



RACING TO L.A. COUNTY: LET US RUN



Bob and Jill Baffert Outside the L.A. County Supervisors' Office Tuesday | Photo courtesy of I Am Horse Racing

by Dan Ross

Santa Anita's backstretch community, led by such trainers as Bob Baffert and Doug O'Neill, descended upon downtown Los Angeles Tuesday morning outside the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting building to put a human face to calls for the resumption of live racing at the Arcadia track. Around 50-60 people attended the demonstration.

In a speech captured on video--and posted online--Baffert said that he'd like to see racing open again to help the families who work so hard on the backstretch and who are following proper social-distancing protocols.

The board of supervisors meeting Tuesday contained several agenda items related to the possible reopening of the county's economy, but nothing specifically related to horse racing.

According to Derek Lawson, jockey Flavien Prat's agent, the gathering was intended to highlight the economic importance of kick-starting live racing at Santa Anita, and what he described as the hypocrisy of the county in allowing other venues--like the LA County Arboretum situated opposite the track--to remain open during this time.

TDN recently outlined the fragility of racing's infrastructure in California without the sustained income from live racing, and its possible impacts on a variety of services, like backstretch worker healthcare and the state's retired racehorse program. **Cont. p3**

EUROPEANS APPLAUD AMERICAN SALES DECISION

by Chris McGrath

Everyone in the bloodstock industry can see the bump in the road ahead. It's just a case of getting across without causing lasting damage to the engine. As such, European horsemen Tuesday applauded the dovetailing of North America's premier yearling sales as the type of wholesome collaboration required to tackle a crisis that transcends borders and oceans, never mind commercial rivalries.

True, one or two quibbles could be heard on the other side of the pond. On the whole, however, Monday's announcement by Fasig-Tipton--positioning a two-day sale in Lexington, as a staging post between the rescheduled GI Kentucky Derby and the Keeneland September Sale--was welcomed as also serving wider interests besides those obvious to the domestic market.

Cont. p4

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

THE WEEKLY WRAP: WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSSES

Emma Berry pens the latest edition of The Weekly Wrap, while racing deals with the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)



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Wednesday, April 29, 2020



Champion colt Storm the Court (Court Vision) arrived Tuesday at Oaklawn Park for his engagement in Saturday's GI Arkansas Derby and promptly got a bath on the backstretch. The Peter Eurton trainee is looking for his first victory as a 3-year-old, and Eurton spoke about his road to this point on an NTRA teleconference Tuesday. See Page 11 for more. | Coady

CHAPLAIN HUMBERTO CHAVEZ SAYS THANKS

8

Chaplain Humberto Chavez of the Race Track Chaplaincy of New York talks to Patty Wolfe in a video podcast about the outpouring of support he's seen for backstretch workers in need, particularly from TDN readers.

THOROUGHBRED INFLUX AT LOS AL A WIN-WIN

9

Bill Finley talks to an array of trainers who have been able to earn purse money at Los Alamitos while Santa Anita is shut down for live racing.

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Racing to L.A. County: Let Us Run cont. from p1

"We'll see what happens," said Lawson, about the protest.

"Everyone was very respectful," Lawson added. "They all had their faces covered. Some wore gloves. They were all keeping their distance."

Oscar de la Torre, whose family has worked in horse racing, helped coordinate the event. "What we know is Santa Anita is on the radar in terms of being a part of the phase-one economic recovery plan for the county," he said.

"We're hopeful that horse racing will lead the way in regards to professional sports coming back without spectators," he said. "Having live televised competition is important for many. And horse racing is the best test case--all the data is on our side."

Live racing at Santa Anita was formally cancelled Mar. 20. Since then, the track has remained open for morning training, but with tight restrictions in place as to access. TSG's sister track in California, Golden Gate Fields, has also suspended live racing. However, evening racing continues at Los Alamitos in Long Beach, California.

Earlier this month, **Santa Anita officials presented** to county officials a detailed plan outlining the steps the track would take to protect the health and safety of participants if live racing were to resume at the track, including a protocol requiring all jockeys involved in training or racing to relocate to onsite

housing to live within a self-contained community.

The fact that Los Alamitos has been able to conduct live racing safely is another feather in racing's cap, said de la Torre. "It shows that it can be done—we can keep the public safe and still protect the horses and the workers with the funding that live racing provides."

Lawson said that the crowd stayed for around an hour. His **video of Bob Baffert on Twitter** has already been watched thousands of times, and it shows the news trucks across the street, along with the crowds of demonstrators in masks.

"The local television stations could not come where we were into the crowd, so they stayed across the street from the supervisors' building and they stood over there and they filmed us from there. It was well received and as far as what we were trying to put across."

Lawson's video shows Baffert, carrying a blue sign that reads, "We love our horses from foal to retirement. We Support Horse Racing." Jill Baffert was also there with a sign reading, "California Thoroughbred Racing. \$2.47 Billion. 17,000 jobs." Baffert addressed the crowd, wearing a mask and gloves.

"There are a lot of people suffering out there right now," said Baffert. "It's unnecessary that more people can't work, especially at Santa Anita, where it has been COVID-free."

Cont. p4



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“It’s safe and we’re doing everything possible, and there haven’t been any problems,” Baffert continued. “I’d like to see families be able to get back to work. I know it’s tough on everybody out here, and I’d like to thank the supervisors who are going to look it over and check it out and who are reviewing our proposals, and hopefully we can get back to work. We need our groups working back there and we need racing open again. The horses are their life. It’s not a job, it’s a way of life for them and that’s why we work so hard and that’s how they put their kids through school. they have to be with these horses 24/7. I feel it’s very unfair right now that they’re not being able to race their horses because we’ve passed all the protocols. So it’s a very safe environment at Santa Anita. We’ve proven that. We’ve proven it at other tracks that are racing, so let’s hope that the L.A. supervisors—I know they have a lot on their plate, but hopefully this will bring a little bit of attention to it, and we need to start racing.”

The speech was greeted with a huge round of applause from the crowd.

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Europeans Applaud American Sales Decisions cont. from p1



Redvers at Tattersalls: A Packed Fall Schedule | Tattersalls

On the one hand, it would seem unlikely that many European professionals will be at Churchill Downs Sept. 5. Even as it is, their calendars are already going to be chaotic, on and off the racetrack, once the lockdown is eased; and the Fasig-Tipton Selected Yearling Showcase, salvaging the wreckage of its July and Saratoga (Select/NY-bred) auctions, will already demand an extra commitment of time and resources. On the other hand, the emergency format has created a fresh opportunity for those who generally discount two transatlantic trips in barely a month, to Saratoga and Keeneland, just as their own yearling circuit is getting underway at Deauville and Doncaster. **Cont. p5**

OSCAR PERFORMANCE

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Two more winners of note

Chad Brown's **BASQUIAT** (PICTURED) made a stylish 1½-length winning debut at Gulfstream last Saturday for owner/breeder **Peter Brant**.



Bob Baffert's **MERNEITH** won a maiden at Oaklawn on 19th April by 10¼ lengths.



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MAVEN - won **Gr.3** Prix du Bois in France

CAFE PHAROAH - won **Listed** Hyacinth Stakes in Japan

ANOTHER MIRACLE - won Skidmore S., third **Gr.2** Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint

HARVEY'S LIL GOIL - won Busanda S. by 7½ lengths

MONARCH OF EGYPT - runner-up in **Gr.1** Phoenix S. &

Gr.2 Railway S. in Ireland

AMERICAN THEOREM - runner-up in **Gr.1** American Pharoah S.

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AMERICAN PHAROAH



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Brendan Holland of Grove Stud, who has made some characteristically inspired transatlantic pinhooks, is a case in point.

"Every year it's on my mind to go to Saratoga," he said. "Even though there doesn't tend to be a whole pile in that particular sale for European pinhookers, I always wanted to go. So yes, I will change my flights now to take in the [Fasig-Tipton] sale before Keeneland. And I would imagine I won't be the only European doing that. I usually go on the Friday, for Book I, so this time I will probably travel on the Monday or Tuesday."

Michael Donohoe of BBA Ireland takes a similar view. "Round that time of year, it's hard to make separate trips, to go to Saratoga and come home and then go back out again to Keeneland," he reasoned. "So in that regard it would definitely be easier, from a European agent's point of view, than having to take in New York."

Both men drew parallels with the recent announcement that Goffs UK and Arqana will host their breeze-up sales jointly in Ireland at the end of June. "At the end of the day, these sales companies are all rivals," Holland said. "Same as you have in every job. But it's good to see people being so pragmatic, and trying to restrict unnecessary travel."

"They're looking to the future," said Donohoe. "It's all about getting those yearlings sold. It's the same as we've been seeing

with the breeze-up guys: there's a lot of people clubbing together and helping each other out. Fasig-Tipton and Keeneland are seeing the bigger picture. If people can get those yearlings sold, they can go back in November to buy foals and keep the whole thing rolling. So really it's a time to throw all rivalries aside, for the good of the industry, and to get as many horses sold as possible."

Ted Voute, a trailblazing sales consignor in Europe and a familiar face in the U.S., was also full of praise for this bold response to the unprecedented challenge facing sales companies. At the same time, he suspected that these uncharted waters may prove especially difficult for Fasig-Tipton, whose unique selling point at Saratoga is—well, Saratoga.

"I think it's a great idea to put it up by the Derby," he enthused. "There'll be a lot of people going to the sales who've not necessarily been to the race, and it would be a great experience to combine the two. But a lot will depend on what Fasig-Tipton can attract to the sale. For the last few weeks, Keeneland have been able to plough ahead, in that they had the 'safe' date, if you like.

"But Fasig-Tipton July is a bit like the Doncaster sale in Britain, with those forward, breeze-up types. They will have lost some of that 'forwardness' between July and September, and a lot of the others will have caught up with them." **Cont. p6**

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"And then, for Saratoga, they always have that New York crowd of owners in town," he continued. "So if I were consigning, I don't quite know why my 'select' Saratoga yearling might be better sold a week before Keeneland. Maybe the bigger consignors will split them apart a bit: say they've two very nice American Pharoahs, they could try to steal a march with one. But auctions are like fires, they take a bit of getting going. So you just hope Fasig do get rewarded, because when I read about it I thought it was a great idea, and a great saviour in many respects."

Hugo Merry, a Saratoga regular, feels that the catalog there has become so oriented to the domestic market that a European presence at the consolidated auction will be of marginal importance anyway.

"I think the Europeans have become less and less significant at Saratoga, and the shopping I've done there over the last three years has all been to stay out in the U.S.," he explained. "There's

very little Japanese participation, and it's so early in the European calendar that if anything their October Sale has been better for our pinhookers. But I've been lucky at Saratoga. I've bought yearlings nearly every year, and done well with results, so I'd definitely be looking at going to the Fasig-Tipton sale—even if my clients are in retail and the stock market, both of which have been hugely impacted.

"The 'Saratoga' market might be diluted, anyway. The entries are still a work in progress, and everyone is going to be taking a view. But it's very important Fasig do maintain their yearling market share. It's like Goffs and Tattersalls over here: you've got to have competition, otherwise it's unhealthy for everyone. This

year they just have to make best of a bad lot. It's all so up in the air, at the moment, it's been very hard for sales companies to put anything in concrete. They've just got to put a date out there and hope they can hold it." **Cont. p7**



Hugo Merry | Keeneland

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FasigTipton

Merry also suspects that industry diary congestion, inevitable after the lockdown, will render Kentucky just too impractical for many Europeans. Even as it stands, the rescheduled breeze-up sales in Europe will virtually run into the yearling sales.

Then there is the racing program to consider, too. At the best of times, it is remarkable how often the bloodstock circuit seems to detach itself from the arena where its valuations are ultimately supposed to be measured. And while there were enough balls already in the air on Newtown Pike, without adding the European racing calendar, one respected voice with an international purview did sound a note of disappointment.

David Redvers, racing and bloodstock advisor to Sheikh Fahad, felt that the most harmonious solution would have been for Keeneland to be staged straight after the substitute "Derby" weekend, with Fasig-Tipton slotting in just before.

"That way we could have been home for the Irish Champions' Weekend [Sept. 12-13]," he reasoned. "Doncaster aren't going to be very happy either, with the G1 St Leger that Saturday. We [QIPCO] don't sponsor the G1 Irish Champion S. anymore, so it's not such a big deal for us—but if we had Kameko (Kitten's Joy) running, for example, it would be a major shame for us. That whole autumn schedule, assuming we are able to do anything, is going to be absolutely jammed. But the likelihood is I wouldn't be going to the Kentucky Derby anyway; and if we did have a runner in the Irish Champion S. it would be very disappointing not to be there, without being the end of the world. I will probably now go out on the Tuesday and stay to the following Friday."

Each individual calendar will have its inevitable complications, of course. Voute, for instance, may be selling at the Tattersalls Ireland Yearling Sale at Ascot, scheduled for Sept. 8; Holland, equally, tends to sell at the same firm's Fairyhouse auction from Sept. 22, which would prevent him staying for the second week of Keeneland.



Ted Voute | Tattersalls

Reliably humorous, however, Holland added: "In theory, it works for me to be going a few days earlier; in practice, come September I might find that I don't fancy spending three weeks in America! Everyone's waiting for the end of lockdown, but when we get free movement again I think you'll find a lot of people aren't too interested in having it, in the short term anyway. Though I must say every year I get the same buzz, flying in over all those farms. So, of course, I am looking forward to it."

Donohoe said he agreed that even the idea of booking an international flight right now seems somewhat surreal. "A lot of airlines don't even have the facility to do so at the moment," he said. "In a normal year, September wouldn't seem so far away—but the way things are changing, day to day, it could still feel a lifetime. We'll have to see what the travel restrictions might be, by then. But at least there's light at the end of the tunnel."

"Please God, this time next year we'll be looking back and reminiscing on the hard times we had in 2020. There's going to be a down, in the sales, but we've seen downturns before and this is an industry that does bounce back quickly. Some people who wouldn't have been terribly active will see an opportunity now. Cash is king, and it will probably be a very good time to invest."

Voute, for his part, remembers seeing one particularly sharp operator pounce on a bunch of classy racemares after the financial crisis of 2008, and covering the outlay with their first foals as the market recovered. He predicts change on many levels, after the pandemic, not least when it comes to polarised stallion fees. But that state of flux is exactly why he hopes to participate in the salvaged sales program in Kentucky later this year.

"I think it's great to see these sales companies working together, and trying to come up with solutions for everyone's benefit," Voute said. "We're going into unknown territory. A bunch of people are likely to be getting out, or at least trimming back. It's going to be tough. But there will be value around; there will be opportunities."

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CHAPLAIN HUMBERTO CHAVEZ: THANKS

Editor's note: Last week, the TDN ran a video urging people to donate to the New York Race Track Chaplaincy food pantry, which helps to provide food for the roughly 3,500 people who work with racehorses in New York. It has been viewed over 10,000 times, and the response has been heartwarming. Chaplain Humberto Chavez asked for the opportunity to say thank you. He recorded this podcast with the TDN's Patty Wolfe. Excerpts appear below.

PW: This has been a very busy time for the chaplaincy. You are still out there every day during this coronavirus pandemic. Can you please tell us how the people on the backstretch are doing?



Click the photo above to play our podcast with Rev. Chavez

HC: Well, there's still a lot of anxiety, but it's common when you're speaking about a global pandemic. But yet in the midst of COVID-19, I am privileged to get to see men and women that love their job and are very proud of it and that come in every day to take care of these beautiful horses. Last Thursday, I was with somebody explaining as we were distributing food to keep social distance, and then behind them I kept hearing a conversation and one of the gentlemen said, "I am so blessed to be considered to be an essential worker and I get to work and take care of my horses every day." I was just like, "Wow, this is amazing."

PW: The food pantry has been one of the most important elements of your work at this time. Can you tell us how that's going and when it is operating?

HC: It sure has been the main focus for the New York Chaplaincy in the Northeast and in New York racing. We're open once a

week on Thursday to the public and to the families of the backstretch and everybody else for mass distribution. We start very early just to make sure our deliveries are going well and we open shop at 10 o'clock in the morning, and we run it through one o'clock in the afternoon. We have a small crew that has been on point and getting deliveries and giving out everything that we get and we purchase that day. Last week we had about 12 to 13 pallets from various places and we gave them all out. On the other days, our pantry has focused on organizing and making sure that all our quarantined individuals get a care package with food and their necessities.

PW: You're on site, and you're also providing meals to those quarantined. Can you tell us about that?

HC: At a peak, we had about 90 individuals in quarantine and that might be because they're self-quarantined or they were told to quarantine due to the clinic guidance. But our numbers have gone down since and we hope they continue to go down. Keeping these folks healthy and meals provided has been a real task for us because we've never done that before. Our crew makes every effort to put a little bit of everything in these packages. A cooked meal, a cooked breakfast, obviously some comfort food as well, some chocolates, and other needed essential like fruits and hydrating drinks.

PW: In addition to the work you're doing on the ground, which we just talked about, can you tell us about the communications you keep up via text, phone calls, social media, email?

HC: Our daily calls have reached numbers that we've never come across, whether it's just Saratoga or keeping in touch with the folks who are on the farms. We make calls daily just to make sure that those that are in quarantine are being taken care of. And not only that, we also make various phone calls to folks who are unemployed, folks that need to change their appointments for any particular reason, whether it's Social Security or a court date. We try to stay connected with those individuals.

We also express the messages that the NYRA and our elected officials have communicated to us through various ways, social media being one, via mass text or a voice message to their phones. We also have a team that focuses on those who have COVID and just for us to make sure that their families are well.

PW: In normal times, you help facilitate contact with government agencies and racing organizations and you yourself provide translation services. I imagine there's more of a need of all of that right now. *Cont. p9*

HC: Various questions come our way now via phone, via text, via social media, people from other countries saying, “Hey, I’m going to Belmont, what do I need to do?” Or a question that we just dealt with in the morning, “Where’s my green card?” So many of those questions are coming our way. We’re trying to facilitate some answers or get them the real answer that they’re looking for during these times.

We also do a lot of translation and that comes in various ways. Before they would come in and show their documents, but a lot of it has changed to: take a picture, we’ll translate it for you and we’ll send it to you. But we’re here to just to lend a hand to everybody else.

PW: That’s really great work at a time now where people are inside and can’t go stand on lines for all the things they need to do. As chaplain, you provide comfort to those who need emotional support whenever that arises. A pandemic must multiply this need. How are people doing?

HC: They’re doing well. Like I mentioned before, I think the anxiety levels are high, and not knowing what’s going to happen next. Obviously, it’s always a question in the midst of a global pandemic. So this affects everybody. Not only here in New York, but the countries that most of our folks are from.

Media has really put New York as epicenter. But other than that, other than that, other than the big picture, I think just speaking from being boots on the ground, we’re doing well and I think we have a good team of individuals that NYRA has put together to develop this task force through the New York Thoroughbred Horseman Association, through the best program in the backstretch, for us to maintain and grab a hold of what’s going on and to bring some type of peace in the midst of chaos. And that’s what we’re doing. We’re really focusing on that.

PW: That is a great feeling, I’m certain, and you’re mentioning some really good partners in BEST, and NYTHA and NYRA, and the TDN readers who responded to our video.

HC: I’m grateful and I don’t want to cry because I’m a sometimes a crier. But I am grateful upon all the love that many folks within the readers of TDN has shown the backstretch community specifically here in New York. And every single time I’ve seen individuals pick up their box of food or come out here and leave our office with some answers, some positive answers. I look back and I say, “Man we do this because of them.” And thanks to TDN obviously; their readers are a huge partner during this time of epidemic.

So I thank you so much from the bottom of my heart and that just doesn’t come from the bottom on my heart. It comes from the backstretch heart to you guys on what you’re doing.

PW: How may people continue to help you? And how may they continue to help the members of the backstretch?

HC: You could still continue to support us and support what we’re doing here. Just to give you an example, as I look out my office, there are four people making 32 bags for backstretch individuals who are quarantined. And you can still continue to help by going to our website to www.rtcany.org and give whatever amount that God puts in your heart to give and support what we’re doing here in New York.

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INFLUX OF THOROUGHBREDS HAS BEEN A WIN-WIN AT LOS ALAMITOS

by Bill Finley

Santa Anita may not be running, but that hasn’t kept a number of horsemen from finding ways to win races and earn money for their owners. With Santa Anita shutting down Mar. 29, more and more Thoroughbreds are finding their way to Los Alamitos, where the track has been carding more races suited to Thoroughbreds.

For Los Alamitos, that has meant more races, full fields and record handle numbers. **Cont. p10**



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Night racing at Los Alamitos before spectators were disallowed
Los Alamitos

“The purses aren’t what we are used to at Santa Anita, but they’re more than if you just breeze them,” said trainer Gary Stute, who is 3-for-5 at Los Alamitos. “It’s better than just training and training.”

Though the current meet at Los Alamitos is considered a quarter-horse meet, the track has traditionally written a number of races more geared to thoroughbreds, ones held at 870 yards and 4 1/2 furlongs. Those races have typically been for cheap horses and have been won by Thoroughbreds not good enough to race at Santa Anita, but with Santa Anita unable to run, the Los Alamitos racing department has been writing more 870-yard, 4 1/2-furlong and 1,000-yard races, a clear attempt to get horses to come in from Santa Anita. Last week marked the first time ever that they ran a race as long as 1,000 yards at the quarter horse meet.

“I think it’s great the way they have tried to help us,” said Kristin Mulhall, who is 1-for-4 at the meet. “They’re trying to give something back and they’ve also raised the purses.”

It’s working. Santa Anita trainers who have won races at the meet also include Vann Belvoir, Andrew Lerner, Jeff Mullins, Jack Carava, Rafael Becerra, Leonard Powell and Mark Glatt.

“Those races have helped keep my owners going and helped them pay some bills,” said Belvoir, who is 7-for-23 at Los Alamitos. “And they have something to look forward to. I’ve run a horse there for about every owner I have.”

“It’s not very glorious racing or glorious purses but it helps make ends meet,” Powell said.

The races are not held on the track used for the regular Thoroughbred meets at Los Alamitos, but on a five-furlong bullring inside the main track. The turns are tight and the races are short, so not every horse is a good fit for Los Alamitos.

“The turns are pretty tight over there,” Said Powell, who is 3-for-4 at the meet. “We have a training track at Santa Anita that is six furlongs. I test them over the training track and if they handle the turns well over there they are good candidates for Los Alamitos.”

Some of the longer races are for \$2,500 or \$5,000 claimers and they normally don’t attract Santa Anita horses. But most cards will include allowance races or maiden special weights. The purses may not be at Santa Anita levels, but they have been raised to represent the better quality they are attracting. The same race that might have been worth \$10,000 in March is now going for \$18,000. And the racing department is writing more longer races than ever.

You can’t take a mile-and-a-half turf horse over to Los Alamitos and expect to win, but Belvoir said a horse doesn’t necessarily have to be one-dimensional to succeed there.

“The horse has to have natural gate speed, but a horse who can sit right off the pace can do well,” he said. “It’s almost like they run better. It’s like a quarter horse race, the jockeys are sending the horses from the gate to the wire. If a couple hook up on the lead, they’ll collapse and someone can come from off the pace and run them down.”

It’s important, Belvoir added, to not underestimate the quality of the competition.

“You’re getting a whole influx of horses coming over there from Santa Anita,” he said. “Now, you have to have a good horse to win. I ran a horse worth \$40,000 over there and he ran second.”



Vann Belvoir | Benoit

The conditions of some races give preference to quarter horses, but few are entered in the longer races, their trainers preferring the 300-yard sprints.

While Los Alamitos is benefitting from a lack of competition for the simulcast dollar, there's little doubt that the new-look racing cards are also responsible for a big bump in the handle. Los Alamitos handled \$2,466,567 Friday, a record for the nighttime meet. The record lasted all of one night as the track handled \$2,843,573 Saturday. Saturday's early Pick 4, which consisted entirely of races geared towards Thoroughbreds, handled \$442,781.

Los Alamitos runs on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and over that three-day period last week they ran 27 races and handled a combined \$7,433,161. On the final weekend in March, when Santa Anita was still racing, they ran 23 races and handled \$3,972,336.

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REPORT: SHANCELOT JOINS ASMUSSEN BARN

Graded stakes winner **Shancelot** (Shanghai Bobby), previously trained by the now-indicted Jorge Navarro, will be joining the Steve Asmussen barn in May, according to a report in *Paulick Report*. The 4-year-old blitzed to a 12 1/2-length victory in last year's GII Amsterdam S. in just his third career start. He was narrowly beaten when third in the GI H. Allen Jerkens S. and second in the GI Santa Anita Sprint Championship S. and hasn't started since finishing second behind champion Mitole (Eskendereya) in the GI Breeders' Cup Sprint last November. Shancelot missed an expected start in the \$1.5-million Saudi Sprint in Saudi Arabia Feb. 29 due to injury. Navarro was one of 29 people whose federal indictments were announced last month in the wake of investigations into alleged doping schemes.

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COVID-19 TRENDS SHOW PER-CAPITA SPIKES IN SEVERAL RACETRACK TOWNS

by T.D. Thornton

A *New York Times* study published Tuesday reporting where the COVID-19 outbreak is peaking and waning based on per-capita population statistics shows that Grand Island, Nebraska, where Fonner Park is located, is currently second in the nation in terms of news cases reported in the last two weeks.

Grand Island has a population of 85,000. The *Times* reported 764 coronavirus cases there in the last two weeks, meaning the per-thousand infection number is 8.98. Only Marion, Ohio, was higher (32.13) based on per-capita rankings.

On Apr. 22, the Nebraska Racing Commission voted to allow Fonner to extend its winter/spring race meet through the month of May provided the track continues the no-spectator policy implemented in March and adheres to proper social distancing precautions and mask-wearing in the racing office when entries are drawn.

Despite the high ranking, the *Times* reported that the two-week outbreak trend in Grand Island is "flat or decreasing."

Grand Island also ranked 14th in the nation on a separate list of new deaths in the past two weeks with 21, or .25 per thousand residents.

Widening the lens to look at cumulative per-capita cases since the outbreak began earlier this year, Grand Island ranks fifth in the nation with 978 total confirmed cases, or 11.49 per thousand residents.

Excluding major metropolitan areas such as New York City and New Orleans, other Thoroughbred racetrack towns that made the national lists are:

- Opelousas, Louisiana (Evangeline Downs), ranked 12th in the nation per capita in "new deaths, last two weeks."
- Farmington, New Mexico (SunRay Park), ranked ninth in the nation per capita in "highest average daily growth rate of deaths."
- Hot Springs, Arkansas (Oaklawn Park), ranked 14th in the nation per capita in "where new cases are decreasing most."

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'COURT' LOOKS TO RECAPTURE GRADE I FORM IN ARK DERBY; 'SHOOTERS' OUT

by Christina Bossinakis

In a Classic season blighted by the coronavirus pandemic, Oaklawn rounds out its winter meet with not one but two renewals of the GI Arkansas Derby. Facing a tough group of contenders in Saturday's second division of the Classic prep, including undefeated Nadal (Blame), winner of the GII San Vicente S. and GII Rebel S., and GII Lambholm South Tampa Bay Derby hero King Guillermo (Uncle Mo), defending juvenile champion **Storm the Court** (Court Vision) will try to recover some of the sparkle from his 2-year-old season. This year, he finished fourth--beaten 2 1/4 lengths by Nadal--in the San Vicente before coming home third behind undefeated Authentic (Into Mischief) in the Mar. 7 GII San Felipe S.

"He had a little bit of freshening [following the Breeders' Cup] and I don't think we had him that keyed up for the San Vicente," said trainer Peter Eurton.



'Court' (second from right) storming to victory in last fall's Juvenile | Breeders' Cup/Eclipse Sportswire

"He ran OK, probably a little on the dull side, but I thought he bounced back decently in the San Felipe. He didn't have the best of trips, but the quality of horses always tends to change a little bit from the 2-year-olds to the 3-year-olds. But he has a reason to get better because he is a May foal and we're happy with the way he's going right now."

Asked about the bay's form leading into his two latest starts, Eurton explained, "Going into the San Vicente, I thought his weight was good. But, heading into the San Felipe, he dropped a few pounds—he was about the same weight or even a little lighter than he was as a juvenile. Now, he's about 1,100 pounds and that's about 35 pounds back on [since the San Felipe]. He hasn't missed a day of training, so he seems like he's in a good place right now. Hopefully, we can see him jump up to where we want him to be."

A first out winner at Del Mar last August, Storm the Court failed to finish after losing his rider in the GI Del Mar Futurity in early September before finishing a well-beaten third in the GI American Pharoah S. later that month. Overlooked at 45-1 for his seasonal finale in the Nov. 1 GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Santa Anita, the bay got his head down ahead of Anneau d'Or (Medaglia d'Oro) on the wire, securing the championship in the process.

"As far as Storm the Court is concerned, we may have stayed [in California] for the [GI] Santa Anita Derby," Eurton admitted when asked to outline his original plan for the colt. "The horse is coming up to his third race off of the layoff, so we thought the timing for him was right to take the trip [to Oaklawn]."

Storm the Court was scheduled to arrive in Arkansas from Eurton's Santa Anita base Tuesday afternoon.

And with the GI Kentucky Derby now rescheduled for Sept. 5, Eurton said the extra time, while not ideal for everyone, may

prove to be a positive for the May foal.

"He may get a little bit taller, and he'll probably fill out a little bit more and be better able to handle the travel," he said. "He's a lighter-framed horse, built like a wide receiver, tall and lean. I think [the Derby being held in September] is going to help him a lot."

In addition to Storm the Court, Eurton had been expecting to be represented Saturday by stablemate **Shooters Shoot** (Competitive Edge) in the first division of the Arkansas Derby, however, the winner of a one-mile Oaklawn optional claimer Apr. 11 was removed from consideration Tuesday morning.

"He did come up with a fever [Tuesday] morning," Eurton confirmed. "He didn't finish up his feed and his temperature was high, he probably has a virus. He's fine but, unfortunately, he'll be scratched. It's very disappointing."

Prior to his Oaklawn victory, Shooters Shoot broke his maiden going a mile at Santa Anita Mar. 15.

'Bayou' Comes Callin'

Typically one to watch on the big days, trainer Brad Cox is represented by Clint and Lance Glassaway, Madaket Stables and Wonder Stables' **Wells Bayou** (Lookin At Lucky) in the second division of the Arkansas Derby Saturday.

"I think his division looks like the Arkansas Derby and the other division looks like an allowance race," opined bloodstock agent Liz Crow, responsible for unearthing several top horses for her partners, including champions Monomoy Girl (Tapizar) and British Idiom (Flashback). "I think Wells Bayou's division is way tougher. It's great for racing fans. It's a really good race, from top to bottom, and it will be a fun race to watch."

In terms of the bay's progress leading into the nine-furlong test, she added, "He's doing extremely well and really couldn't be doing any better right now."

The winner of a muddy one-mile optional claimer at Oaklawn in January, the colt finished a length second behind winner **Silver Prospector** (Declaration of War) in the GIII Southwest S. Feb. 17 before bouncing back to wire the field in the 9 1/2-furlong GII Louisiana Derby at the Fair Grounds Mar. 21. In his two most recent works, he went five furlongs in 1:00 4/5 at Oaklawn Apr. 19 before adding a four-furlong move in :48 2/5 over the Hot Springs oval Apr. 26.

While well represented on Oaklawn's closing day Saturday, Crow admitted that not all of her client's horses, including the 2018 champion sophomore filly and five-time Grade I winner Monomoy Girl, have been as lucky in finding an ideal spot to start during the pandemic.

"It's hard when you have horses ready to run and you don't have a game-plan of where to run them," she said.

Cont. p13

“We have Monomoy Girl ready to run off a year-and-a-half layoff and nowhere to run her, not knowing when Churchill is going to open.”

She added, “She couldn’t be doing any better. She fired three bullets at Keeneland and is ready to go. Hopefully, we will have a condition book at Churchill soon to figure out where she’ll run because we’d like to have her return [at Churchill] in Kentucky. Hopefully, we’ll all get to see her soon.”

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BIRMINGHAM FIRST PARI-MUTUEL VENUE TO END LIVE RACING DURING PANDEMIC

by T.D. Thornton

Birmingham Race Course, a former Thoroughbred track in Alabama that has exclusively run greyhounds since 1995, has announced it will no longer be in the business of live racing, making it the first North American pari-mutuel venue to close in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a report by the *Associated Press*, management wants the track to remain open for simulcasting and historical horse race gaming, which it launched last autumn.

Birmingham last raced live Mar. 18, but the facility has been closed since then because of a statewide stay-at-home order related to the coronavirus.

Birmingham officials said last week that the venue would not resume live racing once the health restrictions are lifted, citing declining revenues and interest in the races. Officials said they will begin organizing the adopting-out of any of the 550 greyhounds that do not move on to race at other tracks.

The venue first opened as Birmingham Turf Club in 1987, and the \$85-million Thoroughbred facility was billed as the first modern horse track in the Deep South. Its initial season featured horses and humans who would go on to bigger and better things in the racing industry.



Greyhound racing | Getty Images

Eventual Hall-of-Fame trainer Steve Asmussen won his first stakes race at Birmingham, and Jon Court was that initial meet’s leading rider. Lost Code won the \$350,000 Alabama Derby before becoming a multiple graded stakes winner, and Larry Collmus, now the voice of the Triple Crown and Breeders’ Cup for NBC, called the Birmingham races as his first full-time announcing gig.

Despite grand ambitions, business bombed at Birmingham straight out of the gate.

“The first Thoroughbred track in the Deep South is a disaster, a monument to bad judgment and naive expectations,” the *Washington Post* reported in July 1987. “When the track opened, its officials were projecting an average daily attendance of 10,000 and an average handle of \$1.3 million. Those figures were the basis for the lavish scale on which the track was built—but they didn’t even come close to reality.”

The track changed hands several times, and in 1992, a referendum allowed greyhound races. For a while Birmingham conducted mixed meets featuring both Thoroughbreds and greyhounds, which raced on a smaller oval built inside the horse track.

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WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE HORSE?

MICHAEL CALLANAN, SIERRA FARM

Favorite: Nessy

My favorite horse was, and still is, our old boy **Nessy** (Flower Alley). In 2018, Ed Hudon wasn't doing very well, and it seemed every good horse we came up [with] ended up coming up with an injury or being not quite good enough to win a graded stakes.

Ed and his wife Sharon had never won a graded stakes up to this point and time was running out. Ian Wilkes had penciled in the GIII San Juan Capistrano which was Ed's favorite race at Santa Anita Park that year, and although it wasn't a stellar renewal, Nessy won impressively. I'll never forget the call from Ed after the race that he could die a happy man now. That's how much racing, and in particular Nessy, meant to him and Sharon. Ed passed away in September of that year a happy man. No horse could mean more to a man than Nessy did to Ed.

Nessy is still going strong. He was second in a Grade I race last year and ran once this year but ended up being quite sick after the race. He's a blue-collar horse who will always give his best, and that's all we can ever ask from these beautiful creatures.

Cont. p14



Nessy | Benoit

Best: This is a bit more of a debate for me between **Tiznow** (Cee's Tizzy) and **Ghostzapper** (Awesome Again). I was at the GI Breeders' Cup in Texas when Ghostzapper won the Classic. He was a freak, no other word can describe him. Tiznow won possibly two of the greatest races ever, beating Giant's Causeway and Sakhee in consecutive years of the Classic, in 2000 and 2001. An absolute warrior. Both horses came around at the start of my career in the business, so to be able to see them and breed to them regularly has really been quite special.

JOE BIANCA, TDN Associate Editor

I talked about it on the [TDN Writers' Room presented by Keeneland podcast](#) a few weeks back, but my favorite and the best horse I've ever seen are the same animal: **Ghostzapper** (Awesome Again). Unfortunately, because of issues with his feet, he only ran 11 times in his 2 1/2-year career, but when he ran, he was almost always brilliant, winning nine times and missing by a half-length in another start.

After capturing three of his first four outings, he flew home to be a close third in the 2003 GI King's Bishop S. He would never lose again. That was my first year following horse racing, and my first memory of having my jaw dropped by a race was Ghostzapper's devastating win next out in the GI Vosburgh S. Behind by double digits at the first call like he was in the King's Bishop, the Adena Springs colorbearer was still off the screen as late as the five-sixteenths pole, and sixth as the furlong marker arrived. Within a few jumps, he was in front, and he rocketed away from there to a 6 1/2-length rout ([video](#)).

From then on, I was fixated on the first horse who ever took my breath away. True to form, he went to the bench for over nine months before returning with an easy win in the GII Tom Fool H. He then tried two turns, [despite the questions of assistant trainer Chad Brown](#), in the GIII Philip Iselin S. at

Monmouth, and responded with a 10 3/4-length win and a 128 Beyer, the highest figure recorded in 17 years.

I was in the building Sept. 11, 2004 when Ghostzapper had the toughest battle of his life in the GI Woodward S. at Belmont. Despite being carried out and leaned on for nearly the entire stretch by the following year's Horse of the Year Saint Liam (Saint Ballado), he prevailed by a resilient neck. Drawn the rail in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic at Lone Star Park, he did something he had never done before, going to the lead, and produced a wire-to-wire beating of one of the strongest Classic fields ever assembled, locking up his Horse of the Year trophy.



Ghostzapper winning the 2004 Classic | Horsephotos

He only ran one more time, again with me in attendance, making an early blitz and cruising to victory by 6 1/4 lengths in the 2005 GI Metropolitan H. His brilliance is undeniable, but what I'll remember most about Ghostzapper is his versatility. He won on the front end, stalking and closing from the parking lot. He won at six, six-and-a-half, seven, eight, nine and 10 furlongs. He won on fast, muddy and sloppy surfaces. He took whatever the circumstances gave him and found a way to be dominant. It's been 15 years and I still haven't seen his equal on the racetrack. I suspect even another 15 years won't present it.

Email Gary King (garyking@thetdn.com) to have your say.

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OPEN LETTER TO THE INDUSTRY

BILL THOMASON, PRESIDENT & CEO, KEENELAND

We hope this finds you and your family well. It's hard to believe that this is typically a week with so much buzz and excitement in our industry leading into the first Saturday of May. We look forward to the days when our industry is fully up and running again.

Toward this goal, Keeneland is committed to doing everything possible to ensure a safe and secure environment for conducting Thoroughbred auctions this fall and to maintain market stability. As you saw yesterday, Fasig-Tipton has moved its July and Saratoga yearling sales to Kentucky in September. Keeneland has been in conversation with Fasig-Tipton's leadership team for several weeks as part of a constructive effort to benefit our horsemen and our industry.

Moving forward, we are working together to establish standardized protocols for sale operations in 2020 that will be adopted by both auction houses beginning with the September sale season. We will communicate these policies to you as they are formalized. We believe that consistent guidelines across all Keeneland and Fasig-Tipton sales will allow you to properly plan your buying and selling activity in the months ahead.

As we approach the end of April, please keep in mind that the entry deadline for the 2020 September Yearling Sale is this Friday, May 1 with an extended withdrawal window. During this unique time, it is critical to showcase your yearlings in the world's premier marketplace, and we hope you find confidence in the stability and unparalleled buying bench that Keeneland September provides.

We wish you all the best, and hope you stay well during this period.

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SHARE A 'BASKET OF BLESSINGS' TO SUPPORT BELMONT BACKSTRETCH WORKERS

The New York Race Track Chaplaincy of America (NYRTCA) is asking for support to provide woman living and working on the

Belmont Park backstretch and the surrounding community with 'Baskets of Blessings' this coming Mother's Day. A donation of \$100 will fund a special basket which will be lovingly prepared and include an assortment of food, toiletries, and special gifts. Each basket will be hand-delivered by the NYRTCA ahead of Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10.

"The mothers of our backstretch community have perhaps been most impacted by the current crisis, as they are handling the responsibilities of childcare and home schooling, which is challenging for everyone, but even more so with limited resources, a crowded home environment, and in some cases a language barrier," said Chaplain Humberto Chavez, who heads the NYRTCA. "The New York Race Track Chaplaincy is in daily touch with the families we serve, despite the fact that we cannot see each other during this time in our physical office. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received to date which has allowed us to focus on meeting the most urgent needs of our community, which is currently in crisis and in need of basic food and supplies."

To provide a 'Basket of Blessings' to a family in need this Mother's Day, [click here](#).

The NYRTCA is also continuing to seek donations for its food pantry that will benefit backstretch workers and their families at Belmont Park as they deal with the many challenges posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Donations to the food pantry made between now and June 6 will be matched up to \$25,000 by Len Green of The Green Group and DJ Stable. Financial donations can be made online at flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/Nzc5ODQ=. The chaplaincy is also accepting donations of food. For more information about what to donate and the drop-off location, contact info@rtcany.org or text 516-428-5267.

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TCA TO HOST ONLINE AUCTION OF CLASSIC WINNERS' HALTERS

The Thoroughbred Charities of America will host an online auction of halters worn by Triple Crown and Kentucky Derby winners during the upcoming virtual "Kentucky Derby: Triple Crown Showdown." The halter auction is set to open Friday at 9 a.m. and will conclude Saturday at 9 p.m. EST. All proceeds will benefit TCA.

"As the 13 Triple Crown winners face off in the virtual running of the Derby, we are excited to offer halters worn by the only two living Triple Crown winners American Pharoah and Justify, as well as past Derby winners," said Erin Crady executive director of TCA.

Cont. p16

“Although the traditional first Saturday in May looks a little different this year, we are hopeful that offering an online auction during the Kentucky Derby at Home will provide an opportunity to raise money for distribution to TCA’s charities, many of which have had to cancel fundraisers as a result of the coronavirus.”

In addition to American Pharoah and Justify, halters worn by Country House, Super Saver, Orb, Grindstone, Giacomo, and Silver Charm will be offered. More halters may be added as donations are confirmed. Halters may be previewed [here](#). To date, Coolmore America, WinStar Farm, Claiborne Farm, Old Friends, Blackwood Stables, and Oakhurst Thoroughbreds have generously donated halters.

Thoroughbred Charities of America was formed in 1990 to raise and distribute funds to charities in the Thoroughbred industry that provide a better life for Thoroughbreds, both during and after their racing careers, by supporting qualified repurposing and retirement organizations and by helping the people who care for them.

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AMPLIFY HORSE RACING: A CALL TO ACTION

Edited Press Release

The feeling of a raw egg sliding across your tongue, down your throat and plopping into your stomach is something many people in the racing community experienced in the past week. The raw egg challenge has been plastered across Thoroughbred industry Twitter, supporting the #doitforDan initiative to raise money for the treatment of the rare disease, Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 1, in a child named Dan Donoher.

In a sport that has been labeled as insular and pelted with criticism, its people charged forward to help with a great cause. There are lessons to be learned from this—it is an example of being proactive rather than reactive. The racing industry saw a problem, joined together with comrades within and outside of racing, and worked collectively to spread awareness and solve that problem. And the solution was simple. It took one minute to film the video and another minute to post.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease and prominent health advisor to the White House, quipped on CNN Apr. 10 that if portrayed on Saturday Night Live, he wanted Brad Pitt to play the role. Two weeks later, Brad Pitt was on SNL as Dr. Fauci. It was hilarious and brilliant. And it proves the old adage: you can’t get what you don’t ask for.

So here we are nearing the first Saturday in May, the day when all eyes turn to the “Greatest Two Minutes in Sports.” Unfortunately, the race is postponed. COVID-19 has infected

over a million people in the U.S. and over 3 million people globally. Most are still quarantining. Working from home. Homeschooling. Cooking. Binge watching TV. Desperately seeking entertainment. Churchill Downs is stepping up and will host a nationwide **virtual ‘Kentucky Derby at Home’ Party**. They will match up to \$1 million for COVID-19 emergency relief efforts from fan donations.



Amplify was started in June 2019 by a group of young professionals who work in the thoroughbred industry and is designed to proactively promote the world of horse racing. Amplify has already collaborated with the 4-H, NYRA, Retired Racehorse Project, Keeneland and the KTA. The organization is in tune with the most effective platforms to communicate with multiple generations. Amplify’s mission is “amplification” of horse racing by supporting and enhancing the great things our industry is already doing. Over the next few days, specifically on Derby Day, we challenge you to do the following:

- **Create content**
- **Hashtag it**
- **Post it**

Creating content is simple—take a video of morning feed time, a photo of a foal, riding your off-track Thoroughbred, mixing your mint julep or consuming bread pudding. The more content we create, the more visible we make horse racing.

Hashtags are essential—they promote, they brand, they localize attention and amplify our collective voices. For all of the content you create, use the following hashtags: #KYDerbyAtHome and #AmplifyHorseRacing.

Post It!—on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, any and all social media platforms. We would be remiss to not dare greatly. Kentucky is home to many prominent people, so let’s reach out.

Cont. p17

Imagine these: Jennifer Lawrence hosting a Kentucky Derby at Home Zoom party. Matt Jones, famed Kentucky Sports Radio host, handicapping the Triple Crown Showdown. Johnny Depp reading Hunter S. Thompson's legendary "The Kentucky Derby is Decadent and Depraved." Chris Stapleton performing "My Old Kentucky Home."

This is all within our power. If you have any other ideas or want to submit content, please contact us at info@amplifyhorseracing.org. If each of us do something, it turns out to be a lot of eggs.

[Share this story](#) 

EQUINE EQUIPMENT LAUNCHES 'NOW MORE THAN EVER' CAMPAIGN, DONATES MOWERS TO EIGHT THOROUGHBRED CHARITIES

To help equine charities in this time of need, Equine Equipment is working with Exmark and local dealers in its new "Now More Than Ever" giving campaign to facilitate the donation of eight 21" Exmark commercial mowers valued at \$1,200 each to local charities in Florida. Similar donations are in the works for other locations around the country with up to 50 charities receiving support.

"We've always tried to do our part to give back to the industry, and we believe that to be more important than ever right now," said Steve Andersen, founder of Equine Equipment, which helps the horse industry save on a variety of equipment and products from Exmark, Toro, New Holland, Tenda and FarmPaint. "These great charitable programs all operate with limited budgets, so we are more than happy to help them out with these donations so that they can continue to do their important work."

The eight Florida charities receiving donations are: Stirrups 'n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center, Florida Thoroughbred Farm Managers Inc., Florida Thoroughbred Fillies, Tomorrow's Equestrian, Marion County Therapeutic Riding Association, Step Ahead Thoroughbred Retirement Inc., Hidden Acres Rescue for Thoroughbreds (HART) and Equine Rescue and Adoption Inc.

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A Daily Roundup of Racing Articles in Non-Industry Media

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DID YOU KNOW LEGACY Bloodstock ...

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Sotheby's is losing millions because online auctions just aren't that exciting

Ultra-wealthy auction buyers going virtual — but that's bitter news for big-name houses like Sotheby's and Christie's. With in-person events canceled, the number of online auctions jumped by 63% over the past month. And last week, Sotheby's set a new online record, roping in a \$6.4m sales haul from one event. The downside: That pales in comparison to its in-person auction record of \$110.7m. Those shortfalls forced Sotheby's to furlough 12% of its staff.

Michael Waters, *The Hustle*

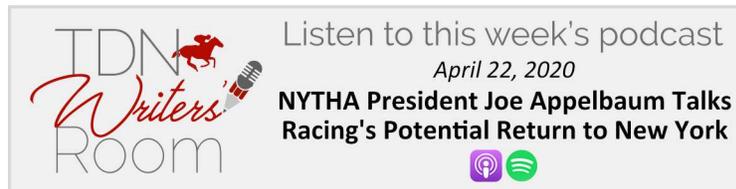
Beshear called it a prank, but Tupac Shakur really does need his unemployment check

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear went full Dad-mode during his Monday night news conference, calling out the "bad apples" who filed for unemployment under fake names during the coronavirus pandemic.

"We had somebody apply for unemployment for Tupac Shakur here in Kentucky," Beshear said, likely thinking of the rapper who died in the 90s. "And that person may have thought they were being funny, they probably did. Except for the fact that because of them, we had to go through so many other claims."

One problem: Tupac Shakur does live in Kentucky. And he's waiting on his unemployment benefits.

Daniel Desroches, *Lexington Herald-Leader*



TDN 
Writers' Room

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 April 22, 2020
**NYTHA President Joe Appelbaum Talks
 Racing's Potential Return to New York**



Leading Third-Crop Sires

for stallions standing in North America through Monday, April 27

Earnings represent worldwide figures, stud fees listed are 2020 fees.

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Mucho Macho Man (2008) by Macho Uno	1	2	1	2	1	1	44	14	3,162,000	3,610,704
2	Goldencents (2010) by Into Mischief	2	3	2	2	--	--	119	34	268,200	1,720,017
3	Will Take Charge (2010) by Unbridled's Song	--	1	--	1	--	--	85	31	253,141	1,407,488
4	Cairo Prince (2011) by Pioneerof the Nile	--	1	--	--	--	--	89	33	202,667	1,122,882
5	Cross Traffic (2009) by Unbridled's Song	2	3	--	1	--	--	61	19	266,400	946,958
6	Central Banker (2010) by Speightstown	--	3	--	1	--	--	56	12	138,500	807,717
7	Fed Biz (2009) by Giant's Causeway	1	3	--	1	--	--	70	20	84,881	754,582
8	Strong Mandate (2011) by Tiznow	--	--	--	--	--	--	54	18	84,769	680,048
9	Flashback (2010) by Tapit	--	1	--	1	--	--	59	16	60,000	557,869
10	Clubhouse Ride (2008) by Candy Ride (Arg)	1	2	--	--	--	--	27	10	174,980	554,834
11	Can the Man (2011) by Into Mischief	--	1	--	1	--	--	50	21	60,246	535,556
12	He's Had Enough (2010) by Tapit	--	2	--	--	--	--	67	17	33,350	471,313
13	Itsmyluckyday (2010) by Lawyer Ron	--	--	--	--	--	--	63	15	63,950	383,030
14	Noble Mission (GB) (2009) by Galileo (Ire)	--	--	--	--	--	--	58	19	29,640	363,707
15	Handsome Mike (2009) by Scat Daddy	--	--	--	--	--	--	53	17	23,630	331,234

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Friday, Oaklawn, post time: 6:09 p.m. EDT

FANTASY S.-GIII, \$400,000, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Ice Princess	Palace Malice	Flying P Stable, R. A. Hill Stable & Coms Racing Stable	Gargan	Carmouche	121
2	Venetian Harbor 🌿	Munnings	Ciaglia Racing LLC, Highland Yard LLC, River Oak Farm and Savides, Dominic	Baltas	Prat	121
3	Swiss Skydiver 🌿	Daredevil	Peter J. Callahan	McPeek	Hernandez, Jr.	121
4	Lake Avenue	Tapit	Godolphin, LLC	Mott	Velazquez	121
5	Harvey's Lil Goil	American Pharoah	Estate of Harvey A. Clarke and Braverman, Paul	Mott	Garcia	121
6	Kansas Kis 🌿	Constitution	Perrine Time Thoroughbreds	Handal	Geroux	117
7	Shedaresthedevil 🌿	Daredevil	Flurry Racing Stables LLC, Qatar Racing Limited & Big Aut Farms	Cox	Rosario	121
8	Ring Leader 🌿	Paynter	Novogratz Racing Stables Inc.	Robertson	Talamo	121
9	Lady Glamour	Discreet Cat	Inga Demeritte	Smith	Burke	117
10	British Idiom	Flashback	Madaket Stables, Dubb, Michael & The Elkstone Group	Cox	Castellano	121
11	Fire Coral 🌿	Curlin	Susan Moulton	Asmussen	Baze	117
12	New York Groove 🌿	Verrazano	Commonwealth New Era Racing, Madaket Stables & Wonder Stables	Trombetta	Elliott	121
13	Lazy Daisy 🌿	Paynter	ERJ Racing, LLC, Great Friends Stable, CTR Racing, MyRacehorse.com, Mansor, Tom & Caroom, Jerry	O'Neill	Cohen	121
14	Alta's Award	Tonalist	Orr, Ed & Susie	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	117

Breeders: 1-Mina Equivest, LLC, 2-Colts Neck Stables LLC, 3-WinStar Farm, LLC, 4-Godolphin, 5-Harvey A. Clarke, 6-Ashview Farm & Colts Neck Stables, 7-WinStar Farm, LLC, 8-George Krikorian, 9-BHMFRR, LLC, 10-Hargus Sexton, Sandra Sexton and Silver Fern Farm LLC, 11-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 12-Bonne Chance Farm, LLC, 13-John Elder & Paynter Syndicate, 14-Mr. & Mrs. Al Mazzetti & Mr. & Mrs. Ed Orr

Saturday, Oaklawn, post time: 6:29 p.m. EDT

ARKANSAS DERBY-GI, \$500,000, 3yo, 1 1/8m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Charlatan 🌿	Speightstown	SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables LLC, Stonestreet Stables LLC, Hertrich, III, Frederick, Fielding, John D. and Golconda Stables	Baffert	Garcia	118
2	My Friends Beer	Stay Thirsty	Designated Hitters Racing, LLC	O'Dwyer	Cannon	118
3	Mo Mosa 🌿	Uncle Mo	Martin, Perry and Martin, Denise	Maker	Carmouche	118
4	Gouverneur Morris 🌿	Constitution	Team Valor International and WinStar Farm LLC	Pletcher	Velazquez	118
5	Jungle Runner	Candy Ride (Arg)	Calumet Farm	Asmussen	Baze	122
6	Shooters Shoot 🌿	Competitive Edge	ERJ Racing, LLC, Exline-Border Racing LLC and Hudock, Dan	Eurton	Talamo	118
7	Wrecking Crew 🌿	Sky Kingdom	Rockingham Ranch	Miller	Prat	118
8	Anneau d'Or 🌿	Medaglia d'Oro	Peter Redekop B. C., Ltd.	Wright	Hernandez	118
9	Winning Impression 🌿	Paynter	West Point Thoroughbreds and Pearl Racing	Stewart	Leparoux	118
10	Crypto Cash	Majesticperfection	Lewis, Tommie M. and Magdalena Racing	McPeek	Lanerier	118
11	Basin 🌿	Liam's Map	Jackpot Farm	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	122

Breeders: 1-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 2-Best A Luck Farm LLC, 3-Perry Martin & Denise Martin, 4-Machmer Hall, Carrie Brogden, Craig Brogden & James F. Miller, 5-Calumet Farm, 6-Nancy C. Shuford, 7-Westrock Stables, 8-Highland Yard LLC, 9-WinStar Farm, LLC, 10-D.J. Stables, 11-Cottonwood Stables, LLC

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Saturday, Oaklawn, post time: 7:43 p.m. EDT**ARKANSAS DERBY-GI, \$500,000, 3yo, 1 1/8m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Finnick the Fierce	Dialed In	Monge, Arnaldo and Hernandez, Rey	Hernandez	Garcia	118
2	Saratogian 🌿	Empire Maker	SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables LLC, Hertrich, III, Frederick, Fielding, John D. and Golconda Stables	Brisset	Talamo	122
3	Storm the Court	Court Vision	David A Bernsen LLC, Exline-Border Racing LLC, Hudock, Dan and Wilson, Susanna	Eurton	Prat	122
4	King Guillermo 🌿	Uncle Mo	Victoria Martinez	Avila	Camacho	122
5	Nadal 🌿	Blame	Bolton, George, Hoyeau, Arthur, Lipman, Barry and Mathiesen, Mark	Baffert	Rosario	122
6	Code Runner 🌿	Honor Code	Calumet Farm	Asmussen	Elliott	122
7	Silver Prospector 🌿	Declaration of War	Orr, Ed and Orr, Susie	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	122
8	Fast Enough	Eddington	Rockingham Ranch and Martin, Craig	Becerra	Baze	122
9	Taishan 🌿	Twirling Candy	Nguyen, Calvin and Tran, Joey	Baltas	Cohen	118
10	Farmington Road	Quality Road	Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Chrysalis Stables LLC and LaPenta, Robert V.	Pletcher	Castellano	118
11	Wells Bayou 🌿	Lookin At Lucky	Gasaway, Clint, Gasaway, Lance, Madaket Stables LLC and Wonder Stables	Cox	Geroux	122

Breeders: 1-Paige Jillian Blu Sky Stables, 2-Don Alberto Corporation, 3-Stepping Stone Farm, 4-Carhue Investments, Grouseridge Ltd. & Marengo Investments, 5-Sierra Farm, 6-Baumann Stables, Edward Bradley & Dr. Aaron Sones, 7-Hargus Sexton, Sandra Sexton & Silver Fern Farm, LLC, 8-Craig Martin, 9-Nursery Place, Donaldson & Broadbent, 10-Chrysalis Stables, 11-Knowles Bloodstock, Inc.

Saturday, Oaklawn, post time: 7:04 p.m. EDT**OAKLAWN H.-GII, \$600,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/8m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Chess Chief	Into Mischief	Estate of James J. Coleman, Jr.	Stewart	Hernandez, Jr.	114
2	Trophy Chaser 🌿	Twirling Candy	Juan Carlos Avila	Avila	Camacho	115
3	Bravazo	Awesome Again	Calumet Farm	Lukas	Mena	115
4	Mr Freeze 🌿	To Honor and Serve	Bakke, Jim and Isbister, Gerald	Romans	Talamo	118
5	Identifier 🌿	Creative Cause	Gelfenstein Farm	Gonzalez	Elliott	116
6	Warrior's Charge	Munnings	Ten Strike Racing and Madaket Stables LLC	Cox	Geroux	118
7	Combatant 🌿	Scat Daddy	Hronis Racing LLC	Sadler	Rosario	120
8	Sky Promise	Sky Mesa	Wiest, Rick, Wiest, Clayton, R 6 Stable and Tremblay, Norman	Diodoro	Mojica	114
9	Tacitus	Tapit	Juddmonte Farms, Inc.	Mott	Velazquez	121
10	Captivating Moon	Malibu Moon	Lothenbach Stables, Inc.	Block	Leparoux	113
11	Tax	Arch	R. A. Hill Stable, Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, Lynch, Hugh and Corms Racing Stable	Gargan	Carmouche	117
12	By My Standards	Goldencents	Allied Racing Stable, LLC	Calhoun	Saez	118
13	Night Ops	Warrior's Reward	Steve Landers Racing LLC	Cox	Castellano	116
14	Improbable 🌿	City Zip	WinStar Farm LLC, China Horse Club International Ltd. and SF Racing LLC	Baffert	Garcia	119

Breeders: 1-Morgan's Ford Farm, 2-Overbrook Farm & Kildare Stud, 3-Calumet Farm, 4-Siena Farms LLC, 5-Heinz J. Steinmann, 6-AI Shaquab Racing, 7-Paget Bloodstock, 8-Normandy Farm LLC, 9-Juddmonte Farms Inc., 10-Lothenbach Stables Inc, 11-Claiborne Farm & Adele B. Dilschneider, 12-Don Ladd, 13-Aschinger Bloodstock Holdings, LLC, 14-St. George Farm LLC & G. Watts Humphrey Jr.



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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

TRAO CLASSIC SPRINT S., \$55,000, Will Rogers Downs, 4-28, (S), 3yo/up, c/g, 6f, 1:09.01, ft.

1--**WELDER, 124, g, 7, The Visualiser--Dance Softly, by Tiznow.**

O-Ra-Max Farms LLC; B-Center Hills Farm (OK); T-Theresa Sue Luneack; J-David Cabrera. \$33,000. Lifetime Record: 33-22-4-4, \$1,006,393.

2--**Shannon C, 120, g, 5, Latent Heat--Miranda Diane, by Fistfite.**

O-B and S Racing (Bozarth and Smith); B-B & S Racing (OK); T-Scott E. Young. \$11,000.

3--**Eurowest, 118, g, 4, Euroears--Auntie Mine, by Mineshaft.**

O-Jimmy R. Skinner; B-James E. Helzer (OK); T-Martin Lozano. \$6,050.

Margins: 6HF, 6 1/4, NK. Odds: 0.20, 4.00, 75.00.

Also Ran: Fly to the Bank, Timely Reply, Rockport Kat, Gospel Cherokee, Criminal.

No secret while sent off the piping-hot 1-5 favorite to record his record fifth consecutive victory in Tuesday's TRAO Classic Sprint S., Welder rolled home an easy winner while becoming a millionaire. Quickly away, Welder was eased back to second as a headstrong Shannon C dashed out to an initial quarter mile :22.10. Narrowing the frontrunners advantage entering the turn, the grey was at his rival's throat latch with a quarter of a mile to go, easily left Shannon C in his dust and strolled home an open lengths winner. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart.](#)**



IN ORDER OF PURSE:

7th-Will Rogers Downs, \$20,592, Msw, 4-28, 3yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f, 1:05.21, ft.

R LUKKI SONG (f, 3, Girolamo--Chilukki's Song, by Elusive Quality), quickest on the draw, rushed out to take command early, racing through an opening quarter mile in :23.65. Collared by even-money choice Hallies Dream (Euroears) early on the turn, the 4-1 chance first-time starter kicked into another gear turning for home.

Clear of the favorite down the lane, she was 6 3/4- lengths clear of Star Prado (Star Guitar), who got up to nail Hallies Dream by a half-length at the wire. Sales history: \$8,000 Ylg '18 FTKOCT; \$35,000 2yo '19 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$11,544.

Click for the [Equibase.com chart.](#)

O-Dare To Dream Stable LLC (Michael Faber); B-Godolphin (KY); T-Christopher Davis.

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SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, APR. 29

American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile), Ashford Stud, private 318 foals of racing age/38 winners/6 black-type winners 8-Tampa Bay Downs, Msw 1 1/16mT, LIPSTIKLIESNLOVERS, 3-1 \$145,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl

Honor Code (A.P. Indy), Lane's End Farm, \$30,000

213 foals of racing age/22 winners/1 black-type winner 7-Will Rogers Downs, Msw 1m, MAGICALLY HONORED, 3-1 \$200,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl; \$25,000 KEE JAN 2yo

Lockout (Limehouse)

6 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners 2-Will Rogers Downs, Msw 1m, BADADDATUD, 8-1



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**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**

8th-Will Rogers Downs, \$27,500, 4-28, 3yo/up, 1m, 1:37.81, ft.

DAME PLATA (g, 4, **Cross Traffic**--Dana's Lucky Lady {MSP, \$207,773}, by Lucky Lionel) Lifetime Record: 12-5-2-3,

\$190,856. O-Ann Sachdev & Lori Bravo; B-Sugarland Thoroughbreds, LLC (MN); T-Francisco Bravo. *\$35,000 Ylg '17 MNSAUG. **1/2 to Paddy O'Lionel (Paddy O'Prado), SW, \$189,325; 1/2 to La Glamorosa (Fire Slam), Ch. 2-year-old Filly-PR, MSW-PR, \$179,669.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Centergee, g, 3, **Jimmy Creed**--Palaestra (MSP, \$127,965), by Atticus. Will Rogers Downs, 4-28, (S), 1m, 1:40.17. B-Center

Hills Farm (OK). *\$12,000 RNA Ylg '18 FTKOCT. *1/2 to Nacho Business (Rahy), SW, \$113,590.

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CROSS TRAFFIC, Dame Plata, g, 4, o/o Dana's Lucky Lady, by Lucky Lionel. ALW, 4-28, Will Rogers

GIROLAMO, R Lukki Song, f, 3, o/o Chilukki's Song, by Elusive Quality. MSW, 4-28, Will Rogers

JIMMY CREED, Centergee, g, 3, o/o Palaestra, by Atticus. MSW, 4-28, Will Rogers

THE VISUALISER, Welder, g, 7, o/o Dance Softly, by Tiznow. TRAO Classic Sprint S., 4-28, Will Rogers



Dame Plata wins for sire Cross Traffic Tuesday | Sarah Andrew

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THE WEEKLY WRAP: WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSES



Royal Ascot's car park picnics will be much missed this year | *Racing Post*

By Emma Berry

The daily reality check comes via the evening news. Coronavirus by numbers: new infections and, brutally, the death toll.

Otherwise, for people working day-to-day with racehorses and breeding stock, not an awful lot has changed. Yes, we take care not to get too close to other people, wash our hands more, wear latex gloves to the supermarket. But the horses still need to be fed, exercised, mucked out and to be prepared, as much as we all can be, for a return to some sort of normality.

In our old normal lives, many of us probably dreamt of a little more adventure, regularly adding items to a mental bucket list. Now, how much of that list is populated by simple things we previously took for granted?

The group of friends and fellow journalists with whom I share a house each year for the Cheltenham Festival left each other at the end of that meeting with the words "See you in Dubai." We didn't make it to the World Cup meeting, or the Lincoln, the Craven, the Greenham, and we won't be assembling at the Rowley Mile this Saturday to witness the first of the British Classics.

BURKE HOPING FOR GERMAN PERMISSION

Pattern racing is due to return at Cologne in Germany next Friday with the G2 Carl Jaspers Preis and the G3 Cologne Classic, and North Yorkshire-based trainer Karl Burke is hoping he will be permitted to run **Kelly's Dino (Fr)** (Doctor Dino {Fr}) and **Emaraty Hero (GB)** (Lope De Vega {Ire}) in those 12 and 10 furlong contests, respectively. "I'm not sure we will be allowed to run, but I've not heard for definite yet," Burke said. "We want to run, the horses are ready to run, but having spoken to a few trainers in Germany, we might not be allowed to travel.

"If we are allowed to run, we will have to see how we get them there. The Channel Tunnel is still running, so I don't think it would be a major issue and it would be possible to do it within the confines of isolation and safety."

German racing is set to return on Monday behind closed doors at Dortmund.

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IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

EUROPEANS APPLAUD AMERICAN SALES DECISION

European horsemen applauded the dovetailing of North America's premier yearling sales during the era of coronavirus.

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THE WEEKLY WRAP by Emma Berry



When One Door Closes Cont. from p1

For racing's fans and participants, our lives are governed by the racing calendar and it therefore feels disconcerting to have so little to anticipate, discuss and analyse. The lack of racing similarly has a huge impact on our social lives. Most of my friends either work in or follow the sport closely and there can be few occupations in which work and pleasure have such a symbiotic relationship.

While there has been a push to encourage a new audience by reimagining racing to a degree, many people, once drawn to the sport, are beguiled by its history and tradition. Racing traditions become very personal, too. Like meeting a friend at a particular spot on Newmarket's pre-parade ring rail while the previous race is being run to ensure a good view of the Guineas runners. Or counting on seeing the same friendly faces at a car park picnic on the first day of Royal Ascot. Or chatting with Tony Morris and Tony Byles on the wooden bench by the Epsom winner's circle on Derby day.

Even once the action restarts behind closed doors, the

absence of this aspect of the racing day will make it seem a very hollow season, but if that ends up being the worst outcome of this situation then we can consider ourselves very fortunate indeed. Never has it been more important for those involved in racing to look beyond our own fences to see that, for most of us, the grass is actually very much greener within.

The wartime metaphors have perhaps been overused in the reporting of the pandemic but parallels for racing can be drawn between the current situation and World War II. Racing had an image problem even then. From John Saville's book *Insane and Unseemly*, which chronicles racing through those dreadful six years, a passage in its introduction could so easily have been written this week, particularly after the latest public spat between a group of trainers and the BHA.

Saville wrote of wartime racing, "More than any other sport it had opponents who wanted to stop it. Some were sincere patriots who believed it was an unaffordable drain on resources, whilst others were puritan opportunists who hated racing on principle. It also had friends, sometimes in unexpected quarters, and there were neutrals determined to be fair and objective. There were slices of good luck and bad, defenders scored own goals and enemies overplayed their hands, but racing managed to carry on and survive until peace returned." [Cont. p3](#)



TDN  EUROPE

Andrew Balding, Ed Walker, Roger Teal and Joseph O'Brien share a morning at their yard with us in this TDN video. [Watch here.](#)



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IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

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When One Door Closes Cont.

The idea of an outbreak of peace within racing is perhaps a novel one, but it will indeed carry on, sooner or later, though hopefully not too soon that another hiatus is required.

Gredley's Friends

Bill Gredley has been in the news during the last week with the *Racing Post* reporting that the octogenarian owner-breeder is continuing his philanthropic support of his Newmarket neighbours by donating £50,000 to the town's COVID-19 Fund.

The Gredley family's Stetchworth and Middle Park Studs have been represented in recent years by Group 1 winners Big Orange (GB) (Duke Of Marmalade {Ire}) and Pretty Pollyanna (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}), as well as the Grade 1-winning hurdler Allmankind (GB) (Sea The Moon {Ger}). Their success stretches back over many decades, however, and it is 28 years since Gredley's great filly User Friendly (GB) (Slip Anchor {GB}) won the Oaks and went on to land the Irish Oaks, Yorkshire Oaks and St Leger before being beaten only a neck by Subotica (Fr) when second in the Arc.



Pretty Pollyanna with the Bells and Gredleys | *Racing Post*

Though User Friendly was sold to Gary Tanaka as a 4-year-old, her family is still influential for Gredley's breeding operation. The aforementioned Pretty Pollyanna is a granddaughter of User Friendly's half-sister Friendlier (GB) (Zafonic) and the dynasty is also thriving farther afield.

User Friendly's Danehill daughter Starspangled won once for Susan Magnier in Ireland when trained by her son-in-law David Wachman. Exported to Australia for her broodmare career, Starspangled is now the dam of the Group 1-winning mares Youngstar (Aus) (High Chaparral {Ire}) and Funstar (Aus) (Adelaide {Ire}). Trained by Chris Waller, the half-sisters were bred by John Sheather, who bought Starspangled from Coolmore for A\$30,000 in 2014 when carrying Youngstar.

Cont. p4



Sir Mark Prescott surveys his fellow trainers for beard growth | Emma Berry

When One Door Closes Cont.

Since then, Starspangled's first offspring Baggy Green (Aus), from the final Australian crop of Galileo (Ire), has become a successful broodmare in her own right and is the dam of Tofane (NZ) (Ocean Park {NZ}), recent winner of the G1 All Aged S. during The Championships in Sydney. The Mike Moroney-trained 4-year-old was bred at New Zealand's Curraghmore Stud by Irish ex-pat Gordon Cunningham.

The Irish James Bond

On a vaguely related theme, it states on the Curraghmore Stud website that Gordon Cunningham, a native of Co Waterford, named the stud after the Marquess of Waterford's stately home Curraghmore House.

A particularly entertaining obituary appeared in the *Times* last week for the Irish aristocrat and accomplished polo player, three-day eventer and amateur rider Lord Patrick Beresford, the uncle of the current marquess who grew up at Curraghmore.

This passage regarding his later life, drew a smile: "Living alone in a cottage on the edge of Windsor Great Park, close to the Guards Polo Club, he would host lunches during Royal Ascot week and Jacuzzi parties after polo matches. He claimed he was among the first in Britain to have a Jacuzzi along with Victor Lownes, the Playboy executive, and he started his own 'Jacuzzi Floozy of the Year' competition where he would nominate the prettiest woman to have visited his hot tub. He loved champagne and vodka martinis."

And in a slightly less politically incorrect remembrance, Lord Beresford's *Times* obituary paid him a handsome tribute of which any horseman would be proud: "His equestrian prowess remained a constant; he loved horses and considered a day without riding to be a day wasted. His favourites included Buck,

Amber Jack and Papillon, which was bred at Curraghmore. As an amateur jockey he won more than 50 point-to-points and National Hunt races. He claimed some of polo's biggest titles, including the Gold Cup at Cowdray and the Queen's Cup at Guards, and hunted into his seventies, elegant to the last."

Fundraising Eggstravaganza

Just as we saw last year with Pat Smullen's fundraising efforts for Cancer Trials Ireland, the racing industry is particularly good at getting behind a campaign.

The #DoItForDan fundraiser was pushed past the €2-million mark this week with plenty of help from racing figures who manfully (and womanfully) knocked back raw eggs when challenged by friends. The donations helped to raise enough money to ensure that one-year-old Dan Donoher, who has been diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, can receive gene therapy in America to aid his condition.

While all in a good cause, the Twitter videos of various racing folk swallowing eggs also gave an insight into how they are coping with the lockdown.

Sir Mark Prescott is naturally taking things in his stride. Known for his disapproval of his fellow trainers appearing unshaven on Newmarket Heath in the morning, he named and shamed David Simcock and Charlie McBride and, after downing a 'Prairie Oyster', minus the vodka, he called upon his fellow teetotaler Jim Bolger to do the same.

It's doubtful that Sir Mark spends much time scrolling through Twitter but if he did he'd be horrified at the hirsuteness currently on display among the racing fraternity. His recently bearded brethren include Willie McCreery, Henry Beeby, Colin Tizzard, Johnny Murtagh and Jamie Spencer (who can be forgiven, having been laid up in hospital with a broken hip). The prize for the best lockdown beard, however, goes to the Grizzly Adams of Rathmore Stud, Peter Molony. **Cont. p5**



Peter Molony, pictured completing the Raw Egg Challenge, takes Emma Berry's award for Best Lockdown Beard

When One Door Closes Cont.

And for those of you who cruelly nominated me for the raw egg challenge, I've been scouring cocktail recipes and will complete the task today.

Getting Connected

We're halfway through what should have been the breeze-up season and, as reported in *TDN* last week, breeze-up consignors have been forward-thinking in marketing their drafts ahead of the delayed sales.

Johnny Hassett has turned to the art of video-blogging and his candour in his most recent post outlines the difficulties faced by many in the sector.

"As a breeze-up company we had doubled down on horses, more than twice as many, and we had upped the calibre significantly, which meant more staff, more feed bills, more everything. I had enough money to get to the Craven [sale] but not really any further," said Hassett on Tuesday.

Rallying his staff, and with help from Ruth Murphy and Katie Rudd in setting up a website and social media presence, Hassett, who operates as The Bloodstock Connection, has now found buyers from Ireland, Italy and Kuwait for a number of his horses. "A month later, we've sold four horses and we've got orders for two more," he continued. "There's no touch, but we've got our money back, we got paid for our keep, and we're in business."

While private transactions are not necessarily music to the ears of sales companies which are currently trying to salvage the formal breeze-up auctions, in the long term, if the buyers are there for juveniles and the breeze-up consignors can stay in business to return to this season's yearling sales, then it's a sliver of good news for everyone.

Farewell to the Lanigans

This week Newmarket bids farewell, albeit a socially distant one, to David and Amy Lanigan and their daughters Katie and Sophie. David is well known in the training ranks and over a number of years Amy has made her name as an extremely talented photographer whose images have graced many marketing campaigns of stud farms around Britain.

Newmarket's loss is very much Lexington's gain and we wish the Lanigans safe passage and the best of luck in their new American venture.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

IRISH AND UK TOTES FORM ALLIANCE

Tote Ireland and the UK Tote have formed a seven-year alliance that will kick off on Jan. 1, 2021. Part of the alliance includes the development of a joint offering for international markets.

Brian Kavanagh, chief executive of Horse Racing Ireland, said, "Tote Ireland has always enjoyed a strong relationship with the racecourses in Ireland and has been a keen supporter and sponsor, as well as a trusted betting service for Irish racegoers for generations.

"However, punters' habits have changed and that has led to a steady decline in the on-course turnover of Tote Ireland, a situation exacerbated this year through the loss of major festival meetings. This has greatly impacted the ability of Tote Ireland to develop the products necessary to compete in the digital off-course arena and one of the crucial attractions of this alliance is that it will allow Tote Ireland to develop a joint offering with the UK Tote Group which will be highly attractive to international markets. This will greatly increase liquidity in Irish racing markets, increase the choice available to punters and allow Tote Ireland to maintain its vital role in Irish racing."



Racing Post photo

Alex Frost, chief executive of the UK Tote Group, said, "We are delighted to be announcing this alliance with Tote Ireland. Both organisations are woven into the fabric of racing and bring local and international Tote pool betting together across 85 racecourses in Ireland and Great Britain, and nearly 2,000 race meetings a year. We will work with the Tote Ireland team to bring innovation and creative thinking to how pool betting is presented to racing fans, both on course and through off-course digital channels." [Cont. p6](#)

UK & Irish Totes Cont.

Frost continued, “We have already made great strides since acquiring the UK Tote six months ago, including the launch of a new website, the return of Tote Ten to Follow and growth in significant international partnerships. There remains much work to do but together we have great people with the necessary skills, resources and determination to ensure both Tote Ireland and the UK Tote have a bright future.”

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GLOBAL VIEWS *with Godolphin Flying Start*

ADVERSITY LEADS TO NECESSARY CHANGE

By Caitlin Smith

Adversity is simply the change that we have not adapted to yet. It is an inevitable aspect of life and often reflects negative circumstances, however, it is a vital component of growth. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause widespread disruptions to our industry, it is time to rise to the challenge.

Times of challenge bring unique opportunities. While racing is suspended in many jurisdictions, the remaining regions have an



Caitlin Smith
Godolphin Flying Start

opportunity to showcase the sport to a wider audience. As a whole, horse racing has experienced a general decline in spectators in recent times. This can be attributed to an increase in alternative sports, betting opportunities and negative media coverage. With the absence of many popular sports, racing has re-emerged as a source of real entertainment for a population of people craving their sporting fix. Recent reports out of the U.S. have signalled twice as many viewers of horse racing, while in Australia, Sydney racing coverage rose

40%. Traditionally, Saturday afternoon coverage of the Sydney Autumn Racing Carnival would be overshadowed by nationally favoured football and rugby competitions. However, in their absence, it is essential that horse racing capitalises on the opportunity. It is now a time to showcase the strengths of our industry while attracting those who feel indifferent towards racing and to convert them into genuine fans of our sport.

During times of difficulty, progression becomes inevitable and almost always overcomes tradition. As an industry largely built on convention, the Thoroughbred industry can be sometimes regarded as behind the times.

Technology has an important role in our industry, but its value hasn't been truly acknowledged until now. Thanks to foresight and technology, we have recently witnessed a portion of an elite yearling sale salvaged with remarkable success. Delivering the first session of the Easter Yearling Sale in a digital format, Inglis has proved that adaptability is essential in challenging times. Since then, sales companies around the world including Arqana and Fasig-Tipton have announced online additions to their businesses.

Technology has also proven itself to be an integral tool in maintaining the Northern Hemisphere breeding season. With coverings in full swing and in an effort to reduce disease risk, all paper-based breeding documents are now required in digital formats. It is likely that studs will reflect on this valuable change and ensure it becomes the norm of their business. It proves that times of uncertainty can be the defining factor in pushing the industry towards embracing innovation.

Overcoming adversity equips us with an increased capability to deal with future misfortunes. In the spring of 2007, the Australian racing industry suffered a catastrophic event during an outbreak of Equine Influenza. It forced national equine movement restrictions, caused cancellations of hundreds of race meetings and losses of millions in prizemoney. It has, however, provided our industry with experience and that has been critical in maintaining racing within mainland Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic. Strict biosecurity protocols and the establishment of specific zones provided the industry with a platform to model the changes imposed by COVID-19. The economic impact Equine Influenza imposed on the Australian breeding and racing industry cannot be understated, however, it certainly improved its capability to deal with future adversity.

Adaptability is critical and we must continue to embrace innovation to ensure our industry remains prosperous in such uncertain times. It is undoubtedly an anxious time for our industry and life in general, however it is important that we focus on the aspects that we can influence rather than fretting about the uncontrollable. Resilience combined with adaptability will see our industry overcome this disaster and prosper on the other side.

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MAGICS TO USE HORSECO'S TECHNOLOGY



Tom Ludt | *Horsephotos*

By Bren O'Brien

Magic Millions' new online auction product is the culmination of 16 months of hard work, with the product's developer, American-based technology company Horseco, confident it can open up a whole new range of trading options for buyers and sellers around the world.

In a significant milestone for the Gold Coast-based auction company, it has come together with Kentucky-based Horseco to hosts its first online auction with the sale of 69 lots on behalf of Cornerstone Stud this week.

"It's an exciting time for the team who have worked on this. It's something we have considered doing for a long time now. It is sheer coincidence that it happened during COVID-19 and it is something we put on the platform late last year," Magic Millions Managing Director Barry Bowditch told *TDN AusNZ*.

"Cornerstone came to us to have an on-farm sale, and this sale is the result of that."

The Cornerstone Stud unreserved reduction sale, which features 69 lots, made up of a mix of broodmares, weanlings, yearlings and race fillies, begins at 3 p.m. this Thursday, with the auction to close next Tuesday.

Horseco Chairman Tom Ludt said the plan was always to launch the product with Magic Millions in Australia and with other sales companies in the US in 2020, with the current coronavirus crisis providing the right environment to get it in front of the market.

"The pandemic has changed everything, but the truth is we have been building this for some time," Ludt said. "Our vision for an online platform was originally as a tool for the industry to work with sales companies, as opposed to a couple of other platforms which are in competition.

"We thought there was an opportunity as the world got more automated to create new sales which would sit outside the current sales environment. From a liquidity point of view, we wanted to give people a chance to trade, whether it be on a particularly hot horse, or at a time more convenient to the seller based on the opportunity.

"We have spent an enormous amount of time and energy on this thing. And now, the pandemic has put everything into high gear and while our intentions were not originally to not be part of a traditional sales schedule, it is very simple to do that."

Bowditch said Magic Millions' plans at this stage were to create auctions which could complement the existing sales calendar.

"These sales are getting very popular, never more so than during this time. Our primary game is the live and public auctions we host and that's not going to change, but this will be an offshoot of those and it's something we've thought about for a long time," he said. "We've got a great test of the auction environment over the next few days, and from there we will continue to work on the site and get it to the highest level we possibly can. From there, we can work out when we believe we can host our second sale."

A Flexible Approach

The initial concept which the Horseco platform was designed around was individual auctions which would give greater opportunities for vendors to get their horses to market, particularly during times where the traditional sales didn't facilitate that opportunity, but with the capacity to host more larger scale sales, such as what Magic Millions is doing with Cornerstone this week.

(You can view the website at www.magicmillions.online)

"The simple plan was that if you had three good hot broodmares and you wanted to sell them and you were nowhere near the broodmare time zone, an auction company could put out an email blast to their customer base and tell them they were going to auction off these three horses at a set time," Ludt said. "It was a great opportunity for the sales company, in this case Magic Millions. It brings credibility that the email is coming from them. It adds credibility for both the buyer and the seller and it was a situation that we felt that the next generation would embrace as an opportunity to gain liquidity."

The Importance of Credibility

Credibility is crucial in both the digital environment and the bloodstock industry and with that in mind, Ludt's team at Horsecos, as well as the team at Magic Millions, have been testing the platform's credentials ahead of launch.

"That's where our system is a little bit unique. We built in partnership with our partners like Magic Millions and we have run so many sample tests and sales internally, with both our staff and their staff," Ludt said. "Now they've gone to a level of bringing in some clients to run demo sales just to get feedback and to get changes. I think you'll see, it has been just extremely horse-user savvy and friendly. "



Barry Bowditch (left) | TDN AusNZ

The feedback Magic Millions has received from its test audience has been extremely positive, according to Bowditch.

"It's incredibly user friendly. It has a good look and a real Magic Millions feel about it. We are just excited to let the clients have a look at it, get their heads around it and hopefully buy some horses over the coming days," he said. "We've been working on it for some time and have tested it religiously. We can't wait to get it up there and let people buy horses and we have got no doubt that it will be very well received."

Marrying Two Sets of Expertise

Building a product which can facilitate the specific requirements of the Thoroughbred sales environment was a challenge and Ludt said Horsecos worked extremely hard to bridge the gap between their horse savvy customer base and a tech savvy program and development team.

Horsecos has also ensured that the technology and hosting is robust enough to handle the likely peak demand on the platform many times over.

"That's one of those things that you pay for. One of the things that is the most important to us is that we have spent so much time testing and not rushing this thing. We've got Amazon backing us up and I've always said all along, with our first chance it is so vital that we go well," Ludt said. "We've bought the space, we've bought the bandwidth, we have paid for the things that the experts say we need to have covered. When you are partnering with the best, you have to make sure you provide the best."

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Highlights Include:

- Cornerstone Embraces Online Platform
- Successful NZB Trial Flight
- Sale Standouts: Big International Pages
- Five Minutes With Linda Monds
- John Moore Nearing Return to Australia

AUSTRALIAN GROUP 1 RACES – 2020		
Date	Race	Track
May 2	G1 TAB Classic (Robert Sangster S.)	Morphettville
	G1 Schweppes Oaks	Morphettville
May 9	G1 TAB Doomben 10,000	Doomben
	G1 TAB South Australian Derby	Morphettville
May 16	G1 Doomben Cup	Doomben
	G1 The Fuhrfy Goodwood	Morphettville
May 23	G1 TAB-Kingford-Smith Cup	Eagle Farm
	G1 Moet & Chandon QLD Derby	Eagle Farm
May 30	G1 Treasury Brisbane QLD Oaks	Eagle Farm
June 6	G1 TAB Stradbroke H.	Eagle Farm
	G1 J J Atkins S.	Eagle Farm
June 20	G1 Sky Racing Tattersall's Tiara	Eagle Farm