



# The Horsemen's f Newsletter t

January 2017

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## In Memoriam: Joe Miller

Joe Miller had quite an impact on the Maryland racing community during his decades of service.

Miller, who died Dec. 15 at age 53, worked at the Maryland racetracks for about 30 years, most recently as a member of the track maintenance crew. But he is best remembered as the long-time horse ambulance driver, a difficult job that requires a special type of person.

In 2015 Miller was recognized with the MTHA "Special Unsung Hero Award" for his contributions. He manned the ambulance not only during racing but during morning training at Maryland tracks.



Miller, of Kingsville, Md., was profiled in a 2013 *New York Times* story along with MJC track photographer Jim McCue, who assisted Miller whenever with his own love of photography. Miller was known for regularly taking

photos of morning training and wildlife, including eagles that have been spotted in the Laurel Park infield.

"Joe was always there," MTHA President Tim Keefe said, "and we always knew he'd be there. He loved being out (on the track) with horses and people. He was just a really good guy. It's a tragic loss."

Miller was the ambulance driver in 2006 when undefeated Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro fractured three bones in his right hind leg at the start of the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course and was euthanized eight months later because of complications from laminitis. MJC Director of Racing Georganne Hale said Miller rode in the back of the van with Barbaro when the colt was transported to the University

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## RMTC Urges Adoption Of Updated Model Rules On Medication

The Racing Medication and Testing Consortium Dec. 22 urged racing authorities to adopt the out-of-competition testing and Multiple Medication Violation Penalty System rules approved by the Association of Racing Commissioners International Dec. 9.

The out-of-competition testing rules adopted by the ARCI are largely based upon rules developed and proposed by the RMTC. Importantly, the new regulations go beyond blood-doping to regulate a number of other substances.

The use of anabolic steroids in training is banned. The only time that any of the four permitted anabolic steroids can be administered is if they are:

- Prescribed by a veterinarian—which requires the filing of a treatment plan prior to administration, and the horse is placed on the state veterinarian's list for a minimum of six months after the final administration;
- Strict reporting requirements for other substances, such as clenbuterol, that act as anabolic agents; and
- A broadly expanded prohibited substance list based upon the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited Substance list.

"The out-of-competition testing rule is vital for ensuring the integrity of racing and the health and welfare of our equine athletes,"

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## MGM National Harbor Opens

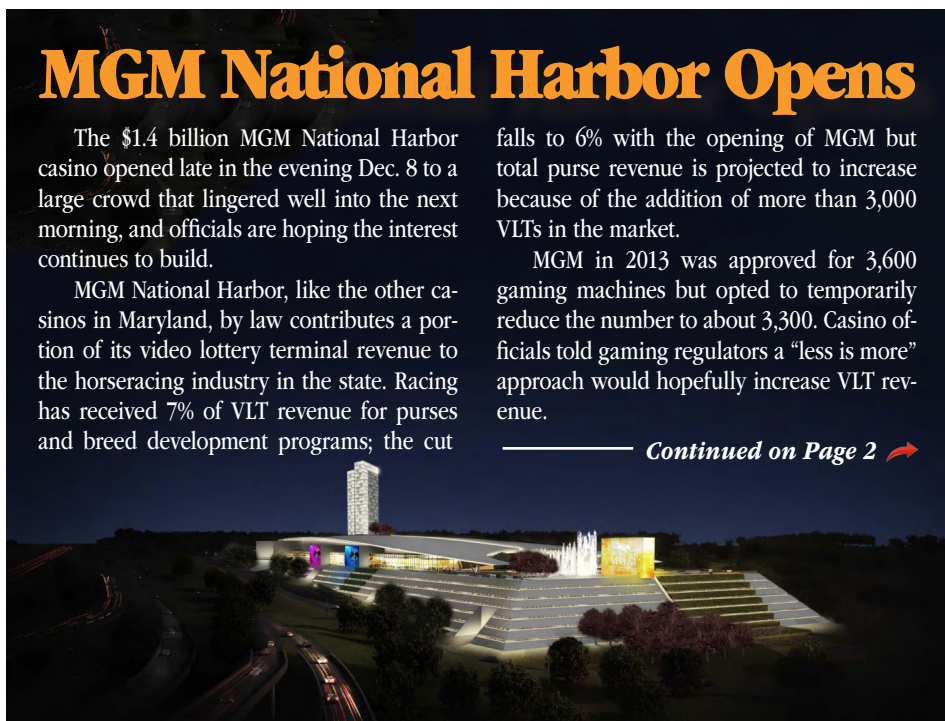
The \$1.4 billion MGM National Harbor casino opened late in the evening Dec. 8 to a large crowd that lingered well into the next morning, and officials are hoping the interest continues to build.

MGM National Harbor, like the other casinos in Maryland, by law contributes a portion of its video lottery terminal revenue to the horseracing industry in the state. Racing has received 7% of VLT revenue for purses and breed development programs; the cut

falls to 6% with the opening of MGM but total purse revenue is projected to increase because of the addition of more than 3,000 VLTs in the market.

MGM in 2013 was approved for 3,600 gaming machines but opted to temporarily reduce the number to about 3,300. Casino officials told gaming regulators a "less is more" approach would hopefully increase VLT revenue.

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## ➔ **MGM, From Page 1**

Total play and revenue for December have not yet been published by the Maryland Lottery. It was noted at the most recent Maryland Racing Commission meeting, however, that VLT revenue for Thoroughbred and Standardbred purses in the first six months of 2017 is projected at \$25 million.

According to Maryland Lottery statistics, purse accounts received about \$45 million from VLTs in the first 11 months of 2016. Another \$6.4 million (1% of VLT revenue) went to the Race Track Facility Renewal Account.

Of the purse total, 80% goes to the Thoroughbred industry and 20% to the Standardbred industry.

MGM National Harbor in only a few weeks of operation appears to have impacted busi-



ness at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races, the West Virginia casino that draws from the greater Washington, D.C., market, according to West Virginia Lottery officials quoted in the *Charleston Gazette-Mail*. In the first two weeks since MGM opened, VLT revenue at Charles Town was down 19.5% and table games revenue down 22%, according to the report.

Officials noted, however, that poor weather conditions may have played a role in the downturn and explained that in the first two weeks since MGM National Harbor's opening, video lottery revenues at Hollywood Casino are down about \$670,000, or 19.5 percent, while table games revenues have dropped 22 percent, or about \$214,000.

## ➔ **Joe Miller, From Page 1**

of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center for treatment after the Preakness.

"If they learned anything about laminitis that can help other horses, then OK," Miller told *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* in a profile written about him and his career on the racetrack.

But dealing with catastrophic injuries and euthanasia can take its toll. Miller eventually was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and, to assist with his recovery, was reassigned to the track maintenance crew.

Trainer Mike Trombetta likened the job of track ambulance driver to working in emergency care. "Some of these horses are left in bad positions and it's critical to get them to where they can get treatment," he said when Miller was recognized by the MTHA. "His is a difficult job, but someone has to do it and it boils down to the best way to handle it is with care and compassion."

Jeff Kreimer, a member of the ambulance crew, said Miller's background as a horseman served him well. He not only drove the ambulance but was always on the lookout to prevent equine injuries.

"Joe would have a keen eye for a sore horse or a rider having problems," Kreimer said. "He would be on the radio before you knew it."

Miller began as a tractor driver for the MJC after running the shedrow for Richard Delp when the trainer had numerous stakes runners. In 1997 he left his job as an assistant trainer and was hired by then-track superintendent John Passero to handle the ambulance duties.

Miller is also remembered by the local racing community for driving to Ohio to adopt a pit bull he named Einstein who was in need of rescue. They formed a very close bond.

"Einstein was the love of his life," Hale said. "Joe and Einstein were inseparable. Joe also loved photography—it was his hobby. He would often take pictures of people galloping horses in the morning and always took pictures of the eagles (in the Laurel infield)."

"I talked to Joe a lot because I watch my horses from where he was (stationed)," said trainer Katy Voss. "He had a heart of gold and he really cared about horses. Joe would send me pictures of my horses all the time, and everything he sent had a watermark on it. I would forward them to the owners."

The MTHA has scheduled a memorial service at Laurel for Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 11:30 a.m.

The following was submitted to the MTHA by Jeff Kreimer and Karen Zeiler, who work on the MJC ambulance crew and knew Joe Miller for about five years:

We have some very fond memories. The first time we saw him sticking his head out of "Joe's Shack" and said he, I thought he was a rough, gruff guy who really didn't wish to hold much of a conversation. Were we wrong!

I think to the mornings when Pollack Eddie, Clark and Lisa would come over and get their dose of "harassment" from him. I would scratch my head at the not-so-friendly conversation they had. K Marie would get the Steeler harassment, too! Of course everyone would depart with a smile and get one last dig in. Often the comments were undiscernible due to the outrider riding away.

There was always more harassment the next day. Eddie would give a defiant fist pump as he rode away, too!

**Vaughn Ringgold**, also known as Fluffy or Fuzzy, passed on Dec. 21. Fuzzy was working as a hotwalker for Snake Frock at Pimlico at the time of his passing.

The Laurel backstretch community will miss **Pedro Rico Salazar** who passed away Saturday Dec. 10 at the age of 73. Pedro worked on the Maryland backside for numerous trainers for almost 20 years. A good man indeed.

Former trainer based at Timonium and Pimlico **Gregory Bowman** passed away on Dec. 28 at the age of 60.



I think of Joe bringing his "cat" Einstein to work with him. Einstein always had to mooch the (ambulance) in the morning, Krista and the jocks in the afternoon on live days. Einstein, a "vicious pit bull," had the good life. He would get his snacks and then belly rub and then nap on his bed. If we would walk over and didn't see Joe, we would look in the window and see him on the floor playing with the vicious pit bull.

Then there were the mandatory mints for Romeo. Katy Voss would have to stop so he could get the mints or Romeo would not be happy and be very reluctant to go past "Joe's Shack."

He would send us pictures of Einstein enjoying the spoiled life and the eagles flying around the pond fishing. They were his birds! He knew we didn't do Facebook so he would email us the pictures.

I always loved the nicknames he would call out as the outriders and exercise riders rode by—Pollack, Dudley, Munchkin, Bo Bo. Oscar would always blow kisses! Whoop! Whoop! Always a "Hi Ted" and a reply of "Hey Joe."

We sat in his chairs that I believe his dad put together. Those chairs have weathered the many days that Joe has spent on the track—the good days and the bad. It wasn't easy keeping those chairs together, as was Joe. Joe cared so much for the horses. It was a love and a passion for him.

Now, when we are all working on the backside and look up and see the eagles, we will know that Joe is up there with "his birds" looking down.



RMTC Executive Director Dr. Dionne Benson said. "There are a number of substances that can only be found for a limited time. Expanding out-of-competition testing will allow racing authorities to test for those substances and ultimately deter their use."

The MMV Penalty System was designed to be an enhanced penalty system applied above and beyond the penalty for a single medication violation for trainers who commit multiple medication-related infractions. The RMTC worked with a diverse group of regulators, regulatory attorneys, industry stakeholders and others in revising the existing system to address issues that had arisen and concerns expressed by many states where legal concerns hampered adoption.

Highlights of the revision include:

- *Increased discretion for stewards in determining the length of a suspension; and*
- *An increasing penalty for therapeutic medication violations occurring within the same year, which allows for penalties to exceed those originally set forth in the MMV Penalty System for those trainers who have multiple violations for therapeutic Class C penalty*

violations.

Industry organizations and states that have been slow to support the National Uniform Medication Program have indicated these revisions remove a significant obstacle to full adoption.

"The RMTC stands ready to assist racing authorities in the adoption of these regulations," said RMTC Chairman Alex Waldrop, President of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. "Adoption of these programs along with the National Uniform Medication Program in its entirety will be chief among the RMTC's objectives for 2017."

The RMTC consists of 23 racing industry stakeholders and organizations that represent Thoroughbred, Standardbred, American Quarter Horse and Arabian racing. The organization works to develop and promote uniform rules, policies and testing standards at the national level; coordinate research and educational programs that seek to ensure the integrity of racing and the health and welfare of racehorses and participants; and protect the interests of the racing public.



## Rec Report

### Van Service

The MTHA Express is continuing to help many on the backstretch for doctors, dentist, social security, and social service appointments. To schedule a ride, contact Dan Mangum at 410-802-5798, or see Bobby, Jessica, or Diana to make arrangements. Trips are on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

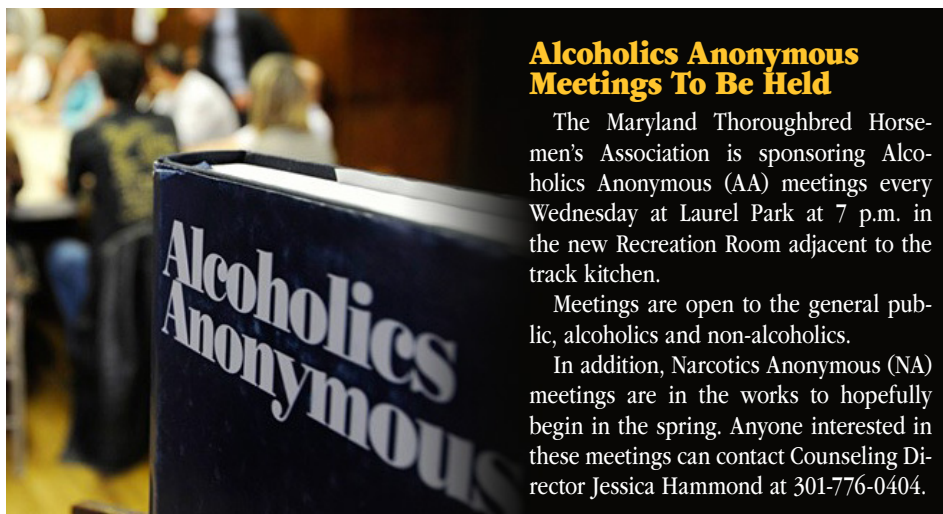
### Texas Hold'em

The next Texas Hold'em Tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 12 noon in the Laurel Park Track Kitchen.

The winner of the last poker tournament was Howard Wolfendale. Tim Walsh finished in second and Anthony Farrior finished in third.

### Bowling

Bowling will resume after a two-week break on Monday, Jan. 9 at AMF Laurel Lanes. There is still time to sign up to become a sub. Stop by on Monday or give Dan Magnum a call at 410-802-5798.



### Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings To Be Held

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association is sponsoring Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings every Wednesday at Laurel Park at 7 p.m. in the new Recreation Room adjacent to the track kitchen.

Meetings are open to the general public, alcoholics and non-alcoholics.

In addition, Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings are in the works to hopefully begin in the spring. Anyone interested in these meetings can contact Counseling Director Jessica Hammond at 301-776-0404.

With winter here, the importance of the MTHA's clothing drive is growing. Two collection bins are conveniently available at Laurel Park near the stable gate and horsemen's entrance with donations being distributed to backstretch workers in need.



## ENGLISH as a SECOND LANGUAGE

Free English as a Second Language classes begin Jan. 12 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 8:30pm at the Maryland City Russett Library.

Call Diana Pinones at 410-902-6844 registration for assistance.



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**MTHA**

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# MedStar Sports Medicine

## Horsemen's Health System Winter 2017 Schedule

January 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- Dr. Kelly Ryan
- Dr. Frank Dawson
- Dr. Jeffrey Mayer
- Dr. Christian Glaser
- Dr. Jason Pothast



**MTHA**  
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Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

**January 2017**

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The MTHA will be providing Coffee and Donuts to backstretch workers, owners and trainers on Saturday mornings on the backstretch at Laurel Park.

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