-fledged racing program in Maryland.

Why the MHC, which has never involved itself in racing politics, has not left the racing issues to the racing community is a wonder to many.

No track in America has ever fared well in close proximity to a gambling emporium. Unfortunately there is no indication that makes the situation in Maryland different. Combine that with MID's prediction of the bleak future for



## Grab your tickets for MRMA Crab Feast

WBAL Radio's Scott Wykoff will serve as emcee for the Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA)'s annual Crab Feast, to be held Saturday, October 23 in the Carriage Room at Laurel Park from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

As usual, the menu includes all-you-can-eat crabs, plus a buffet featuring chicken and side dishes, as well as beer, wine and soft drinks.

A silent auction of racing-related items and memorabilia will raise funds for scholarships, and the 2010 Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund winners will receive their checks at this event.

MRMA's annual awards will go to Dick Woolley, Humphrey S. Finney Award for lifetime contributions to Maryland racing; and David Rodman, outstanding achievement. Tickets are \$60 each, or \$550 for a table of 10. To order tickets call David Richardson at (410) 239-7022 or e-mail [drichardson@darkhollowfarm.com](mailto:drichardson@darkhollowfarm.com).

## Hoofprints

### Timonium trainers' bonus

Dane Kobiskie took the leading trainer's bonus at this year's Timonium meet, sending out horses to win 10 of 28 starts, including four winners on Labor Day, September 6.

Scott Lake ranked second. Completing the top four were King Leatherbury and Chris Grove.

Timonium provided a \$10,000 bonus, divided among the leaders.

### Bonus programs for Preakness, Black-Eyed Susan

MI Developments Inc. has announced a bonus program totaling \$7.7 million for connections of horses who win specified races leading up to victory in the 2011 Preakness or Black-Eyed Su-

san Stakes.

The bonus is \$5.5 million for the Preakness and \$2.2 million for the Black-Eyed Susan. The purse for the Black-Eyed Susan has also been increased to \$250,000.

### Track Diva Day

Laurel Park will feature Track Diva Day on Saturday, October 16. Racing analyst Joanne Jones will serve as host and lead a panel discussion featuring female jockeys Forest Boyce and Mary Wiley Wagner. After that a buffet lunch will be served in the Director's Room. Cost is \$30.

Reservations must be made by October 9. For more information call (301) 470-5439 or visit [www.laurelpark.com](http://www.laurelpark.com).

racing at Laurel with a slots parlor at the mall, and it's clear our options are limited.

MHC leadership apparently still has not made the effort to fully comprehend all the issues, otherwise the group surely would not have taken the direction that it did.

Distorted thinking has caused the MHC to turn against the industry it has sworn to promote.

Its opinion poll, made up of loaded questions, would be laughable if the subject were not so serious. It includes such questions as: "If MID loses in its effort to block slots at Arundel Mills and decides to divest of Maryland Jockey Club assets, should the state of Maryland intervene to ensure that the buyer is committed to running horse races?"

That's like asking someone if he would rather have ice cream with chocolate syrup or a sore throat.

The Maryland Jockey Club's new owners, MI Developments (MID) and Penn National, have the financial ability to build a slots facility at Laurel Park, and do it right for racing.

We have found it necessary to withdraw from the MHC. It's not possible for us to be a member of an organization that supports our demise. That would be foolhardy.

Our best hope for long-term prosperity exists with slots at the track. That was our position when the slots debate started, and our opinion remains unchanged.

*/Richard J. Hoffberger,  
MTHA President*



# Committee bulletins

## Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- The viewing stand is now completed.
- The fence near the viewing stand has been repaired with all new wood stakes.

## Cover those manure bins!

Trainers are reminded that manure bins must be covered at all times—empty, clean or dirty.

Failure to do so is a serious violation of environmental protection rules.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Warren S. Komins**, 77, a longtime owner, died on July 25.

**Irvin C. Tillman**, a former owner/breeder, died on August 1 at the age of 91.

**Carol Hunter**, a backstretch worker at Laurel Park, died on June 27 at the age of 48.

**Cheryl Kauffman**, a groom employed at Laurel Park, died unexpectedly on July 26. She was 41.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

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*The Horsemen's Newsletter* reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland.

Your suggestions are welcome.

# Backstretch Appreciation Day

Well over 350 backstretch workers and their families attended the MTHA's Backstretch Appreciation Day on September 19 at Laurel.



Brad and Monica MacKinnon

Winners of the door prizes were Juan Torres, Roman Mendez, Leonardo Perez, James Lash, Luis Martinez, Jesus Mandez, Gustavo Magana, Alejandro Lopez Gallegos, Alysa Vega and Bernie Jefferies.



Jose Gallegos and Alejandro Lopez Gallegos



Debbie White and Fred Grove with youngsters Dominic and Anthony Eberhardt



Dorrel, Cheryl and Isyis McIntosh (from left) with children Shamar and Dylon McIntosh

## Recreation report

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

### Golf

The MTHA will sponsor a golf outing on October 18 at Ft. Meade, with a shotgun start at 11 a.m. Eighteen holes of golf, cash prizes, lunch and a free beverage cart are included for a fee of \$60.

## Horsemen's calendar

### RACING

**Laurel Park** ..... Now through Dec. 18

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

**Eastern Fall Yearlings** ..... Oct. 5, 6

**December Mixed** ..... Dec. 6

### OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

**New York Breeders' Sales Co.**

**Fall Mixed** Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
(518) 587-1555 ..... Oct. 18

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company**

**Fall Mixed** Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. .... Oct. 19, 20

**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. 8-20

Sign up in the track kitchens or call Dan Mangum.

### Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Jack Adamez, Capital Challenge Partnership, Gene Gilhooly, Michele and Scott Markward, Diana Sancostti and Tammy Wolfendale.



## Maryland Million events

**Entry Draw Brunch, Laurel Park**—Sept. 29

**Maryland Million Gala Reception, Maryland Club, Baltimore**—Oct. 1

**25th Anniversary Jim McKay Maryland Million Day, Laurel Park**—Oct. 2

*For more information call (410) 252-2100*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CARMEN REYES



# We've come so far—

Maryland's racing industry is finally about to experience the impact of slots, as sites in Worcester and Cecil Counties are soon to open their doors. Three additional slots facilities remain in our future. But our added revenue will never be entirely secure. We must continue to maintain strong ties with those state officials who recognize the importance of our industry. Your contribution to the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Political Action Committee will enable us to support the November election campaigns of those who have supported our interests in the past and indicate a willingness to do so in the future.

*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*



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

## September 2010

## Thoughts and comment

Many years ago, the MTHA signed on as a lifetime member of the Maryland Horse Council (MHC).

Our organization has invariably responded when called upon by the MHC. In fact, we were instrumental in helping the MHC secure funding in Annapolis.

Earlier this year the MHC immersed itself in the slots debate, turning its back on the Maryland Jockey Club (MJC), MTHA and other horsemen. Up until that time the MHC had always deferred to and supported the racing community on racing issues. On behalf of the MTHA and in conjunction with the MJC, the MHC was asked to follow the lead of the racing industry on this important sub-

ject that affects the future of racing in Maryland. Unfortunately they refused, and have clearly supported slots at Arundel Mills mall.

Recently, in my capacity as president of the MTHA, I attended an MHC meeting, and explained at great length the dire impact that a major casino complex at Arundel Mills mall would have on the Maryland racing industry. MJC president Tom Chuckas was also at that meeting and our concerns for the future were similar.

The MHC's president, Steuart Pittman, and others present appeared

See **Thoughts**, page 2

## MTHA Board of Directors

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