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Kentucky legislation would allow state to join racing compact

December 17, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times

Kentucky legislation that could be considered at the upcoming session could pave the way for the state to be one of the first to join the proposed National Racing Compact. State Senator Damon Thayer (R-Georgetown) has prefiled legislation to create a compact that would allow for an expedited adoption process of uniform rules and regulations in racing states. Thayer's compact legislation will be considered during the 2011 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, which begins January 4 and features 30 voting days through March 22.

In September 2009, the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI) established a steering committee made up of industry stakeholders from various segments, including horsemen, racetrack management, and regulators. RCI hopes the compact streamlines changes to industry rules to expedite processes and offer standardization. Participating states would have final say on changes.

The legislature and governor of each individual racing state must pass compact legislation to authorize their individual commissions to act collectively with their counterparts in other jurisdictions. "This compact provides a common sense solution between total deregulation and opening up the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 to allow for federal intervention," Thayer said.

The National Racing Compact was presented to legislators at the 2010 convention of the National Council of State Legislators (NCSL) held in Louisville at a meeting hosted by Kentucky Senate President David Williams and Thayer. Many states are expected to introduce legislation in 2011, including Delaware, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia.

Participating states could realize regulatory savings by merging some functions and eliminating redundancies in information systems, testing labs, and other areas. Each participating state would have a representative on a compact committee that would review and adopt rules. The compact requires passage in six states to get started.

At the NCSL meeting, Rick Goodell of the New York State Racing and Wagering Board said, "Short of those who don't get it or have another agenda, the compact is widely supported. We want to build on our existing system and improve it." Kentucky is currently a member of the National Racing License compact.

"By adopting the compact in the next session, Kentucky can become the first state to take a stand on major reforms benefiting horse racing in the entire country," Thayer said. "It is my hope that we can achieve bipartisan support in 2011, and I look forward to working with the many horse racing groups which have a stake in the passage of the compact.

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EDWARD MARTIN
RCI
President/CEO

WILLIAM KOESTER
Ohio
Chair Elect

JOHN SABINI
New York
Secretary/Treasurer

"Lisa Underwood, executive director of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, has spent countless hours working with regulators and other groups across the country, and I will look to her for leadership and collaboration to get the compact passed in Kentucky."

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/17/kentucky-legislation-racing-compact.aspx>

Keeneland, Turfway park leaders optimistic about tracks' futures

December 20, 2010 – The Lexington Herald-Leader

During his keynote address at the 37th annual Symposium on Racing and Gaming on Dec. 7, Churchill Downs Inc. president Robert Evans stressed repeatedly that the long-term economic scenarios he was discussing with regard to the Thoroughbred racing industry were purely hypothetical.

While Evans was merely laying out a solution to what he termed a "math problem," some racetrack operators warn that the concepts he brought up could become reality if certain factors don't turn around.

One of the issues Evans touched on during his speech was an economic model of what the racing industry could look like in 2020 with tracks earning a 5 percent pre-tax return on their investment capital.

Included in that model was the idea that the number of tracks would drop from 55 to 26. Although Evans reiterated that cutting tracks was not something he was calling for, the ongoing declines in handle and the struggle to fill fields could force some operations to go by the wayside if more isn't done to make tracks profitable again.

"My interpretation of what Bob was saying was, I think he was suggesting that market forces were going to necessitate that kind of climate," said Bob Elliston, president of Turfway Park. "It wasn't going to be like any state was going to go in and eliminate tracks or take away dates, it was simple market forces, the laws of supply of demand, were going to force it. So I don't necessarily disagree with him.

"Something we're looking at in terms of organizing our schedule is the number of race dates we have and the quality of our product," Elliston said. "We have good field sizes, but our purse structure, because we're having to compete with states that supplement their purses, isn't where we'd like it to be. But we're doing everything we can to be one of the 26 that endures, not one of the 29 that no longer exists."

During the same presentation in which Evans laid out what could befall racing if it doesn't fix some of its pressing problems, he cited improved technology and the strong handle that continues to be produced from the sport's top-quality races as reasons why he is optimistic about the future. No growth is going to occur, however, unless racing finds a way to better serve its customers and give its participants reasons to stay in the sport, he said. How racing achieves that is up for debate, but most agree it won't happen unless industry leaders like Evans keep trying to come up with solutions.

"I don't want to sugarcoat the future because the industry has challenges. But I also don't want to be overly pessimistic," said Keeneland president Nick Nicholson. "There is a lot of work to be done, but I can see there is a future ... and that was sort of my take on Bob.

"I was glad to hear his long-term commitment to the sport, I was glad to hear a tone of optimism in that there is a long-term business plan that makes sense. Whether or not the numbers end up being exactly what he says is irrelevant at this stage. It will be what it is. What we're going to do is work hard to make it all be as good as it can be, and we'll see what happens."

<http://www.kentucky.com/2010/12/20/1573274/keeneland-turfway-park-leaders.html#ixzz18gO6BnNC>

Congressman-elect Rivera being investigated, Miami Herald reports

December 19, 2010 – The Fort Meyers News-Press

The Miami-Dade state attorney's office is investigating more than \$500,000 in secret payments from the owners of the Flagler Dog Track to a company tied to Congressman-elect David Rivera, The Miami Herald has learned. Rivera's district covers part of Collier County

Most of the money was paid in early 2008, weeks after Rivera — then a member of the Florida House of Representatives — helped run a political campaign backed by the dog track to win voter approval for Las Vegas-style slot machines at parimutuel venues in Miami-Dade County.

The dog track — now called the Magic City Casino — made three payments totaling \$510,000 to Millennium Marketing, a company currently co-managed by Rivera's 70-year-old mother. Investigators are still trying to determine if Rivera himself received any of the money, or if anything about the transaction was illegal, according to sources close to the inquiry.

Rivera, a Miami Republican elected to Congress on Nov. 2, has previously denied working for the dog track, though he played a public role in supporting the pro-slots referendum campaign. Rivera never reported receiving any money from Flagler during his eight-year tenure in the Legislature.

Rivera, who is scheduled to be sworn in as a member of Congress on Jan. 5, declined to be interviewed for this article, but he released a statement saying that he never received any money from the dog track or from Millennium. In the statement, Rivera said he was "designated by Millennium" to work on the slots campaign after the firm was hired by Flagler, and added he has not been contacted by investigators. At the time the contract was signed, Millennium's sole corporate officer was Rivera's godmother, Ileana Medina.

But Roberto Martinez, an attorney for the dog track, said it was Rivera who first approached the track owners in 2006 asking to manage the slots campaign, and it was Rivera who suggested that the contract go through Millennium, rather than to Rivera directly. Flagler's contract with Millennium was signed by both Rivera and Medina. Flagler's owners "wanted to make sure they retained David's personal services," Martinez said.

Flagler's owners never dealt with Medina or Rivera's mother, Daisy Magarino, who was named a corporate officer of Millennium days after the Flagler contract expired. In a later statement to The Herald, Rivera confirmed that he suggested the contract with Millennium after Flagler's owners "expressed interest" in pursuing the referendum.

In October, while campaigning for Congress, Rivera told The Herald he only "helped" with the slots vote, and denied having a management role in the parimutuel campaign or receiving any payment. But under the October 2006 agreement with Flagler, Rivera was described as the "strategic director" of the pro-slots campaign, and its "Top Leader of Chain of Command of All Campaign Consultants and Campaign Activities," according to the contract, which was reviewed by The Miami Herald. Martinez said Flagler did nothing wrong, and the company's owners are cooperating with the investigation.

Rivera "was very good at what he did, at directing the political campaign. He worked very hard," Martinez said. "Our clients haven't done anything wrong. They have nothing to hide." But in an interview with The Herald earlier this year, a Flagler official denied any contract with Rivera. Flagler's vice president, Isadore Havenick, told the newspaper: "He gave us advice, but he was never hired by us."

Martinez said Havenick's statement is not inconsistent, because the payments from the company went to Millennium, not to Rivera directly. "We don't know where the money went," Martinez said. The payments from the track to Millennium were never publicly disclosed. Millennium was paid directly by Flagler, not through a political action committee Flagler established with two other Miami-Dade parimutuels to finance the campaign. The committee's expenses, which totaled more than \$6.7 million, were disclosed under campaign finance laws.

The track first paid \$50,000 to Millennium on Nov. 1, 2006, when the contract began. Millennium received another \$210,000 on Feb. 26, 2008, and \$250,000 on March 31, 2008.

According to records reviewed by The Herald, the track also agreed to pay Millennium another \$500,000 in monthly installments of \$20,000 -- the remainder of a "success fee" owed to Millennium after the referendum passed in the Jan. 29, 2008, vote. But neither Rivera nor Millennium ever collected on it.

Rivera did not report receiving any income from Flagler Dog Track or Millennium Marketing between

2006 and 2008 in financial disclosure forms filed with the state Ethics Commission. In the forms, Rivera first reported that he worked during those years as a consultant for the U.S. Agency for International Development. The Herald reported in October that USAID had no record that Rivera worked for the agency; Rivera then amended his disclosure forms, omitting any reference to USAID — but without listing any other source of income except his \$30,000 annual salary as a state lawmaker.

Rivera did report working as a consultant through Millennium for other clients from 2002 to 2005. At the time, however, Millennium was not an active company, state records show. Magarino, Rivera's mother, first founded a company called Millennium Marketing Strategies in 2000, but it was dissolved a year later. In 2006, a new Millennium was founded by Medina, a longtime business partner of Magarino's, records show. Magarino reappeared as a Millennium officer in April 2008, four days after the final payment from Flagler. Rivera himself has never been an officer of the company. Medina and Magarino could not be reached for comment.

On Sept. 27, 2006 -- two days after Millennium was re-formed — Rivera paid \$15,000 to the company from his legislative campaign account for "campaign consulting," records show. After winning reelection, Rivera paid another \$15,000 in campaign funds to Millennium for organizing a "thank you campaign," records show.

Under the contract with Flagler, Rivera promised to spend 75 percent of his time managing the campaign to win voter approval for slot machines, a proposal that Miami-Dade voters had defeated in 2005.

At the time, slot machines were a politically delicate issue within the Florida GOP. Then-House speaker Marco Rubio, one of Rivera's closest allies, was publicly opposed to slots, as was outgoing Gov. Jeb Bush.

Under the Flagler contract, Rivera's duties included gaining support of city leaders and unions, and the "identification and neutralization of opposition," including animal rights groups, competing gambling operations, and the "Hispanic community," the contract said.

In April 2007, Flagler teamed with the owners of Calder Race Course and Miami Jai-Alai to form a political action committee called Yes For A Greater Miami-Dade. The parimutuels pumped more than \$6.7 million into the committee to pay for political consultants, advertising, phone banks and get-out-the-vote efforts.

Among those hired by the PAC: Esther Nuhfer, a lobbyist with strong ties to Rivera, and Al Lorenzo, a former Rivera campaign aide. On Feb. 6, 2008 — only eight days after Rivera successfully led the campaign to bring slot machines to Miami-Dade — Rivera filed a bill in Tallahassee that would have nullified the referendum results, disallowing slot machines in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

Millennium received the bulk of its payments — \$460,000 — in the weeks after Rivera proposed this bill, which later died. Asked about the bill at the time, Rivera told The Herald that he wanted to get rid of slots and the Lottery, and put both issues to a statewide vote. Martinez, the lawyer for the track, said Rivera never discussed these bills or any other legislation with the track's owners. Rivera was hired only to manage the referendum campaign, he said.

<http://www.news-press.com/article/20101219/NEWS01/101219033/-1/ENT19/Congressman-elect-Rivera-being-investigated--Miami-Herald-reports>

Jockey Martin Garcia unlikely to ride opening day

December 19, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

Jockey Martin Garcia, who has not ridden since November 7 because of visa problems, remains in Mexico and is unlikely to return to California from his native Mexico in time for opening day on Dec. 26 at Santa Anita.

As of Sunday, it was unclear how long Garcia would be away from California. "We have no idea," according to his agent, Jim Pegram. "I'm just waiting for him to get back here."

Regarding a return for Dec. 26, Pegram was highly skeptical. "It's going to have to happen in the next couple of days," he said. "Right now, it doesn't appear so."

Garcia, 26, had a career-best year in 2010 despite his recent absence. His mounts have earned \$10,151,584, an improvement over his previous best season of \$6.07 million in 2006.

Garcia was closely allied with Baffert throughout the year, riding Lookin At Lucky to wins in the Preakness Stakes (Garcia's first classic win), Grade 1 Haskell Invitational, and Grade 2 Indiana Derby.

<http://www.drf.com/news/garcia-unlikely-ride-opening-day>

Manager of Oklahoma track asks for pay cut

December 18, 2010 – The Tulsa-World

Fair Meadows General Manager Ron Shotts is asking the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority to cut his pay by half over the next three years. "That's just the right thing to do," Shotts said Friday. "I've been well-paid over the years, and we're not making nearly as much as we once did."

Shotts, 64, has been general manager of the Expo Square horse racing track and simulcasting facility since it opened in 1989. He is currently paid \$10,000 per month.

Mark Andrus, president and chief executive officer of Expo Square, called Shotts a "team player" for taking the reduction. "It was a very nice thing to do," Andrus said. "It was not solicited. Ron Shotts has been an exceptional director of racing and will continue to be so." Shotts said he is asking for a three-year contract that cuts his salary by \$3,000 a month in its first year, \$4,000 a month in its second year and \$5,000 a month in its third year. The proposal will be formally submitted Tuesday to the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority board of directors, which administers Expo Square.

Shotts' proposed \$36,000 pay cut for next year is part of a \$140,000 reduction in the track's budget. Shotts said no one will be laid off, but some employees will see their hours reduced. One of the two large rooms in the simulcast facility is being closed to regular daily use, a move Shotts said will save more than \$50,000 a year in labor and operating costs.

"Our simulcast handle is probably half of what it was 10 years ago," Shotts said. He attributed the decline to a general drop nationally in horse race betting and the proliferation of tribal casinos in the Tulsa area. "We really have a unique situation," he said. The facility nets about \$1.5 million a year for Expo Square but loses money on its live racing meet and makes only a small amount on simulcast wagering. The track is profitable primarily because of an agreement with Tulsa-area tribes that pays Fair Meadows a minimum of \$2 million a year in lieu of installing gambling machines at the racetrack.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=16&articleid=20101218_16_A17_CUTLIN786217

Synthetic surfaces boast fewer fatal breakdowns than dirt

December 15, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times

Horses who raced on a dirt surface in the U.S. during the last two years had an increased chance of a fatal breakdown compared with racing on a synthetic surface based on data released Wednesday by the Jockey Club.

In looking at two years of data through October 31, 2010, the Equine Injury Database determined horses racing on a synthetic surface were 27.6% less likely to break down than horses racing on a dirt surface. In looking at the two racing years, horses broke down at a rate of 2.14 times per 1,000 dirt starts as compared with 1.55 times per 1,000 synthetic starts. That is the equivalent of one additional breakdown on dirt versus synthetic for every 1,695 starters.

For the purposes of the study, a fatal breakdown is a breakdown that leads to a horse's death, whether that death occurs on the track, at the stable, or at some point after life-saving measures are attempted.

In July, the database released figures for the first 12 months of the study—November 1, 2008, through October 31, 2009. While it determined horses racing on synthetic surfaces suffered 16.8% fewer fatal breakdowns, experts wanted more statistics—specifically more synthetic surface data—before declaring the difference statistically relevant.

With a second year of races added to the study, a year in which synthetic surfaces saw fewer fatal breakdowns while dirt races remained steady at 2.14, Tim Parkin, Ph.D., a veterinarian and epidemiologist from the University of Glasgow who serves as a database consultant, noted the difference as relevant.

“The addition of 376,000 starts to the database in year two enabled us to statistically validate certain trends seen in the data,” Parkin said. “Trends will continue to emerge and evolve as additional data becomes available for study and as more complex statistical analyses are performed. This will allow us to understand how different variables, alone and in concert, may impact the risk of fatality.”

Based on 754,932 starts in the two-year study, the U.S. fatal injury rate is 2.00 per 1,000 starts. That overall rate was down from 2.04 in the first year of the study. The reduction can largely be attributed to the strong year synthetic surfaces enjoyed as their rate went from 1.78 for the first year to 1.55 for the first two years combined. Dirt and turf were steady as dirt was at 2.14 for the first year and combined two years and turf went from 1.78 to 1.74.

Among other trends gleaned from Parkin's analysis of the cumulative two-year data:

- Fillies and mares competing in races that were open to horses of both sexes were not at an increased risk of fatality compared with those competing in races restricted to fillies and mares.
- The prevalence of fatality in juveniles continues to be significantly lower than older horses racing on dirt surfaces. However, on synthetic or turf surfaces, there was no statistically significant difference in the prevalence of fatality between two-year-olds and older horses.
- The prevalence of fatality continued to be unaffected by distance, weight carried, and movement of races off the turf.

“We will continue to publish these national benchmarks on an annual basis to provide the necessary statistical foundation participating racetracks need for monitoring and comparing their individual results,” said the Jockey Club's executive director Matt Iuliano.

“Racetracks participating in the Equine Injury Database have an extensive menu of reporting tools and other resources available through the InCompass RTO system designed to assist management in developing safety initiatives aimed at reducing injuries to our equine athletes,” he added. “As the database continues to grow, we look forward to the additional information and statistical power it will yield to improve the health and safety of the racehorse.”

The Jockey Club, through two of its for-profit subsidiary companies, InCompass and The Jockey Club Technology Services Inc., has underwritten the cost to develop and operate the Equine Injury Database as a service to the industry. By agreement with the participating racetracks, from time to time The Jockey Club may publish certain summary statistics

from the Equine Injury Database, but will not provide statistics that identify specific participants, including racetracks, horses or persons. The Equine Injury Database contains a suite of reports for racetracks to analyze data collected at their respective facilities.

Click here for further detail on the Equine Injury Database. A list of racetracks that have signed up to participate in the Equine Injury Database can be found **here**.

To view the Equine Injury Database analysis sheet, **click here**.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/15/synthetic-surfaces-boast-fewer-catastrophic-breakdowns-than-dirt.aspx>

Pa. Ag secretary says slots gaming rejuvenating state horse racing

December 18, 2010 – The Observer-Reporter

Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell C. Redding told the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board Thursday that the state's racing industry has had its annual value boosted by \$3.4 billion and created more than 44,000 equine-related jobs from the Race Horse Development and Gaming Act.

Gov. Edward G. Rendell signed Act 71 in 2004, adding gaming to the state's racetracks and directing a portion of gaming revenue to enhance live horse racing and breeding programs.

"Pennsylvania has gained national recognition for its quality horse and harness racing thanks to the support provided by Act 71," Redding said in a news release. "The addition of gaming at racetracks has exponentially increased purses paid to winning horses, allowing us to attract prestigious competitors and grow Pennsylvania's racing industry.

"We must continue to work to ensure the positive effects of Act 71 are felt throughout the racing industry."

Since slots gaming began in 2006, nearly \$700 million in purses has been awarded to top competitors at Pennsylvania racetracks.

Purses in Pennsylvania for harness racing in 2009 were \$108 million and each of the three harness tracks rank among the top seven in North America for purse payments. In 2009, thoroughbred racing purses in Pennsylvania topped \$116 million, an increase of \$64 million since 2006.

Increased purses and an injection of revenue into the Standardbred, Sire Stakes and Thoroughbred breeding funds increased the number of Pennsylvania-bred horses by 10 percent, while North America experienced a 12 percent decline. Breeding fund awards are distributed to the breeders of winning Pennsylvania-bred and Pennsylvania-sired horses.

Redding added that Act 71 also encouraged investment in new farms, breeding stock, equipment, veterinary services and agricultural production, strengthening Pennsylvania's agricultural community.

Gaming Control Board Chairman Greg Fajt said the partnership between horse racetracks and casinos has been a win-win for all.

"It is always important to remember that if not for horse racing, we would not have legalized casino gaming in Pennsylvania," Fajt said. "In kind, the evidence is clear that the success of legalized slot machine and table gaming has reinvigorated the horse racing industry and had a positive effect on Pennsylvania's agriculture industry."

<http://www.observer-reporter.com/or/biz/12-18-2010-SLOTS-IMPACT-ON-PA-RACING>

Lawsuit over Kentucky Derby ticket scam that named assistant Louisville basketball coach dismissed

December 17, 2010 – The Louisville Courier-Journal

A Jefferson Circuit judge has defended Kentucky's anti-scalping law in dismissing a ticket broker's lawsuit that alleged that University of Louisville assistant men's basketball coach Steve Masiello took \$70,000 to procure Kentucky Derby and Oaks tickets, then reneged on the deal and kept most of the money.

"The purchase of tickets here in Kentucky for a price exceeding their issue price most assuredly is a criminal act" and "the courts of justice are not in the business of facilitating criminal acts," Judge Charles Cunningham Jr. said in a 10-page ruling throwing out a lawsuit filed by broker Scott Davis, who also is an Oldham County magistrate.

Defending the right of Churchill Downs to discourage ticket scalping, Cunningham also said in his Dec. 7 order that "part of the Derby's allure comes from experiencing it with over a hundred thousand socially and geographically diverse race fans," while for scalpers, "it is just a chance to make a buck."

Cunningham said "nobody should be disparaged for trying to make money off the Derby, since nearly everyone does" but as with "panderers and prostitutes, scalpers cross the line in their efforts to profit from this astounding assemblage of cash on the hoof."

U of L athletic department spokesman Kenny Klein said this week that Masiello and department officials had no comment on the ruling. Masiello's attorney, Tim McCall, said his client "is happy and relieved, and so am I." Davis' co-counsel, Garry Adams, said his client, "who feels like he was robbed of \$60,000," was "shocked by the result." On Thursday Adams filed a motion to vacate or modify the ruling, saying that as much as Cunningham might want Kentucky's anti-scalping law to "reach across the river," selling tickets above their face value is legal in Indiana.

John Asher, a spokesman for Churchill Downs, said it "certainly values the judge's appreciation for the Kentucky Derby and its grand tradition, but aside from that we would not want to insert ourselves in a ... criminal matter between unrelated third parties that does not directly involve our racetrack."

In his lawsuit, filed in June, Davis alleged that he gave Masiello tens of thousands of dollars for choice Derby and Oaks tickets, but that the coach produced only \$10,000 or less in tickets, including some that allegedly were stolen, and returned only \$10,000. Masiello has claimed he served only as an intermediary between Davis and Steve Netherton, whom he describes as another ticket broker, while Davis alleged that Masiello was the principal behind the deal and agreed to take half the profits.

Depositions in the case shed additional light on Masiello's relationship with Netherton, a convicted felon who also is charged in a pending indictment with allegedly stealing \$125,000 that he was paid for 2008 Ryder Cup tickets at Valhalla Golf Club that were never delivered.

The documents also offer a glimpse inside the usually secret world of Derby ticket scalping. Davis testified in a deposition that Derby and Oaks tickets sell for as much as four to five times their face value, and that he acquires some tickets directly from Churchill Downs by virtue of his membership in the Gold Room, which is reserved for those who bet more than \$100,000 a year at the track.

Davis said he sold about 800 Oaks and Derby tickets last spring to about 50 customers, but in his deposition, he declined to identify them, in part because he said he was concerned that McCall, who is also a ticket broker, might use the information for his competitive advantage. McCall said in an interview that he sought the names of Davis' clients only "to get to the bottom of the allegations in this case."

Davis was charged in June with attempted theft and other offenses in Clark County, Ind., for failing to deliver tickets to five customers, and is scheduled to be tried Jan. 11. Adams said he expects the charges to be dismissed because the customers all got replacement tickets or refunds. Assistant Prosecutor Jacob Elder said the case hasn't been resolved, although he has agreed to delay the trial.

The ruling

Cunningham said that “at a minimum” that Davis “acted with deceit” toward Churchill Downs “by throwing tens of thousands of dollars” at customers to induce them to violate their contract with the track not to sell or buy tickets above their face value.

The court said Davis also engaged in “criminal facilitation by providing the cash, which enabled Masiello or his minions to scalp the tickets.” While Davis claimed it is not illegal to buy tickets above face value in Kentucky, only to sell them there, Cunningham said that because the Derby takes place in Kentucky, Davis couldn't evade responsibility for violating the law even if his company “purports to slink across the river to Indiana,” where scalping is legal, to sell tickets.

Cunningham said his opinion might seem “unfairly harsh” toward Davis and “unfairly benevolent” toward Masiello but Kentucky law is “rather stark” in barring judges from enforcing contracts that would govern illegal conduct.

For example, state courts refused to enforce an agreement in which an off-track betting parlor “foolishly accepted” a gambler's promissory note to cover his debts.

Masiello's role

Masiello said in a deposition in September that he didn't know that Netherton had been convicted of a felony — in 2007, for defrauding 14 investors of more than \$250,000 through a variety of schemes — or that he faced new felony charges over the Ryder Cup tickets.

“I never heard anything that would make me say this is someone I need to be cautious of being around or stay away from because it could affect my livelihood or my career,” Masiello said. He said Netherton helped him get Turf Club seats so he could take his mother and other relatives to the 2009 Derby. “If somebody is good to me, I'm good to them,” Masiello said. He said he agreed to help Davis find Derby tickets at the request of a mutual friend in New York whose family Masiello had known for years. He denied Davis' claims that he agreed to share half the profits and said he repeatedly turned down Davis' offers of payments. “I said I don't need a dime,” Masiello said he told Davis. “I've got a great career.”

Masiello claimed he only served as an “intermediary” between Davis and Netherton. He said he arranged meetings between the two, accepted cash from Davis and delivered it to Netherton or called Netherton to demand delivery of the tickets.

Netherton's attorney, G. Murray “Butch” Turner, denied in an interview that his client was a ticket broker and said Masiello used him to find tickets because he had access to them as a patron of Churchill Downs. Turner also disputed that Masiello was merely an intermediary, saying that he took money from Davis and supplied him with tickets.

Davis deposition

Davis, who also gave a deposition in September, said that when he first met with Masiello at his office last April, Netherton was present but was identified only as Steve, and that Masiello accepted \$20,000 in cash from Davis for tickets and put it in his desk drawer.

Asked about his business, DerbyDeals.com, Davis said he acquires tickets from Churchill Downs as well as from other brokers, several of whom he named. But he refused to identify individuals from whom he buys tickets, in part because he said he feared the track would cut them off and he'd lose them as sources.

“It is a very important aspect of this business as a ticket broker to maintain the confidentiality of these people,” Davis said.

He refused to answer other questions, citing his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. Thomas Clay, another attorney for Davis, said in the deposition that he had learned from McCall that federal authorities were investigating Davis on a “wide range of issues which may include bank fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to do this and that, and betting money for people at Churchill Downs in excess of \$20,000.”

Special Agent Dave Beyer, an FBI spokesman, said, "We can neither confirm nor deny that we have an ongoing investigation" of Davis, Netherton or Masiello.

Adams said federal authorities have never contacted Davis and he has fully cooperated with Louisville Metro Police and law enforcement in Clark County.

McCall also said that Masiello has cooperated with investigations on both sides of the river, and been cleared of any wrongdoing.

Louisville Metro Detective John Mellen would say only that his investigation is continuing.

"This has a lot of tentacles to it," he said.

<http://www.courier-journal.com/print/article/20101217/NEWS01/312180004/Lawsuit-over-Kentucky-Derby-ticket-scam-that-named-assistant-Louisville-basketball-coach-dismissed>

Texas Legislator Wants Public Input on Gambling Issue

December 19, 2010 – Casino Gambling Web

If California is the most liberal state when it comes to gambling expansion over the past decade, then Texas may be the most conservative. While other states have continued to move in the direction of full casino gambling, Texas lawmakers have repeatedly turned away the idea.

Representative Richard Pena Raymond may understand that he has no chance to get a gambling laws passed that would regulate casinos. That is why he is proposing that Texans decide the issue. Raymond's bill deals with the dozens of amusement centers that are currently paying out more than the state legal limit.

The amusement halls operate what authorities are calling eight-liner slot machines. The maximum amount that can be won on the machines during a payout is \$5. The centers can also give out prizes instead of cash to winners on the machines. Law enforcement officials, however, have busted many of these establishments for paying out more than \$5 in cash.

Raymond claims that he has discussed the issue of the gaming establishments with many Texas residents, and they have varying views on the subject. Whether or not it is accepted through a vote, Raymond believes that Texans should have the final say.

The tough part of the proposal for current gaming facility owners is that the legislation would cause an immediate shutdown of the gaming centers. Once the law is in place, voters who want the gaming establishments would be permitted to petition to have the issue placed on the ballot.

Law enforcement officials have said that it is nearly impossible to police the gaming activity taking place in the state. The man power needed is not readily available, and it would cost millions of dollars to seek out and raid all of the establishments offering the slot-like games.

Texas legislators have started to take the gambling issue serious in the past couple of years, but they have not passed any legislation that would legalize casinos. In the meantime, most other states in the US have expanded gambling in some form since the economic recession.

<http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/gambling-law/texas-legislator-wants-public-input-on-gambling-issue-56184.html>

Temporary deal keeps Meadowlands open through spring

December 18, 2010 – NJ.com

Gov. Chris Christie and horse owners have reached a temporary deal to keep harness racing alive at the Meadowlands through the spring, buying more time to convert from public to private the operations of the nation's premier harness racing track.

Yesterday, Christie announced that the state will allow standardbred owners to negotiate a lease of the track that will be partially funded through off-track betting.

The state will front owners a \$1.2 million secured loan for the first quarter of 2011, ending April 1, to cover operating costs and allow the 2011 meet to start as planned on Jan. 7.

The loan is secured using simulcast earnings to pay it back and gives the horse owners and a real estate investor time to work out a permanent deal. If a deal is not reached by April, live racing at the Meadowlands will shut down, with the possible exception of the Hambletonian meet in August.

The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority owns both the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park. Since taking office last year, the Republican governor has been looking for a way to get the state out of the horse racing business; Monmouth Park is set to lose \$6.6 million this year, and the Meadowlands an additional \$11 million.

"We want to make sure racing continues, but we also want to make sure we keep faith by the taxpayers by making sure we do not have a subsidy going any further," Christie said, adding that the agreements are subject to approval by the state Racing Commission, Sports and Exposition Authority and the state attorney general.

A commission appointed by Christie released a report on Nov. 15 saying New Jersey cannot support two state-run tracks. It proposed ending live racing at the Meadowlands and consolidating thoroughbred and harness racing at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, starting in 2011.

The commission's plan also called for the two tracks to be sold to a private owner and for the Meadowlands Racetrack to be used as an off-track betting facility. Christie said the state is not interested in allowing other forms of gambling, such as video slot machines, at the Meadowlands at this point.

<http://www.nj.com/sports/jjournal/index.ssf?/base/sports-6/1292657141313100.xml&coll=3>

SBOANJ comment on Meadowlands deal

December 18, 2010 – The US Trotting Association

Standardbred horsemen and the governor of New Jersey reached an agreement on Friday (Dec. 17) which will permit the Meadowlands Racetrack to operate a 2011 meet, starting Jan. 7.

"I am pleased to announce that after weeks of negotiations, the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey has reached an agreement with Governor Chris Christie to continue racing at the Meadowlands Racetrack in 2011," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento. "We are thankful real estate entrepreneur and harness racing enthusiast Jeff Gural came to our aid during the final stretch of discussions with the Christie administration.

"While the deal with the Governor to save Standardbred racing at Meadowlands is not 100-percent perfect, it will provide our industry a temporary lifeline, giving us time to implement innovative changes that will foster self-sufficiency.

"We are very grateful to Monmouth County legislators such as Senator Jennifer Beck and Assemblymembers Caroline Casagrande, Declan O'Scanlon, Joseph Malone and Ronald Dancer for their commitment to the racing and breeding industry in this state.

“We are especially appreciative to the Democratic leadership of Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, along with Assemblymen John Burzichelli and Joseph Cryan, Senators Paul Sarlo and Ray Lesniak and Assemblymembers Connie Wagner and Ralph Caputo for making this possible. We need to applaud these legislators for their advocacy of our cause and for the innovative legislation they initiated which offers us a chance to market and grow racing as an entertainment and wagering option.”

<http://xwebapp.ustrotting.com/absolutenm/templates/?a=40473&z=63>

N.Y. racetracks, OTBs get approval to video-stream races

December 22, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

The New York State Racing and Wagering Board has given the state’s racetracks and regional Off-Track Betting corporations approval to video-stream races for one year, effective immediately.

The state’s five regional OTBs were likely to begin video-streaming races as early as Thursday, but the New York Racing Association – which is currently conducting racing at Aqueduct – is not expected to begin video-streaming before its next live racing date, Dec. 29.

In the wake of the Dec. 7 shutdown of New York City OTB, the ability to video-stream races live was viewed as key component by New York Racing Association president Charles Hayward as a way for NYRA to recoup some of the lost handle from OTB players. In previous comments, Hayward believed that former OTB customers were more likely to open advance deposit wagering accounts with companies that could show the races live on the Internet.

NYRA officials were unavailable for comment Wednesday.

Since Dec. 8, NYRA has signed up more than 1,200 new customers to its NYRA Rewards program, and now fans who wager via telephone and/or the Internet will be able to see the races live on the computer as they happen.

Though several facets of the racing industry interpreted the law differently, the ability to video-stream required the consent of all of the OTBS and tracks before the State Racing and Wagering Board would approve it.

“We’re very pleased that the major financial stake holders in New York racing have come together and acted in their common best interests,” SRWB chairman John Sabini said Wednesday through a New York State Racing and Wagering spokesperson.

<http://www.drf.com/news/ny-racetracks-otbs-get-approval-video-stream-races>

Financial Grants Awarded to Horse Rescues

December 18, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has distributed financial grants to more than 30 equine rescue groups. The grants were made possible by a horseback riding fundraiser organized by the American Competitive Trail Horse Association (ACTHA) this summer.

The "Ride for the Rescues" was a Guinness Book of World Record-breaking event comprised of 50 trail-riding competitions held across the country on one day in June 2010. About 1,700 horses and riders participated in the event, raising nearly \$70,000 to benefit the HSUS' work with horse rescues and sanctuaries. Proceeds benefited rescue groups in 24 states.

"We thank the American Competitive Trail Horse Association for recognizing our work with the horse rescue community and dedicating their charity event to support the needs of these organizations," said Keith Dane, HSUS' director of equine protection. "It is our hope that the funds distributed will bolster equine rescues' tireless efforts to save horses and offer them a second chance at life."

There are nearly 600 equine rescues and sanctuaries operating in the United States that rehabilitate neglected and abused horses, secure new adoptive homes, or provide them with lifetime care. As with other nonprofit organizations, horse rescues rely heavily on donations to assist these animals.

HSUS grant recipient Jo Deibel, president of Angel Acres Horse Haven Rescue in Pennsylvania, said, "We are honored to have received this grant, which will allow us to further our mission to help save horses bound for slaughter and assist more horses in need. The winter months are fast approaching and this grant will help more horses at a time of great need."

Each year, ACTHA sponsors hundreds of rides across the country, providing fun and casual venues to showcase horses of all breeds while raising funds for needy horses.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60384/financial-grants-awarded-to-horse-rescues>

Handle, attendance decline at Hollywood's fall meet

December 20, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

Hollywood Park's seven-week fall meeting ended on Sunday with a decline in average ontrack and all-sources mutuel handle, and ontrack attendance, according to figures released by the racetrack.

The meeting ended prematurely with the cancellation of the Sunday program after two races when jockeys deemed the course unsafe after substantial rainfall. The fall meeting marked the conclusion of three months of racing at Hollywood comprising consecutive meetings – the Oak Tree at Hollywood meet from Sept. 28 to Oct. 31, followed by the Hollywood fall meeting from Nov. 4 through Sunday.

The track reported a 4.2 percent decline in average daily all sources handle, to \$8.015 million from \$8.362 million in 2009. Daily ontrack handle dropped by 2.1 percent from last year. Boosted by the simulcast of the two-day Breeders' Cup from Churchill Downs, the track reported an 8 percent increase in average daily handle generated in Southern California from all sources, to \$4.187 million from \$3.875 million in 2009. Last year, Hollywood Park did not offer simulcasting on the Breeders' Cup, which was conducted across town at Santa Anita. Ontrack attendance dropped less than 1 percent, the track reported.

Track president Jack Liebau expressed frustration at a drop in average starters per race during the fall meet. The 29-day meeting had an average of 7.29 starters per race, compared with 7.53 during a 27-day fall meeting in 2009.

"It went as well as I expected," Liebau said. "I would have liked to have had more support at the entry box. Our fields were short and I find that to be very discouraging.

"You have to look at the economy in California, with 12 percent unemployment. In the area around Hollywood Park, it was higher than that."

Liebau said Hollywood Park would like to have a schedule in 2011 that is similar to this year's. The California Horse Racing Board has granted Hollywood a spring-summer meeting from April 20 through July 17, and a fall meeting from Nov. 9 through Dec. 18. But dates for the autumn are uncertain. The California Horse Racing Board has not assigned racing dates for the six-week period from Sept. 28 through Nov. 6 – the traditional time of the Oak Tree meeting. Oak Tree has committed to running its 2011 meeting at Hollywood Park, with the possibility of relocating to Del Mar in the future. Santa Anita also has expressed an interest in running its own meet during those dates. The board is expected to address the issue at its Jan. 20 meeting.

Hollywood Park's parent company, the Bay Meadows Land Co., has said the track will be closed in the future for development, but the track will operate through 2011, Liebau said. "We are committed to run in 2011," he said.

Doug O'Neill won the training title with 16 wins from 104 starters, two more than John Sadler, who had 54 starters, and Peter Miller (35 starters).

La Canada Stables led all owners with eight wins.

Joel Rosario won his third riding title of the year, finishing with 47 winners, 12 more than runner-up Rafael Bejarano. Rosario won riding titles at the Hollywood Park spring-summer and Del Mar meetings. Bejarano won titles earlier this year at the Santa Anita winter-spring and Oak Tree meetings.

The Miller-trained Comma to the Top was named horse of the meet, with three stakes wins, including the Grade 1 CashCall Futurity last Saturday.

<http://www.drf.com/news/handle-attendance-decline-hollywoods-fall-meet>

Gulfstream Making Betting More Affordable

December 16, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

Gulfstream Park on Dec. 16 announced its 2011 wagering menu that will include its first Pick 5, with a 50-cent minimum bet, and a major reduction of its Pick 6 minimum bet from \$2 to 10 cents.

The Hallandale Beach track will hold its 2011 meet from Jan. 5 through April 24.

In another development, officials of Gulfstream and of the Florida Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association told *The Blood-Horse* that they have signed all necessary 2011 contracts--but only through Feb. 28,

The contracts are for purses, simulcasts and advance deposit wagering. Gulfstream and the Florida HPBA always have contracts for a full calendar year, to include financial and operational matters that extend beyond the close of the live race meet.

But for 2011, it appears that Gulfstream and its parent MI Developments (MID) want to get an early agreement with the Florida HBPA on possibly holding races after 7 p.m.

Florida laws prohibit Thoroughbred tracks from having races after 7 p.m. Gulfstream and MID are hoping that the 2011 Florida Legislature will change that rule. The legislature will hold its 2011 general session from March 8 through May 7. If it authorizes post-7 p.m. racing, Gulfstream would be able to begin it during its 2012 meet.

Wagering Menu

Gulfstream's Pick 5 will have 15% takeout, which it calls a "record low."

It will add an early Pick 4, on the second to fifth races. The minimum bet will be 50 cents, the same as on the holdover Pick 4 on the last four races. Gulfstream will again have rolling Daily Doubles and Pick 3s.

It is considering the addition of rolling superfectas, said Tim Ritvo, MID's vice president of East Coast racing which includes Gulfstream.

Win, Place, Show, Daily Double, Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta and Pick 3s will be a \$1 minimum wager.

But for many on-track, simulcast and ADW bettors, the biggest attention will be on the New Pick 5 and the low Pick 6 minimum that will in effect open that wager to bettors who feel that a \$2 minimum, with part-wheels, is not affordable.

"We're optimistic and excited about the new wagers we're introducing and the fact Gulfstream will be offering many of the lowest takeouts in the country," said Steve Calabro, President and GM of Gulfstream Park. "We think the Pick 5, Pick 4's and 10 cent Pick 6 creates more opportunities for our fans."

Gulfstream will start each day with a 12:55 p.m., first race post time. The early Pick 4 will begin with the second race while the late Pick 4 will be on the last four races. The Pick 5 will be on the day's last five races and the Pick 6 on the day's last six. The Pick 5, Pick 4 and Pick 6 wagers will be accepted only at self-service terminals.

The entire 10 cents Pick 6 will be awarded only to one unique ticket. On days there are multiple winners, 60% of the pool will be shared equally while 40% goes back into the jackpot

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60382/gulfstream-making-betting-more-affordable>

CHRB gives account wagering firms one month license extensions

December 16, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

The California Horse Racing Board voted on Thursday to extend the operating licenses of four account wagering companies doing business in the state for one month, through Jan. 30, contingent on the companies completing simulcasting arrangements and other contracts with racetracks by Jan. 1.

The operating licenses of Xpressbet.com, TVG, Twinspires.com, and Youbet.com were subject to renewal at Thursday's meeting at Santa Anita.

The board could have extended the licenses up to two years but did not do so because the organizations did not have all agreements in place with horsemen's groups and racetracks for the right to take signals. Each firm had at least one contract that was not finalized.

Twinspires.com lacks a labor agreement with the local pari-mutuel union, and horsemen's agreements with Santa Anita and Golden Gate Fields for the meetings that begin at those tracks on Dec. 26.

Twinspires.com vice president Brad Blackwell said that his company is "discussing" whether to dedicate all additional revenue earned from the soon to be enacted takeout increase on exotic wagers on California races toward purses in the state, something the other account wagering companies told the racing board they were willing to do.

The higher takeout was passed earlier this year. The additional funds are expected to total \$25 million annually and are mandated to go only toward overnight purses. The bill takes effect on Dec. 26.

When pressed on the issue by angry commissioners, Blackwell said, "I'm not the point person on this issue." Blackwell was told by commissioner Jesse Choper that "you might want to resolve it pretty soon. I don't know that it's fair for you not to do what the intention was to do. I urge you to get those discussions over with and get on board."

Youbet.com is a subsidiary of Twinspires.com. The company acquired Youbet in a transaction completed earlier this year.

Racing board chairman Keith Brackpool said the higher takeout does not include provisions for additional revenue for groups such as breeders or racetracks, and that the money is to be dedicated to purses in an attempt to reverse declining ownership and field size in the state.

"We all hold hands together and jump," he said, directing his comments toward Blackwell. "You don't get to jump separately."

<http://www.drf.com/news/chrb-gives-account-wagering-firms-one-month-license-extensions>

Jockey banned two years for electrical device

December 17, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

An Ontario Quarter Horse jockey has been suspended for two years by the province's racing commission after the panel concluded that the rider had apparently been in possession of an electrical device in the starting gate at Ajax Downs in May.

The jockey, Jesse Daigrepoint, has been active at his trade for 23 years.

<http://www.drf.com/news/jockey-banned-two-years-electrical-device>

Gulfstream reaches deal with horsemen for first half of meeting only

December 16, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

Gulfstream Park has reached a racing agreement with its horsemen that will expire halfway through the track's upcoming meet, a representative of the Florida Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association said on Thursday.

The unusual agreement will expire on Feb. 28, requiring horsemen and the track to negotiate an additional deal or extension while the meet is running, according to Kent Stirling, the executive director of the horsemen's association. Owned by MI Developments, Gulfstream will open on Jan. 5 and close on April 24.

According to Stirling, Gulfstream has asked the horsemen to agree to a contract that would expire on closing day, but the horsemen insisted that the contract run for at least a calendar year. The contract covers distributions of the track's wagering revenues and includes the horsemen's consent for simulcasting.

Stirling said that horsemen were uncertain why Gulfstream was pushing for the abbreviated contract. Under the compromise the two sides reached, Gulfstream officials and horsemen are expected to "brainstorm" new ways for the track to make money in advance of reaching a new deal that would run through at least the end of the year, according to Stirling.

Gulfstream officials did not return phone calls on Thursday.

Stirling said that Frank Stronach, the chairman of MI Developments, participated in the negotiations and told horsemen that "the model's broken" without providing specifics on changes the company would be seeking.

"He said he wanted to do a lot of brainstorming on how to make new revenues," Stirling said.

Stronach has consistently complained that racing is over-regulated in the United States. He has also said that racetracks should be free to race as many dates as possible, without relying on approval from regulators.

Thoroughbred racing dates in South Florida are currently held by two tracks: Gulfstream and Calder Race Course, which is owned by Churchill Downs Inc. While Gulfstream races exclusively from January to the end of April, Calder races the remainder of the dates.

A third South Florida track, Hialeah Park, runs a Quarter Horse meet from October to January. The owner of Hialeah, John Brunetti, has said that he would seek Thoroughbred dates if state law were changed to allow a meet at the track.

Earlier this year, the former chief executive of MI Developments, Dennis Mills, said that the company had plans to install lights at Gulfstream, despite a state law that prohibits the start of a live Thoroughbred race after 7 p.m. Stirling said the plans to install lights have been shelved, although he expected Gulfstream officials to lobby for a change to the law when the legislature comes back into session in January.

The contract in place for the first two months of the meet will provide for purses of \$400,000 a day, according to Stirling, a sharp increase over average purse distribution of approximately \$325,000 a day during last year's meet. The increase is tied to legislation passed earlier this year that reduced the state tax rate on gambling revenue at racetrack casinos from 50 percent to 35 percent. Horsemen share in the revenue from the casinos.

<http://www.drf.com/news/gulfstream-reaches-deal-horsemen-first-half-meeting-only>

New Push For New York Off-Track Betting

December 19, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

Seeking to make long-stalled legislative gains in the aftermath of the New York City Off-Track Betting Corp.'s shutdown, a number of racing interests are stepping up efforts to create a single, statewide OTB network in New York.

At a December 15 hearing called by the Assembly racing committee, some industry executives said the four-decade-old OTB model in New York should be replaced with a track-owned betting conglomerate as a way to end the internecine warfare for a dwindling betting dollar.

"If we can fix this we can put New York in the forefront of racing," New York Racing Association President Charles Hayward said of a renewed effort to merge OTB operations now scattered across the state.

But Hayward urged state lawmakers not to wait for the industry agreement for a new OTB model. "We aren't going to get together to solve this problem," Hayward said of the tracks and OTBs that have long butted heads in New York. He called for an "independent" review of the pari-mutuel model in New York that, Hayward believes, will end the longtime, patronage-heavy system that now—with NYCOTB's shutdown—has five regional OTB corporations operating.

But OTB executives pushed back. "Consolidation is not necessary," said Donald Groth, the president of Catskill OTB. "The OTBs have been turning a profit and sharing revenues with local governments. Those who call for consolidation are really looking to feather their own nests."

In an interview after he testified before the Assembly committee, Groth said local governments—one of the original, intended beneficiaries of the OTB system in New York—would come up short if a track-owned OTB conglomerate was created.

In the week after the closure of NYCOTB, which handled one-fourth of horse racing bets in the state, tracks and their supporters, including horsemen and breeding groups, are trying to use the moment to advance lobbying efforts that have been blocked for years—if not decades—at the Capitol.

"Some of the discussions we're having today wouldn't have happened if OTB hadn't gone down," Hayward said.

"They do have an opportunity," Groth said of the racetracks' efforts, "because there's a public perception that OTB is a failure." But he said the problem is the fiscal revenue-sharing formula, mandated by the state, that put pressure on the NYCOTB to close.

The Assembly hearing was part-lobbying and part comfort-seeking, as racing industry officials in New York try to work their way through the fog that has been created in the aftermath of the NYCOTB shuttering.

As NYCOTB moved December 15 in federal bankruptcy court to have its Chapter 9 case dismissed and on a path to permanently shut down operations, industry executives used the Assembly hearing to do a sizeable amount of venting.

Jeff Cannizzo of the New York Thoroughbred Breeders, said breeding farms in 50 counties are at risk following the NYCOTB shutdown. NYCOTB provided 36% of the revenues of the state's breeding fund. He predicted fewer New York-breds, resulting in smaller fields at tracks and, as a result, declining handle. At NYRA in 2009, he said New York-breds accounted for 57% of the fields.

"Without providing those horses, this whole game doesn't exist," he said.

A frustrated Assembly Racing and Wagering Committee Chairman Gary Pretlow, who has refereed years of industry disputes, said the NYCOTB closing should be a time for the competing interests to work on a resolution. "This infighting between this industry really has to stop," he told industry officials.

The racing officials also pushed lawmakers to help resolve a long dispute over video streaming of races over the internet. NYRA and the OTBs, among others, are actively negotiating a deal to permit bettors to watch live streaming – instead of tape delays—on their computers or smart phones. Officials believe it will sharply increase handle and lure some NYCOTB patrons to other OTBs and NYRA instead of out-of-state bookmakers.

Groth, the Catskill OTB chief, said the state attorney general's office should move now against private, out-of-state ADW shops which he said are "poaching" some \$500 million in bets from New York annually.

Joe Faraldo, of the Standardbred Owners Association of New York, who represents Yonkers harness track horsemen, said the state has an opportunity now to create a single OTB. "But not another quasi-government (entity), but privatized and owned by the industry stakeholders." He said New York should model its system on other states, such as Pennsylvania.

"They alone should be in charge of the distribution of the racing product," Faraldo said of New York racetracks.

He said the new OTB entity should be given internet streaming rights and also be required to run a "New York first" program that favors in-state races over out-of-state programs.

"The future of OTB can't look like the past," he said.

Hayward, the NYRA president, said the industry can no longer support five different OTB centers across the state—with separate costs for administrative positions, tote systems, marketing and account wagering systems. He said a single, statewide racing television channel is needed, and a coordinated marketing effort for the New York product.

"This New York state racing model is fractured," he told lawmakers.

He said a 2006 law intended to permit internet wagering has been twisted to be interpreted that any OTB can block NYRA from streaming live racing on the Web. As a result, he said, the state has only "encouraged" out-of-state wagering. He acknowledged to lawmakers that NYRA has contributed to the "poaching" problem by deals with private ADW shops, but said approval of Internet streaming of racings on web pages by NYRA and the OTBs would drive that money back to New York.

But, consolidation was the buzz word of the hearing. "The obvious thing is to consolidate," said Richard Violette, president of the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen. He said the only pushback comes from the "fiefdoms" created by the OTB system. He said the state can no longer afford so many redundant betting systems across New York.

After the hearing, Hayward expressed optimism that the NYCOTB closing will push changes in the industry, from coordinated betting systems to and end to one of the "most negative marketing messages" for the industry in the form of unsightly betting parlors in New York City.

"I think five years from now we're going to have a much healthier OTB system," he said.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60367/new-push-for-new-york-off-track-betting>

Aqueduct signal returns to New York City cable television

December 15, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

The signal from Aqueduct was broadcast on a local cable channel in the New York City area on Wednesday, the first time the signal had been available on the channel since New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation shut down last Wednesday.

Officials of Aqueduct's operator, the New York Racing Association, had been working with city officials since the shutdown to secure a deal that would restore the signal to Channel 71, which is available on cable systems throughout the city. Prior to shutting down, New York City OTB had paid the city \$3.3 million annually to broadcast both the NYRA signal on Channel 71 and races from out-of-state tracks on Channel 73.

NYRA officials would not comment on the restoration Wednesday, according to Dan Silver, a spokesman for the association. City officials did not immediately return phone calls.

Under current regulations, NYRA is unable to live-stream its races over its website without the approval of other OTBs, so the restoration gives New York City residents their only way to view the races live without going to the track, an ability that is considered critical to account-wagering customers.

On Wednesday, NYRA's chief executive, Charlie Hayward, said on a radio show that the association remains in discussions with the state's five regional off-track betting corporations on an agreement that would allow live streaming on its account-wagering platform.

<http://www.drf.com/news/aqueduct-signal-returns-new-york-city-cable-television>

Trainer Michael Stidham granted stay of medication ban

December 14, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

A 15-day suspension that trainer Mike Stidham began serving Dec. 4 for a medication positive has been stayed by the Illinois Racing Board, and horses racing Thursday at Fair Grounds will run in Stidham's name rather than for Hilary Pridham, Stidham's longtime assistant who had taken over the operation during his suspension.

The racing board issued the stay as it continues to sort out the particulars of a positive called on Upperline after her win July 3 in the Arlington Oaks. Upperline tested positive for the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug etodolac, which is not permitted at any level on race day in Illinois. Besides the 15-day suspension, Upperline's positive test also triggered her disqualification from the Grade 3 race.

Stidham, who declined to provide details concerning the stay, appealed the ruling, and a hearing was to have been held on the matter Dec. 13. That hearing was canceled, however, and Upperline's case has been remanded back to stewards for further consideration. The stewards, now at Hawthorne, could issue a new ruling on the positive test in coming days, officials at the racing board said.

<http://www.drf.com/news/stidham-granted-stay-medication-ban>

Second Horse Tests Positive for EHV After Racetrack Quarantine

December 15, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

A second horse from New York-based racehorse trainer Chris Englehart's string has tested positive for equine herpesvirus (EHV) in the wake of a 4-year-old Thoroughbred filly contracting and subsequently being euthanized as a result of the disease.

"The second horse had a temperature spike of 102.4 on Nov. 22, which prompted an immediate sample collection for EHV-1 tests," said New York state veterinarian David Smith, DVM. "We had positive EHV results in hand the following day."

Smith confirmed that the horse has not been moved from its location.

Englehart's barn at Finger Lakes Racetrack, located in Farmington, and his nearby farm were placed under quarantine after the filly She's Smokin Hot began displaying clinical neurologic signs of EHV on Nov. 17. She was admitted to Cornell University's isolation facility the same day. She later tested positive for the virus and was euthanized on Nov. 19.

Smith said that the strain of EHV the filly contracted is currently unknown.

Both of Englehart's locations will remain under quarantine until 21 days after the last clinical signs of the virus are observed.

"As of this time, all quarantined horses, including the second horse that tested positive, are doing very well with normal temperatures and no clinical signs of disease," Smith said.

There are no additional horses exhibiting signs of EHV, he added.

"We have contacted all recipients we know of who have received horses we believe to have been potentially exposed to the virus," Smith said. "At this time, we have no reports of ill horses beyond the two quarantined premises. So I would say the investigation has progressed quite well."

EHV is a highly contagious virus that can cause a variety of ailments in horses including rhinopneumonitis (a respiratory disease mostly of young horses), abortion in broodmares, and myeloencephalopathy (the neurologic form, which can lead to death).

No one from Finger Lakes Racetrack was available for comment.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60357/second-horse-tests-positive-for-ehv-after-racetrack-quarantine>

West Virginia May Follow Other States Into Online Gambling Industry

December 18, 2010 – Casino Gambling Web

Online gambling regulations may have failed this lame-duck session on a national level, but the issue is far from dead on a state level. With California, Florida, and New Jersey lawmakers already discussing online poker regulations, other states are following the soon-to-be trend closely.

"If everybody else does it, we'd probably do it as well," said John Melton, lead legal counsel for the West Virginia Lottery Commission, as reported by The Charleston Gazette. West Virginia lawmakers have not yet discussed Internet gambling, but it may soon be on the agenda.

This past month, a bill has been introduced in California that would regulate online poker. A similar bill has been passed in New Jersey, where residents may get to vote on the issue next fall. New Jersey lawmakers are also in the process of legalizing sports betting.

The past couple of years has seen one of the biggest gambling expansion efforts in the history of the US. State legislators have used gambling as their main tool in battling against budget deficits. Even in states where gambling was once taboo, like Ohio and Maine, casinos have been authorized by voters.

Ohio voters had dismissed casino resort proposals several times before one final passed in 2008. Maryland just had their first casino opened earlier this year, and Kansas is working on getting their four approved casino open in the next year. New York, Pennsylvania, and Florida have also expanded their gaming industries.

The next step in the gaming boom will be Internet gambling regulations. Senator Harry Reid attempted to push through a bill in the lame-duck session, but the legislation was filled with negatives that other lawmakers rejected. On a federal level, it is unlikely the online gambling laws will change with the new Congress taking over in January.

If New Jersey and California lead the way, it may not be long until other states get in on the millions of dollars in tax revenue that can be created from Internet gambling. Senator Reid's state of Nevada may be one of the areas of the country to attempt to circumvent federal laws by creating their own Internet gambling legislation.

As for West Virginia, no plans are in the works yet, but as Melton put it, "You could make an argument that Internet is the next frontier." Indeed, that argument has been made, and it is gaining more traction with every passing day.

http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/online-casino/west_virginia_may_follow_other_states_into_online_gambling_industry_56186.html

Horse racing appears headed back to Fargo in 2011

December 14, 2010 – The Grand Forks Herald

The North Dakota Racing Commission today approved 12 days of racing next July and August at Fargo's North Dakota Horse Park, a track that was dormant last summer due to money woes.

The four weekends that have been approved for racing are July 22-24, July 29-31, Aug. 5-7 and Aug. 12-14.

<http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/186866/group/homepage>

Larger fields cause concern at Meadows

December 16, 2010 – Harnessracing.com

The announcement that The Meadows Standardbred Owners Association (MSOA), in conjunction with The Meadows Racetrack & Casino has carded two 12-horse fields on Monday, Dec. 20, and one on Tuesday, Dec. 21, has not been met with enthusiasm by some of the would-be participants. The Monday races are the seventh and the 15th and some regular Meadows drivers are noticeably absent.

“A lot of us are really not crazy about the idea,” said Aaron Merriman, referring to The Meadows driving colony.

Merriman spent from June to October of this year recuperating from a racing accident but said that safety is not his foremost concern. He’s more concerned about a fairness of start for all of the horses in the race.

“It’s not even the idea of safety so much, although it could be,” he said “But we all have confidence in the very capable guys we drive against every day. The thing is it’s not a fair race. Your opportunities are even more limited than they would be in a normal race. Unless you have an inside post, you really don’t have much a chance. I just don’t think it’s the best venue for a race like this. It might be different if the distance was longer and you could have time to position yourself. But these are \$20,000 claimers going quarters in 27 seconds.”

Merriman said that a comparison to Thoroughbred races, where as many as 20 horses line up for the start is not valid.

“It’s not like a Thoroughbred race with a lot of horses in the gate,” he noted. “You’ve got nine behind the gate and then three lined up behind the three inside horses. If one of them makes a break, you’re totally out of the race or it could be something disastrous because you have 11 other horses to contend with.”

The advantage of the staggered starting gate, which allows the horse leaving from post nine to get away 14 feet ahead of the rail horse, will be offset by the larger field, added Merriman.

“Where is he going to get away – 12th?” he asked. “And if you’re the 12 you are getting away more than 50 feet behind some of the other horses. It might be different if it was a longer distance and you could go slower and work out position, but these are \$20,000 claimers and they go :27 quarters out of the gate. I just don’t see how it can be fair for everyone.”

MSOA president Rich Gillock said that he understood the drivers' concerns but added that the MSOA felt that the races – which are superfectas with a guaranteed \$8,000 poos – were an idea worth trying.

“The fact is we are just trying to give the horsemen an opportunity to race before we shut down for two weeks. We think it’s well worth trying. It’s eight races over four days. And we just need to try something new to attract new interest and generate something good for us.”

<http://www.harnessracing.com/news/largerfieldscauseconcernatmeadows.html>

Hayward defends NYRA raises

December 15, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times

While admitting the timing was “horrible,” New York Racing Association president Charles Hayward on Wednesday defended the NYRA board’s recent approval of \$600,000 worth of pay raises, including 5.5% increases for some executives.

The NYRA board approved the pay hikes last Wednesday, the first full day of New York City Off Track Betting Corp.’s closure. The move became public a couple of days later when a board member leaked it to the press.

The timing was precarious in part because NYRA had said days earlier that it could return to operating in bankruptcy if the state approved a measure granting the state’s regional Off Track Betting corporations the same reductions in statutory payments to racetracks proposed for New York City Off-Track Betting Corp., but that bill never reached a vote.

“I was horrified,” Hayward said about the pay hike’s disclosure. “But I will stand by our employees. You have to pay high quality managers in the New York City marketplace a competitive wage.”

He said the raises were part of NYRA’s annual budget, which requires board approval, and that last week’s meeting was held the day after New York City OTB’s closure by coincidence. The raises would have become public in January when a state Racing Franchise Oversight Board, which monitors NYRA’s business activities, holds its next scheduled meeting.

Hayward said NYRA employees haven’t had a raise since 2008 and that employee health care contributions have gone up, resulting in net salary declines during that period. Administrative employees pay 26.6% percent of their health care benefits, he said.

Also, NYRA has eliminated 250 jobs, a 22% reduction in head count the last few years, to bring spending under control, he said.

The board approved the move with only one dissenting vote, cast by Bennett Liebman, one of 11 state appointees on the board. Liebman is the head of Albany Law School’s racing law program and was named to the board by Gov. David Paterson, who leaves office at the end of the year.

Non-union administrative employees will receive 3% raises. NYRA’s 10 executives will receive increases ranging from 3%-5.5% based on job performance.

“I believe strongly the employees deserve that,” Hayward said, after testifying before an Assembly hearing on the future of New York’s trouble off-track betting system.

On another topic, Hayward said he does not believe the 2011 Saratoga Race Course season will be seriously impacted by New York City OTB’s closing. The meet’s purse structure should be close to or at the same levels, he said.

NYRA will lose \$14-million worth of operating revenue because of OTB’s closing, but Hayward said NYRA expects to get more than \$11-million next year from Aqueduct’s new racino. Also, the state made OTB set aside millions of dollars for NYRA in a reserve account in case OTB closed.

Hayward said NYRA is doing everything it can to capture OTB’s account wagering customers, which had bet more than \$150-million annually.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/15/nyra-raises.aspx>

State gaming board secretly approved \$7 million in deals

December 16, 2010 – The Pittsburg Tribune-Review

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board violated the state Sunshine Law 19 times when approving more than \$7 million worth of professional service contracts without public votes from 2006-09, according to a state audit released yesterday.

"The single most important mission of the Gaming Control Board is to reassure the public that the gaming industry in Pennsylvania is being professionally run and to protect its integrity," said Auditor General Jack Wagner, whose office issued the audit. "Issuing contracts behind closed doors only undermines that mission.

"There was a distinct, absolute violation of the Sunshine Act."

The gambling board "wasn't hiding anything," said spokesman Doug Harbach. The regulators take Wagner's recommendations seriously and will vote publicly from now on, he said.

"It's just a difference of opinion" about what the law required of the board, Harbach said. No one contended the board lost money on any of the contracts, he noted.

A Tribune-Review study in 2008 found the board met more behind closed doors than it did in public, agency records showed. Over a four-year period, the board overseeing the casino industry held 128 private meetings, called executive sessions, and 77 open meetings. A gambling expert called it "an anomaly" among gambling regulators nationwide.

In its written response to the audit, the seven-member board appointed by the governor and legislative leaders disagreed that it had violated the law. The board argued that it has authority to enter into contracts without publicly approving them.

Wagner, a former state senator, said that's uncommon in any state agency.

He said he forwarded the audit's results to Attorney General Tom Corbett, who is governor-elect. A violation of the Sunshine Act is a summary offense carrying a \$100 fine.

There could be ramifications if a court finds the board has violated the law, Wagner said. The agency's actions could be called into question by companies that lost opportunities to bid on contracts, he said. Of 23 contracts reviewed, 17 were "sole source" and three were "emergency contracts," meaning only three were competitively bid, the audit found.

Corbett spokesman Nils Hagen-Frederiksen said the Attorney General's Office would review Wagner's letter and the audit.

The contracts in question covered legal work, consulting, technology, background investigations and moving and storage.

Wagner also criticized board members' excessive travel and expensive meal reimbursements.

For example, \$8,790 spent on "office supplies" included \$6,989 in meals and \$1,724 in gifts and candy over a three-year period, the audit found.

In many cases, receipts for meals were not required, Wagner said. The expenditures were not "office supplies," the audit stated.

A 2006 dinner on the eve of a board meeting cost \$697 in a Harrisburg restaurant. Eight people at the table setting ordered 13 main courses, including seafood stew, scallops, pasta and fish, according to the audit.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_713994.html

New Mexico Fairgrounds could see multi-million-dollar racino

December 14, 2010 – The Santa Fe-New Mexican

The State Fair Commission is scheduled to hold a hearing today on a proposed no-bid contract for a friend and major campaign contributor to Gov. Bill Richardson to build a multi-million-dollar racino on the State Fairgrounds in Albuquerque.

A state senator who represents the district where the casino would be located criticized the no-bid process Tuesday and predicted certain doom in the Legislature for the project if the people who live and run businesses nearby object.

"People just found out about it — I just found out about it, after the final draft was prepared," Sen. Tim Keller, D-Albuquerque, said. "This has been frustrating for the community and for me." Under the proposal, The Downs at Albuquerque, owned by Richardson's friend Paul Blanchard, would be allowed to extend its lease of the fairgrounds property for 25 years, with an extension option of another 15 years.

The new agreement, which requires approval by the Legislature, would allow The Downs to build "a new, state-of-the-art racino facility" at its own cost, according to a news release from the fair.

Fair officials say it's a good deal for the state. "Very simply, the Downs is our biggest tenant, and the \$2.2 million in revenue EXPO receives annually from its lease with them is critical to keeping the gates open," Craig Swagerty, the fair's general manager, said in the release. Expo New Mexico is the name the Richardson administration gave the state fair.

"This has been a very open and transparent process and we will continue to involve the public as we finalize negotiations and present the proposal for approval by the Legislature. We want a plan that is in the best interests of the state of New Mexico and the State Fair."

State Fair Commission Chairman David "Hossie" Sanchez said, "This is a win-win for EXPO and the State Fair, the Downs, horse racing and gaming in New Mexico, and the community." The fair, he said, has "suffered over the years from lack of revenue, and this would help to remedy that while solidifying the integrity of horse racing in the state for future generations and ensuring that the gaming industry continues to provide good jobs to the community and a reliable revenue stream to the community and the state."

By law, racinos — racetracks that also operate slot machines — pay the state taxes equal to 26 percent of the "net win." In addition, they pay another 20 percent for the state racing commission and a quarter of a percent for compulsive gambling programs. Currently, The Downs pays the state \$7.7 million. According to a document prepared by The Downs, the amount paid to the state could increase to \$18.7 million within three years if the new facility is built.

Under the proposal, The Downs would pay the state fair \$2.5 million per year in rent after the new 40,000-square-foot racino facility is built. The new building, which would be near the intersection of Central and Louisiana boulevards, could double the number of slot machines at the current racino. Currently, the racino pays \$2.2 million to the state in rent.

Keller said constituents he has talked to object to the location of the proposed racino, arguing it's too close to the busy intersection. The senator said one of his chief problems is that the state didn't seek other bids. He said when the Legislature approved a two-year extension for The Downs at Albuquerque last year, senators insisted that the next contract should be put out to bid.

Blanchard proposed a similar plan for the racetrack several years ago that went nowhere. He then planned to move the business to Moriarity, a proposal approved by the state Racing Commission. But that move never took place.

Richardson and Blanchard have been friends for years. Blanchard is included in the dedication of Richardson's 2005 autobiography *Between Worlds*. In his first term, Richardson appointed Blanchard to the state Board of Finance. The governor also appointed Blanchard to the state Investment Council in late 2006.

During Richardson's 2002 campaign, the racetrack owner served as finance chairman. According to the National Institute on Money in State Politics, Blanchard donated \$10,000 in addition to raising cash. His wife, Kandace Blanchard, gave another \$10,000 in 2002, while The Downs at Albuquerque contributed \$100,000.

In 2006, Blanchard contributed \$120,000 to Richardson's re-election, while The Downs at Albuquerque contributed \$36,000. Zia Park racetrack in Hobbs, which was then co-owned by Blanchard, gave \$38,000.

During Richardson's 2008 presidential race, Paul and Kandace Blanchard each donated \$4,600, which is the maximum contribution allowed for the primary election season under federal law. (In both cases, half the money was refunded because it was earmarked for the general election.) The Blanchards also hosted at least one fundraiser for Richardson's campaign in 2007.

The State Fair Commission meets at 10 a.m. in the African American Performing Arts Center at the fairgrounds.

<http://www.santafenewmexican.com/Local%20News/Fair-could-see-multi-million-dollar-racino>

Curtain about to rise on Ocean Downs slots casino

December 16, 2010 – DelmarvaNow.com

No, legalized gambling isn't new. There's lottery tickets, Keno machines and a video horse racing game called Racetrax -- and of course, there's been summertime live harness racing at Ocean Downs.

But on Jan. 4, Ocean Downs is set to greatly expand legal gaming when it opens the second slots casino in Maryland. It's already bringing about praise from some and concern from others, while some say it's not over until the numbers are in.

The grand opening will culminate years of lobbying, planning and construction of the \$45 million gaming facility, which will contain over 700 slots machines and nearly 34,000 square feet of gaming space.

"The January 4 opening is a testament to the dedication of our construction team and staff working to bring this gaming experience to the people of Maryland," said Joe Cavilla, general manager of the casino. "Our team is energized and ready to provide out guests with a fun and memorable gaming experience."

Before the casino can open they must host the Maryland State Lottery Agency on Dec. 29 for an invitation-only demonstration, which is required by the state to ensure everything is in order. Holding one is the only way the casino can get the certificate it needs to open.

Stephen Martino, director of the agency, says the event gives the casino the chance to see how their staff can perform with paying customers and the state an opportunity to make sure the proper procedures are in place.

"We will make sure the staff knows what the internal procedures are and that they are being followed," says Martino. "If everything goes well we will be in place to sign the license and let them open."

One of those excited about the opening is County Commissioner Judy Boggs, who took a tour of the facility on Friday.

"The progress is tremendous... people are in for a real treat," says Boggs. "(The slot machines) are being hooked up as we speak. There is a lot to be done, but they are working around the clock."

But not everyone is happy about the new venture. Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan says he's concerned that slot machine gambling represents real competition for tourism dollars, and could siphon income from the resort's hundreds of small businesses.

"It's certainly not something we had ever hoped would happen at Ocean Downs," he said. "We are concerned about the economic impact... Our stance has been pretty straightforward in opposition. If it's going to be there, you know, we would hope that it would be successful, but not at a cost to the town of Ocean City."

Once the casino is open, it will begin to pay taxes on gaming revenues, 5.5 percent of which will be set aside for local impact grants. Of that, 60 percent will go to Worcester County, 20 percent to Ocean City, 10 percent to Berlin and 10 percent to Ocean Pines.

Although no one really knows how much money that will end up being, in an economy where local municipalities and governments are facing mounting budget cuts, it could help.

"Any amount of money will help when you have a budget that's tight," said Commissioner Virgil Shockley, adding until the development committee, put in place by the commissioners to monitor the slots progress in 2011, reports back he will not have a good idea of the effect the casino will have on the local economy. "Until we can see the number of people going to the casino and what's actually going to happen it's a shot in the dark."

Jennie Knapp, Ocean City's budget manager, says it's unclear how the money will come to them, adding they need to look into the process. For example, it's not clear if the money comes through a grant the town must apply for, or if it comes automatically. And they can't budget for the revenue yet, she also said, because "it's a complete unknown" as to how much revenue it will generate.

Any proposals for spending slots impact money must be reviewed by the Local Development Committee for their recommendation, a county-wide panel formed early this year.

Meehan, a committee member, said that group has not yet formally convened, mostly because nobody knew if or when slots would actually happen at the racetrack.

Meehan also said Ocean City's Chamber of Commerce and Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association will sit down with town leaders to decide "how they want to move forward" with having Ocean Downs as a neighbor.

"We can't ignore it. It's a fact of life. It is going to play a role in our economy, so we're going to have to do whatever we can to make it work best for Ocean City," Meehan said.

The drivers of harness racing, the track's established attraction, say they expect to return force this summer. The number of horse races taking place at the track, now the only one in Maryland to offer live harness racing, will be significantly enhanced, when compared to the 2010 season, which lasted less than a month after negotiations between the track and drivers nearly collapsed. Maryland voters approved slots in a referendum in part on promises that proceeds from gaming would support purses for horse racing, as well as help fund schools.

"We have applied for 40 days, but are asking (track owner William) Rickman if we could possibly go 60 days," said Sharon Roberts, executive vice-president of the Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association. "We are doing it to make up for last year because the purse money, which was not raced for, is being moved into 2011."

Roberts also said she hopes having the casino and racetrack in one location will help to bring new fans to the sport.

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20101216/WCT01/12160317/Curtain-about-to-rise-on-Ocean-Downs-slots-casino>

Researcher: Opioids Have a Place in Equine Medicine

December 13, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

Despite the fact that opioid drugs, such as morphine and methadone, have been known to cause serious side effects in some horses, a researcher from Scotland maintains that they are a good choice for treating severe pain in horses.

R. Eddie Clutton, BVSc, MRCVS, DVA, MRCA, a professor of anesthesia at the University of Edinburgh, wrote a comprehensive review on the use of these medications in equines, in which he noted that many concerns about side effects are based on very early and less rigorous studies than those done today. Newer research shows a "widening role for opioid analgesics," he said.

These narcotic medications act on the central nervous system to decrease pain perception and are often chosen for cases with severe pain.

Side effects--such as excitability and sensory and motor depression--observed in early studies often resulted because researchers gave much higher doses than those given today, explained Clutton. To complicate matters, the term "excitation" when applied to opioid-induced side effects in horses described a wide range of activities from head nodding to muscle twitching, and it was difficult to know exactly what effects the opioids caused, he said.

One serious concern is postoperative colic in horses that have been treated opioids, as these medications are known to cause constipation. Again, past studies are inconsistent in their reporting of the drugs' effects in horses. Clutton said there are other factors that can contribute to colic in horses after surgery, including diet and stress. He added that inadequately treated pain can actually increase the likelihood the horse will develop colic.

Other reported concerns include the effects of these medications on the heart and lungs, as opioids have been linked to low blood pressure and decreased respiratory rates in people. Clutton said that these side effects have the potential to appear in horses if high doses of intravenous opioids are given too quickly, resulting in a shock to the system.

According to Clutton, the recommended doses of opioid drugs vary widely and depend on many factors. They should not be administered on a set time schedule, but, rather, based on the desired level of analgesia, he said.

"The use of opioid analgesics in horses can be justified when the benefits of their analgesic and sedative properties outweigh the disadvantage of potential side effects," he wrote.

Clutton cautioned that horse owners should discuss the potential effects with their veterinarians and report any apparent side effects immediately.

The review, "Opioid analgesia in horses," was published in the December issue of *Veterinary Clinics of North America*. The abstract is available on PubMed.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60324/researcher-opioids-have-a-place-in-equine-medicine>

KY 'Instant Racing' Decision Before Jan. 1

December 15, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

After hearing from both sides of the issue, a Kentucky judge said Dec. 14 he would issue a ruling on whether a form of Instant Racing is legal in the state prior to the end of the year.

Franklin Circuit Court Judge Thomas Wingate said that consistent with his original intent to render a decision prior to the Kentucky General Assembly session that begins in January, he would issue his verdict prior to Jan. 1, 2011. During a 90-minute hearing, proponents and opponents of offering wagering on “historical racing”—a form of wagering on video machines patterned after the Instant Racing concept conceived and popularized at Oaklawn Park—essentially reiterated arguments made during a public hearing held by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission earlier this year.

Historical racing permits a bettor to wager on previously run races that are shown on a terminal that resembles a video lottery terminal. The name, date, track, and runners in the race are not revealed at the time the bet is made. The racing commission approved historic racing as a means of generating new revenue for the state’s eight racetracks, which have been unable to obtain legislative approval for alternative gaming such as VLTs and slot machines. Upon approving historic race wagering, the commission and racetracks immediately filed a joint suit seeking a declaration that the form of wagering is legal under state statutes.

During the hearing before Wingate, a team of attorneys representing the tracks and state Department of Revenue presented arguments on why historic race wagering is consistent with state statutes permitting pari-mutuel wagering. On the other side, attorney Stan Cave, representing the Family Foundation, argued that the type of wagering offered under historic racing does not comply with legalized pari-mutuel wagering. Cave also contended the KHRC did not have the authority to approve historic racing.

There was general unanimity that the definition of pari-mutuel wagering under Kentucky law requires that the wagers are made into a common pool that is distributed among the wagering participants after deduction of a fee. But the two sides differed on their interpretation of whether historic racing met that criteria. “Are (historic racing wagers) somewhat different from wagers that would be placed at the track today? Yes,” said Jason Renzelmann, an attorney representing the racetracks.

But, Renzelmann argued, that does not mean the wagers are inconsistent with the intent of the state pari-mutuel wagering statutes. He noted the new wager would not be unlike exotic wagers such as the daily double, Pick 6, or trifecta. Though bettors are not all wagering on the same race at the same time in historic racing, bets are pooled and payouts are calculated accordingly. “This is pooled pari-mutuel wagering in the classic sense of the word,” Renzelmann said.

M. Holliday “Hollie” Hopkins, executive director of the Office of Legal Services for the Public Protection Cabinet, said though historic racing and similar types of wagering are not spelled out in the definition of pari-mutuel wagering under statute, “it does not alter the fundamental criteria that is a form of pari-mutuel wager.”

Hopkins, who will become legal counsel to Gov. Steve Beshear as of Jan. 1, 2011, said the legislature has given the KHRC broad discretion to enact regulations that help the racing industry, citing the statutes that created the commission and giving the body not only regulatory authority over horse racing but also a role in promoting and protecting the industry. “It is no secret the horse industry is facing some difficult times,” Hopkins said.

Cave, citing state statutes that prohibit video gaming or reel-type gaming, said historic racing “is nothing more than slot machines at the track.” Because the bettor will likely be the only one betting on any of the thousands of races available at any given time, it was not pari-mutuel wagering, Cave said. Noting the failure of the racing industry to obtain legalized alternative gaming through the legislative process, Cave said the industry was turning to the judiciary system to achieve its goals.

“As their last resort they came to this court to try to accomplish what they have not been able to accomplish (through the legislature),” Cave said. “They are here trying to do an end-run around the process.” He said a ruling from Wingate approving historic racing “will set a precedent that will haunt the courts for years to come.”

Though he was not ruling on the case during the Dec. 14 hearing, Wingate cited other legal cases in which state bodies had wide discretion in drafting and interpreting regulations.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60343/ky-instant-racing-decision-before-jan-1>

Sports Betting Question Goes To Voters In New Jersey Next Year

December 14, 2010 – Casino Gambling Web

Lawmakers in New Jersey have done all of the preliminary work necessary and have come to the conclusion that in order to stay as the top gaming state in the Northeast, sports betting needs to be legalized. Now, voters will get to voice their opinion on the issue.

Assembly and Senate legislators have decided to place an amendment on the ballot in 2011 that would ask voters to change the current sports gambling laws in New Jersey. If approved, sports betting could begin at state casinos and racetracks, if a federal ban is overturned.

Back when casino gambling was starting to branch out in the US in the early nineties, a federal ban was put in place regarding sports betting. Only four states at the time opted out of the ban, keeping their options open in the future. New Jersey was not one of those states.

Senator Raymond Lesniak has been the biggest supporter of expanded gambling in New Jersey, and he has spearheaded an effort to have the federal law overturned. A lawsuit has been filed, and Lesniak is hoping that the law is found unconstitutional. That outcome would have to come down before any sports betting that takes place in New Jersey.

In addition to sports gambling, Lesniak is also pushing Internet gambling regulations in the state. Atlantic City casinos would be the main beneficiaries of the online gambling law changes, and the state would increase their tax revenue from these casinos by millions of dollars each year. Sports betting and online gambling both appear to be on the fast track to approval by state legislators.

New Jersey lawmakers believe that currently, gamblers are being abused by underground bookies. By creating a safe environment for gamblers to place their bets, the state not only would benefit from a reduction in crime, but also would reap the benefits of the added tax revenue.

Atlantic City casinos have been hurt in recent years by the economy, and sports betting and online gambling are looked upon as sources that could rejuvenate the city's gaming industry. If both were legalized, New Jersey would also stay ahead of Pennsylvania and other Northeastern states in terms of gaming revenue.

http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/sports-gambling/sports_betting_question_goes_to_voters_in_new_jersey_next_year_56164.html

NJ Approves Exchange and Internet Wagering

December 15, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

The New Jersey Assembly Dec. 13 passed a bill to authorize exchange wagering on results of in-state and out-of-state horse races. It also would allow Internet wagering by out-of-state residents on horse racing.

Exchange wagering is a form of betting in which two or more people place opposing wagers on the outcome of a horse race. Exchange wagering allows a bettor to wager on a selected outcome occurring and another bettor to wager on that same outcome not occurring. It is popular in Great Britain and Australia.

The Assembly also passed measures that would allow Internet wagering by out-of-state residents on horse racing; expand off-track wagering; allow racetrack permit-holders to provide a single pari-mutuel pool for each horse race; and allow casinos and out-of-state racetracks to negotiate the amount casinos pay for simulcast races.

New Jersey voters will be able to decide next year whether they want to legally bet on sports games. Votes in the state Senate and Assembly guaranteed that a referendum will appear on the November ballot asking voters whether they want to amend New Jersey's constitution by legalizing sports betting in the state.

Even if voters say yes to sports betting, a federal ban on sports betting in all but four states would have to be repealed or overturned.

"Sports betting already exists in New Jersey, but only the criminals are enjoying the profits," Assemblywoman Connie Wagner said. "Sports fans put billions of dollars on the line every year, regardless of its legality. A legal Atlantic City and racetrack-based sports book would ensure bettors are not fleeced or put in harm's way."

The ballot question would read: "Shall the amendment to Article IV, Section VII, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, agreed to by the Legislature, providing that it shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by law wagering at casinos or gambling houses in Atlantic City and at current or former running and harness horse racetracks on the results of professional, certain college, or amateur sport or athletic events, be approved?"

An interpretive statement that would appear beneath the ballot question says: "A 'yes' vote on this question would allow the Legislature, when permitted by federal law, to legalize the placing of bets on certain sports events at casinos, racetracks, and former racetrack sites. Currently, federal law only permits this type of betting in Nevada and Delaware. It also occurs through illegal betting operations.

"If legalized in New Jersey, bets could be placed on professional, college, or amateur sports or athletic events, except that bets could not be placed on any college sports or athletic event that takes place in New Jersey or in which a New Jersey college team is playing."

A 1992 federal law restricts sports betting to the four states that met a deadline to sign up for it: Nevada, where Las Vegas sports books determine the odds for sporting events across the country; Delaware; Montana; and Oregon. Montana and Oregon do not currently offer sports betting.

The law carved out a special exemption for New Jersey, giving it a chance to decide if it wanted legal sports betting. But the state failed to enact a law that would have done so, and the exemption window closed. A lawsuit filed by New Jersey Sen. Raymond Lesniak argues that the U.S. law is unconstitutional because it treats four states differently from the 46 others.

About half the measures have passed both houses and now await Gov. Chris Christie's signature. The others go to the state Senate for action.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60336/nj-approves-exchange-and-internet-wagering>

Late Night Gambler Steals \$1.5 Million In Chips From Bellagio

December 15, 2010 – Casino Gambling Web

Sin City did not get its nickname because it is the lowest crime area in the US. Instead, it is mischief that helped Las Vegas develop that name, and on Tuesday, a caper of epic proportions was offered up for the city's law enforcement. A man walked into the Bellagio in Las Vegas around 3:30 AM Tuesday morning. Giving the appearance of a gambler, the man walked over to the craps table, and a few minutes later, he was speeding off on a motorcycle with \$1.5 million in stolen chips from the table. It is the second robbery of a Las Vegas casino in less than a week.

Last Thursday, the Suncoast Hotel and Casino had \$20,000 in cash stolen from the cage at a poker tournament. Authorities believe the two crimes are connected and that the same man pulled them both off. It is a wonder to Bellagio officials why the man would steal the chips that have no monetary value until they are cashed in. The criminal may have a way to get rid of the chips for cash, but the chips will eventually have to be cashed at the Bellagio, at which time the casino could detect they were stolen.

Las Vegas has had a number of robberies at casinos over the years, but this was one of the largest, according to Lt. Clint Nichols. The speed with which the man pulled off the heist was also shocking, with the police estimating that the entire heist was pulled off in just a couple of minutes. Surveillance cameras are positioned throughout the gaming floors in all casinos, and authorities will use that surveillance from the Bellagio to help determine the identity of the robber. The heist on Tuesday was the tenth in Las Vegas this year. The chips stolen ranged from \$100 to \$25,000 chips. The \$25,000 chips in particular will be hard for the robber or anyone else to cash in. Any cash transactions over \$10,000 are required to be reported by the casinos to the Internal Revenue Service. The person cashing in the chip would then be responsible for paying the taxes on the winnings.

http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/casino-gambling/late_night_gamblers_steals_1_5_million_in_chips_from_bellagio_56170.html

France Galop confirms 3% purse increase for next year

December 14, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times

France Galop on Tuesday confirmed a 3% purse increase for 2011 and will move the Prix du Moulin de Longchamp (Fr-G1) from the first weekend in September to the second Sunday to bolster the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (Fr-G1) trials card.

France Galop will raise purses next year to approximately \$235,112,350 (175-million euros) as a response to increased handle generated by its new tote system, which puts about 8% of the revenue back into racing. Flat racing purses will be bolstered by \$5,844,221 (4,350,000 euros) next year and jumps race purses will increase by \$2,875,088 (2,140,000 euros), making France an exception from most other countries struggling to maintain purse levels during a testing global economy.

"It is only our betting market and that of Hong Kong which has managed to marginally increase betting turnover this year, but we are aware that the French market is becoming saturated, so we will be looking elsewhere to maintain turnover which could stagnate by 2012," Hubert Monzat, chief executive of France Galop, told Racing Post.

The shift of the 1,600-meter (7.95-furlong) Prix du Moulin will give the second weekend of September two Group 1 prep races, along with the 2,400-meter (11.93-furlong) Prix Vermeille (Fr-G1). France Galop also boosted by \$67,175 (50,000 euros) the purses of the Prix de la Forêt (Fr-G1), Prix de l'Opera (Fr-G1), and Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp (Fr-G1) on the Arc undercard. The purses were bolstered to try to help attract entries in light of the inaugural Champions Day at Ascot, slated for two weeks after the Arc card.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/racing-news/2010/12/14/france-galop-confirms-purse-increase.aspx>

California Sports Bar to Open Mini-Satellite

December 16, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

After months of planning approvals and construction, the OC Tavern Grill and Sports Bar, located in the Southern Orange County beach community of San Clemente, is ready to open its doors to horse players.

The mini-satellite wagering location, the first of its kind in a California eating and drinking establishment, will begin taking action Dec. 17. The horseplayers addition, dubbed the "OCT Room," is attached to the spacious main restaurant and bar and will hold about 70-75 patrons. It comes equipped with more than 25 flat-screen televisions for race watching. There is an outside smoking patio with room for another 30 customers.

"We're very excited and there's been a real buzz in town about this," said the tavern's owner, Michael Merrigan. "We've been known as a great neighborhood location for sporting fans to this point and I think the addition of the OCT Room will only make us more popular."

The tavern will be the second mini-satellite location in the state, both in Southern California, under a state law approved in October 2007. The law authorizes up to 45 such facilities statewide -- 15 each in three geographic zones -- in an effort to reach players who may not be close to a racetrack or one of the 30 or so main satellite facilities located at county fairs or tribal casinos.

San Clemente, north of Del Mar and south of Los Alamitos Race Course by about 40 miles in either direction, fits perfectly into that scheme. It is located just east of Interstate 5 at the El Camino exit.

Merrigan, 45, applied for a license to operate as a wagering location soon after the California Horse Racing Board completed its regulations in compliance with the law in 2008. It is part of a renovation at the restaurant that he has envisioned since purchasing it in 2007.

The "OCT Room" will offer pari-mutuel betting on races in California and nationally featuring the same betting menu as the state's main satellite locations. Fans will be able to wager with a teller or with self-service machines there and at the adjoining patio, aided by a betting supervisor.

Mini-satellites, under the law, receive a location fee amounting to 2% of the amount wagered at the facility. There are no admission or parking charges to play at OC Tavern and the restaurant provides the food and beverage service.

The tavern will partner with Southern California Off-Track Wagering Inc., a non-profit outfit formed by representatives of the racing associations, fairs and horsemen in Southern California, to promote off-track wagering. SCOTWINC will operate and manage the betting facility in partnership with Sportech Inc., which will provide the wagering technology and support, including transaction processing services.

The OC Tavern will be the first mini-satellite to open in the state since the Commerce Casino, a card club in Los Angeles County, began in July 2009. As of October 2009, the facility reported it was handling between \$60,000 to \$80,000 per day in horse racing wagers.

The Commerce Casino is expected to provide an update on its facility to the CHRB at the board's Dec. 16 meeting.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60368/california-sports-bar-to-open-mini-satellite>

Nic Coward to stand down as British Horseracing Authority chief executive next year

December 14, 2010 – The London Telegraph

Nic Coward surprised racing when resigning on Tuesday as chief executive of the British Horseracing Authority. He is to leave the job next year after carrying out a review of the roles and responsibilities of racing's various constituents.

Coward, 44, had been in the job for four years and has been seen as the driving force behind various radical changes and restructuring that have taken place in this most traditional of sports. Coward confirmed that he had another job lined up, but he last night refused to give details.

The resignation follows only weeks after Coward and Paul Roy, his chairman, argued over budget cuts that Roy had demanded at a BHA board meeting. The cuts were BHA's share in helping cover integrity costs that the Levy Board had refused to meet on racing's behalf.

But both men dismissed suggestions last night that the argument had any bearing on Coward's decision to step down next spring. "Myself and Paul have had the most fantastic relationship. When you are running an organisation such as the BHA you look at succession. That's all part of it. I'm very proud of what our team have achieved.

"The BHA is an organisation that has always had the best interests of the sport at heart," he added.

Racing circles learned of Coward's decision to resign very late Tuesday afternoon through a press release. On the day of the Gimcrack Dinner, when many high-ranking racing officials were in York for Tuesday night's function, it soon became the talk of the place.

Roy, who was at Tuesday night's dinner, said there had been no pressure on Coward to resign. He said that racing's stakeholders were not applying pressure. But he made the point that in business, and elsewhere, a chief executive's time span at the top had a certain cycle. Clearly, that span was four years, which was complete when Coward completed the BHA responsibilities in negotiations over the 50th Levy, and also the sale of the Tote.

Roy said: "Nic has done a magnificent job at a significant time of change within our organisation and the sport of racing. He has helped shape the BHA into a first rate governing and regulatory body of which racing can be proud, and has played a major role in pulling the industry together during challenging times."

Coward will be remembered for being the man in charge of racing when the criminal trial concerning high-profile jockeys, including Kieren Fallon, the former champion, was thrown out by a judge at the Old Bailey, who declared there was no case to answer.

He was also at the helm when Racing For Change caused an upheaval as various factions 'fought' openly over the pros and cons.

With a background in football, it is no surprise that there has been speculation that Coward might one day be in the running for the role of Chairman of the Football Association, a position left vacant by the resignation of Lord Triesman amid great controversy. On Dec 22, the board of the FA will meet to discuss the applicants, with a further meeting scheduled for January. The timing, in an unrelated sport, may be purely coincidental.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/horseracing/8202461/Nic-Coward-to-stand-down-as-British-Horseracing-Authority-chief-executive-next-year.html>

Bipartisan bill would allow internet betting on horse races from outside New Jersey

December 14, 2010 – The Gloucester County Times

Bipartisan legislation sponsored by Assemblymen Ron Dancer, R-Burlington, Ocean, Mercer and Monmouth, and John Burzichelli, D-Gloucester, Cumberland and Salem that would permit authorized New Jersey account wagering licensees to accept internet wagers on horse races from residents outside the state passed the Assembly Regulatory Oversight and Gaming Committee last week.

The bill (A-3498) would permit authorized New Jersey account wagering licensees to accept internet wagers on horse races from residents outside the state. The legislation provides that if pari-mutuel wagering is allowed in another state, a person from that state would be permitted to establish an account with a certified wagering licensee in New Jersey provided that the wager complies with the conditions set forth in New Jersey's Interstate Horse Racing Act of 1978.

An amendment to the bill clarifies that New Jersey residents who are eligible to place a wager do not have to physically be in New Jersey to do so, as required under current law. If a New Jersey resident is in another state that permits account wagering, they would be allowed to place a wager on a New Jersey race from that state. The amendment further provides that such wagering would be permitted via the internet, I-phones and Blackberries.

http://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/index.ssf/2010/12/bipartisan_bill_would_allow_in.html

Racing keeps on taking low blows

December 14, 2010 – Stan Bergstein, The Daily Racing Form

The triple slayings of horse racing in New York, New Jersey, and Maryland, and California's solution to save its racing by raising takeout in time of crisis, are crimes of murder and self-immolation unpardonable.

The industry's responses illustrate that racing has no defense mechanism against the politicians who create and control it the game, and further crimes can be expected coast-to-coast.

The New Jersey situation first, because it is the most heinous of the crimes, involving broken promises at best and mass destruction at worst.

That state's chest-thumping and ambitious governor, Chris Christie, issued his most recent anti-racing proclamation by vetoing his state racing commission's award of the usual 141 days of racing to the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park, saying "it would be inappropriate" to approve them, and instead approving 36 days of harness racing for what had been the state's and the nation's most important meeting, and threatening Thoroughbred racing as well.

Christie and his chief executioner, Jon Hanson, showed an abysmal lack of understanding of racing – or an arrogant disregard for it – by proposing a six-day "Hambletonian week" at the Meadowlands, which insults intelligence by assuming that you can open a huge, closed track by simply turning on the lights.

The Meadowlands already shows the ravages of neglect even before the rampaging pair closes it down, and their decision to supposedly save taxes throws thousands out of work. They leave the lives of the state's entire racing colony whose economic welfare they ignore at risk, uncertain of whether they will race and where with three weeks to go. They wish them a happy new year and tell them to get lost.

The situation is just as bad in Maryland, where seemingly the sole concern is saving the Preakness. The difference is in scale. Maryland's racing industry, other than that classic race at a decrepit track, is in shambles. New Jersey still has, or

had before the Christie-Hanson assault, a vital industry that presented the best harness horses and drivers and trainers in the world.

Frank Stronach says he is en route to straighten things out, but the divided Maryland Jockey Club, now facing internal civil strife between its co-owners – Stronach's group and Penn National Gaming – is fighting on two fronts, between itself and with the politicians who allowed all this to happen.

Maryland's racing commission, unlike New Jersey's, did not even vote ceremonial dates. It refused to accept those proposed by the tracks, so as a new year dawns there is no 2011 racing scheduled for the state, once a proud breeding site and leader in American Thoroughbred racing. Its harness track, Rosecroft Raceway, once a thriving training center for young horses under three generations of the horse-owning and loving Miller family, and now owned by Maryland's harness horsemen, was allowed to die by shutting it out of a share of slots revenue, harsh as that appraisal is for horsemen to swallow.

On to New York, where a crime almost as brutal as the Christie-Hanson killing, took place last week. The the state Assembly's Republicans voted, with some misgivings, to approve their Democratic governor's reorganization plan for New York City Off-Track Betting. The Senate's Democrats refused to go along, walking out of a special session in Albany for five days before walking back in, forcing OTB to postpone a Friday closing to the following Tuesday.

Then, in an act of perfidy, the Democrats refused to go along with the Assembly's approval of the Paterson plan, perhaps thinking that this was the fourth or fifth instance of the boy crying wolf and that there was no way OTB would close its doors.

Except there was, and it did.

Its chairman, Larry Schwartz, who also is Gov. Paterson's chief of staff, explained, saying, "We are out of money. We are out of cash. We are out of business."

And with that simple sentence, 50 offtrack betting sites in the nation's biggest market closed, along with OTB's advanced deposit wagering and the company's role as America's biggest bookmaker, handling some \$700 million a year.

With the demise, New York's tracks lost their shares, totaling as much as \$60 million or so owed them by OTB, which had declared bankruptcy. The precise figures were not announced, but were somewhere in the vicinity of as much as \$30 million for the New York Racing Association, operator of Belmont Park, Aqueduct Racetrack, and historic Saratoga Race Course, and roughly \$20 million for Empire City at Yonkers Raceway, sitting smack on one of the busiest urban highways in America, the Deegan Expressway leading from the affluent northern suburbs directly into New York City.

New York City OTB's Schwartz understood what the Albany vote meant, even if the callow legislators did not, or did not care. He said, "This is going to have an impact on the entire state of New York, not just the impact of 1,000 people losing their jobs. This is going to have a tremendous impact on the racing industry. I believe that upstate tracks will close, horse farms will have to shut down, breeders will be moving out of state, many businesses that support the racing industry will have to lay off people or shut down their operations."

Except for NYRA, which incredibly, from a public relations point of view, responded by immediately announcing confirming pay raises of 3 percent to lower-level nonunion employees and 5.5 percent to some of its top execs. NYRA's president, Charles Hayward, before confirming the raises – including his own from a reported \$460,000 to \$473,800 – said, "There are going to be some hard times" ahead. The raises may have been justified by three years of non-raises, but the timing drew immediate and understandable blasts from an unbelieving and unforgiving press.

Across the nation, the California racing board, already had shown its economic shortcomings, responding to its own hard times by raising the price of the product to consumers in the midst of a depression. Two hundred twenty years ago the French rushed to the streets with cries of "To the guillotine." I understand their torment far better now, in views of the disastrous events in American racing in recent days and weeks.

<http://www.drf.com/news/racing-keeps-taking-low-blows>

Remington Handle Spikes 48.3% at Recent Meet

December 14, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

Total wagering on live Thoroughbred races at Remington Park was up 48.3% to \$54,179,243 this year, officials at the Oklahoma racetrack said Dec. 13.

The 67-day meet ended Dec. 11. It was the first under owner Global Gaming Solutions.

Average daily total handle for the meet was \$808,645. Export handle of \$48,562,011 was up 53.9% from the 2009 season, an increase of \$16,998,226. The 2009 meet also was 67 days.

Ontrack handle for the season was up 15.7% with a total of \$5,049,558 played on live racing, up \$685,952 from last year. Attendance for the season reached 461,705, up 14.5% from year ago for an average of 6,891 per race date.

A major project to reinvent Remington throughout the year achieved one of its objectives, Remington president and general manager Scott Wells said in a statement.

“The ontrack increase is directly related to the millions of dollars worth of improvements Global Gaming has made throughout the course of the year at Remington Park,” Wells said. “We've been able to completely change the appearance of the place and the effort is ongoing, continuing between this season and the next.

As far as the increases in our export handle, we've been successful in marketing our signal to a much wider distribution network. Due to our competitive full fields, more and more serious horseplayers have realized the value we offer. That boosts the wagering pool size which, in turn attracts even larger pool size.

“I hated to see this season end because we were continually gaining momentum in the marketplace.”

Remington expanded the maximum number of starters for a race to 14 for the first time this season. There were 6,481 overall starters through 639 races for an average field size of 10.1. In 2009, Remington Park offered 610 races with 5,796 starters for an average field size of 9.5 per race.

Remington increased the total number of races for the season by 29, up 4.8% compared with 2009.

Average daily purses of \$215,582 were up 7.4% compared with a year ago. Total purse money for the season reached \$14,443,965, nearly \$1 million more than in 2009.

Full-card simulcast handle on live racing dates totaled \$5,054,844, up 4.8% from last year.

Remington wagering at in-state offtrack betting parlors in Oklahoma City, Midwest City, and Lawton was down 6% to \$567,674. Only four locations served as OTB partners for Remington this year, compared with six in 2009.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60327/remington-handle-spikes-483-at-recent-meet>

Kentucky Tables Action on ADW Regulation

December 13, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

Advanced Deposit Wagering regulations that would be among the stiffest in the country were tabled during the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission's meeting Dec. 13 after objections were raised by the president of Churchill Downs Inc.

Kevin Flanery, president of CDI, which operates TwinSpires.com, one of the largest ADW operators in the country, strongly objected to a portion of the new Kentucky regulation that would require ADW operators to become licensed in Kentucky if they wanted to take wagers on any Kentucky tracks, even if the ADW company was not located in Kentucky nor if it had any Kentucky ADW clients.

Flanery said that requiring ADW companies to go through the extensive licensing process and pay a bond of as much as \$500,000 required of ADW licensees would result in those companies not offering wagering on Kentucky races. The result could be a major decline in ADW handle, he said. Flanery was speaking more from the effect the regulation could have wagering on Churchill Downs races rather than how it would impact TwinSpires.com.

"My fear is that (ADW) people will leave the state of Kentucky and won't take the Kentucky signals," Flanery said.

Flanery said the commission's objective of having an ADW regulation that would offer integrity to bettors was already achievable under the Interstate Horse Racing Act of 1978 that regulates transmission of simulcast signals.

"My point is that what you are seeking is already in place," Flanery said. "Integrity is a concern to us also. The question is whether we are going to lose handle without any value added. (The proposed regulation of ADW operators) would be the same as saying an off-track betting operation in New York would have to come to Kentucky to be licensed. I don't think anybody is suggesting that is the right thing to do."

Susan Speckert, general legal counsel for the commission, and some members of a KHRC committee that had worked for nearly a year on the new regulation, defended the necessity of licensing ADW operators who take wagers on Kentucky races, regardless of where the ADW company or its clients are located.

Commissioner Tom Ludt, who served on the ADW regulation committee, said the issue was a "question of whether or not we want to be leaders on integrity."

Ned Bonnie, a commissioner who also served on the ADW committee, said, "The concern is we have people taking bets on Kentucky races that are unregulated."

Also supporting the Kentucky proposal was Mike Maloney, a professional gambler on horses and a horse owner and breeder. He acknowledged Flanery's contention that some ADW operators, including off-shore betting companies, would boycott Kentucky racetracks rather than submit to the licensing and bond requirements under the regulation.

"I am concerned that companies would not want to participate in Kentucky (wagering)," Moloney said. "But I still believe it's the right thing to do. I hope that the short-term impact on handle will go away because a lot of bettors out there want integrity."

With only Bonnie voting "no" the commission tabled the regulation until the committee could try to resolve the issues voiced by Flanery. The earliest it would probably be re-considered would be February 2011.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60334/kentucky-tables-action-on-adw-regulation/print>

Remington Names Fick as Director of Racing

December 14, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

Remington Park announced Dec. 14 that the racetrack and casino has reached an agreement with Dan Fick to serve as director of racing, beginning Jan. 1, 2011.

Most recently working as a state steward in Indiana, Fick served as executive director of racing for the American Quarter Horse Association for 19 years. In 2003 he was hired to be the executive director and vice president of The Jockey Club, a position he held through 2009.

Fick is the only person to have held such positions in the world's two largest breed associations. In addition to his current duties as a steward, Fick also serves as an examiner for the National Thoroughbred Racing Association's Safety and Integrity Alliance.

"Dan's leadership abilities and his unmatched experience across all phases of the racing industry make him a perfect fit for Remington Park," Remington president and general manager Scott Wells said. "He's one of the most respected men in the business and for good reason."

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60340/remington-names-fick-as-director-of-racing>

FEI President Names Executive Board Members

December 13, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) President HRH Princess Haya named Chairman of Geographical Group VII Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdulla Al Khalifa (BRN) and Chair of the Driving Committee Richard Nicoll (USA) as members of the FEI Executive Board on Dec. 13.

Sheikh Khalid and Nicoll will serve on the executive board alongside First Vice President John McEwen (GBR) and Second Vice President Pablo Mayorga (ARG), who were approved at the General Assembly, which took place Nov. 1-5 in Chinese Taipei.

Sheikh Khalid, whose career as a sports administrator began in 1987, is an international endurance judge. He has been chair of Group VII since 2006. He has been the vice president of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation and the Bahrain Olympic Committee since 2009. This year he became the chief executive officer of the Bahrain Olympic Committee. In the past he has been involved at the senior level in international sports clubs and committees for motor sports, jumping, and endurance.

Nicoll, who was born in Britain but is now a permanent U.S. resident, has been involved in the sport of driving since the early 1970s. He is currently an "O" level course designer and technical delegate for driving and he designed courses for the 1993 World Pairs Championships in the United States, the 1998 World Single Horse Championships in Austria, the 2004 World Single Horse Championships in Sweden, and the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Kentucky. He is currently in his second term as chair of the driving committee.

The FEI Bureau decides on the specific mandate of the Executive Board, whose role is generally to interface with FEI Headquarters to oversee and support the implementation of resolutions further to an agenda approved by the Bureau.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60329/fei-president-names-executive-board-members>

California Trainers Pursue Merger With Owners

December 12, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

Unable to convince the Thoroughbred Owners of California to consider unifying with its organization, trainers in the state are pursuing plans to form a new representative group.

The California Thoroughbred Trainers is currently polling members for their feelings about decertification of the TOC and forming a new umbrella organization that would include both owners and trainers.

"We have held meetings (with trainers) in both the north and the south and we are moving forward toward a new organization," said John Sadler, CTT president, when contacted Dec. 12. Sadler said trainers who met with the CTT in the north were unanimous in their support of a new representative, while in the south, most were in agreement. "We believe we have their support, but thought it would be better to poll the membership," he said.

Sadler said the CTT board of directors is fully committed to unifying the owners and trainers, but that its TOC counterpart has consistently refused to put the issue before its membership, which is believed to number about 9,500. As a result, the focus is on forming a new group, he explained. The current CTT board majority was elected in part on a promise to join the trainers and owners.

TOC was incorporated in 1993 following an acrimonious split between owners and trainers. It is the legislatively recognized representative of the state's horsemen in contract negotiations with entities such as racetrack associations and advance deposit and satellite wagering companies, and before the California Horse Racing Board. Trainers who are also owners are allowed to be members and there are three positions on the 15-member TOC board restricted to the owner/trainer category. The TOC is funded through a percentage of the takeout that goes to horsemen for purses.

The CTT, which works in cooperation with the TOC, has been primarily concerned with backstretch welfare, workers' compensation, and track safety issues. California is the only racing state with such a division of horsemen, Sadler said.

Arnold Zetcher, chairman of the TOC's board, said a recent vote of its directors "was unanimous in the feeling it wasn't necessary to put the two groups together." He said the TOC and CTT have worked well together on common issues but that board members feel "differences of opinion" would make it difficult to share the same organization. He added that he was "disappointed" in the CTT's direction.

Sadler said California racing is facing a number of serious issues, including a major revamping for the annual calendar and the futures of the Oak Tree Racing Association and Del Mar--which is potentially for sale by the state--and that horsemen need to "pool resources" to be effective. "The point is we need to have everyone working together to push the ball up the hill," he said. "Would you rather have 20 people pushing it or 40? They (the TOC) are trying very hard, but we think a combined organization would be better for everyone. I'm not anti-TOC and this is not an emotional issue for me," he added.

In a Dec. 8 letter to his members asking for responses, Sadler said TOC restrictions on trainers that are owners amount to "discrimination" and must end. "Horsemen have a right to choose a new organization that provides fair representation, rather than be forced into an organization that excludes some owners, or limits their representation, simply because they also have a trainer's license," he wrote.

In the letter, Sadler also made reference to charges by horse owner Jerry Jamgotchian that the TOC misused marketing funds refunded by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association to pursue the purchase of Santa Anita Park after track owner Magna Entertainment Corp. declared bankruptcy last year. Jamgotchian contends the TOC violated the state's business and professions code by failing to return the money, two checks totaling more than \$1.1 million in 2006, to horsemen purses and instead created a separate account.

"Allegations have surfaced regarding improper administration of horsemen's funds and potential violations of CHRB regulations and California law," the letter said. "While we reserve judgment on these allegations, we are concerned about their serious nature."

Jamgotchian has demanded a CHRB investigation and plans to file a lawsuit against the TOC alleging misappropriation. Zetcher responded to the charge, saying, "It's disappointing that CTT would even bring that up. Frankly, what we have is one individual coming up with an allegation of something that happened three or four years ago for which there is no foundation."

He said the matter has been reviewed but noted it occurred long before he became the TOC chairman a little more than four months ago. "Decisions were made at the time," he said, "but nothing wrong happened. Misappropriation of funds is a serious charge and there is no basis for making such an allegation. "We'll see how things shake out. We want to continue to work with (the trainers) even under these circumstances," Zetcher added.

According to CHRB rules, in order for a change in horsemen representation to take place, the new organization must first file a notice of intent to decertify the TOC. Within six months of the filing, the new organization must acquire the signatures of 10% of TOC members through a petition to decertify. The CHRB would then be responsible for verifying the signatures to see they meet regulatory requirements. If so, the board would call an election to determine which organization would be the acknowledged representative.

Sadler, who believes most owners would support their trainers if given the opportunity, said about 900 valid signatures would be needed to start the process. He said he expects to have feedback from CTT members this week.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60318/california-trainers-pursue-merger-with-owners>

Castellano drops appeal of ban for BC ride that prompted fight

December 13, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

Jockey Javier Castellano has dropped his appeal of a six-day suspension for careless riding in the [Breeders' Cup Marathon](#), an incident that led to a winner's circle altercation with rival jockey Calvin Borel.

Castellano had filed the appeal just before traveling to Japan for a mount in the Grade 1 Queen Elizabeth Commemorative Cup on Nov. 14. The commission's executive director, Lisa Underwood, had initially denied the appeal, but Castellano won a stay in Kentucky circuit court. Although the commission argued against the stay, it was granted.

Kentucky's racing commission has been attempting to prevent riders and trainers from filing what it has called "frivolous appeals" that are lodged in an attempt to protect the rider's opportunities in upcoming races. Underwood reiterated at the meeting that the commission had denied the appeal and objected to the stay under those efforts, but she said that the judge had cited concerns about the language in its rule on frivolous appeals in granting Castellano a temporary restraining order.

As a result, Underwood said, the rules committee will consider language to tweak the rules so that its denials of appeals have more force.

<http://www.drf.com/news/castellano-drops-appeal-ban-bc-ride-prompted-fight>

Betfair income down for six-month period ending Oct. 31

December 14, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

Betfair, the British-based exchange wagering company that owns Television Games Network, had net income of \$10.7 million in the six months ended Oct. 31, a \$1.6 million decline from the net profit the company posted in the comparable period last year, according to financial statements released by Betfair on Tuesday.

Revenue in the six-month period was \$336.8 million, a 27 percent increase when compared to revenue of \$265.3 million in the same period last year. Betfair had \$281.4 million in cash at the end of the period, with no debt, according to the statements.

TVG had revenue of \$30.5 million in the six-month period, up 16.9 percent compared to revenue of \$26.1 million in the same period last year, according to the financial statements. The company's adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization – a figure that companies use to measure a type of cash flow – was a loss of \$1.8 million in the six-month period, up from a loss of \$1.4 million last year.

Betfair has been aggressively lobbying U.S. statehouses for the legalization of exchange wagering, which allows two or more players to bet against each other on a line set by one of the players. So far, legislation supported by the company that would allow exchange wagering in California as of 2012 has passed into law, and additional efforts in New Jersey are supported by the racing industry there. It remains unclear if Betfair's type of betting would violate federal prohibitions on bookmaking.

As in the New Jersey bills, the California legislation will require an exchange-wagering operator to reach an agreement on revenue splits from the practice before betting can begin. "We are actively engaging with regulators and horse racing industry participants to progress this opportunity," Betfair said in the financial statements.

<http://www.drf.com/news/betfair-income-down-six-month-period-ending-oct-31>

HFL Sport Science Laboratory Opens in KY

December 15, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear Dec. 14 joined community leaders and executives of HFL Sport Science to celebrate the grand opening of the company's new laboratory in Lexington.

Located at 1745 Alysheba Way, the facility will provide drug surveillance, doping control and research to equine and other sports industries. The lab, which represents more than a \$4 million investment, will create 48 new jobs, including 25 high-tech positions, paying an average salary of more than \$47,000, exclusive of benefits.

"HFL is establishing a world-class bioanalytical laboratory to deliver doping control and associated research for horseracing in Kentucky and nationwide," said Gov. Beshear, who thanked Dr. David Hall, CEO of HFL Sport Science in the United Kingdom and HFL Sport Science in Kentucky for having confidence in the Bluegrass State to spearhead such a facility. "(HFL Sport Science's) testing services for various sport science activities, such as checking horse feed and sport supplements for banned substances, will help ensure the equine industry remains healthy, while also helping preserve and create high-paying, high-tech jobs for Kentucky residents."

The Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority preliminarily approved HFL for a forgivable loan up to \$425,000 through the Cabinet for Economic Development's High-Tech Investment Pool, a program used to support technology-based and research-intensive companies and projects. The high-tech pool funds are being used by HFL to purchase lab equipment and help underwrite costs for lab up-fit of the Lexington facility.

KEDFA also gave preliminary approval for tax incentive benefits to HFL up to \$800,000 through the Kentucky Business Investment program. The performance-based incentive allows a company to keep a portion of its investments over a 10-year period through corporate income tax credits and wage assessments by meeting job and investment targets.

In March 2010, the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission selected HFL to provide drug testing for Kentucky race tracks. The lab will begin processing samples in February 2011. In addition to developing laboratory screening tests for fitness and nutritional health, HFL plans to provide services to the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. The company also anticipates research collaborations with the University of Kentucky, which will improve the basic understanding of issues relating to doping control in equine, canine, and human sports.

“We at HFL are truly delighted to be partnering with the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission in creating a world class racing chemistry laboratory in Lexington,” said Hall, noting that the foundation of the new lab was the most significant thing that had happened in the development of HFL in the last 50 years. “We anticipate that our partnership and research-led approach will quickly bring benefits to racing in Kentucky, and are eager to investigate the benefits of forging the transatlantic link with racing in the United Kingdom. It must be noted that the support that we have received from the Cabinet for Economic Development, Commerce Lexington, and the wider community has been tremendous, making the start up in Lexington a remarkably smooth process.”

Lisa Underwood, executive director of the KHRC, said HFL will start doing all drug testing for Kentucky racetracks Feb. 1, 2011. “They have the best equipment in the world, they have a fabulous team, and we’re delighted to have Rick Sams as the lab director--he is the former program director of the Florida Racing Laboratory, and he’s internationally respected,” said Underwood. “It’s wonderful to have him here so we can have face-to-face meetings.”

Underwood said Kentucky’s drug samples will now be couriered directly to the Lexington office, instead of having to be shipped to and from a Florida laboratory to be tested. This will provide a quicker turnaround, cutting down the wait for results by one or two days. The lab has additionally set up procedures for an after-hours drop off for samples.

“I have wanted to have a lab here since I started (in my position) five years ago,” said Underwood, adding that she began a dialogue with HFL around 18 months ago about plans for a Kentucky lab. After a recommendation for a lab in Kentucky had come up during the governor’s task force on the future of horse racing, Underwood met a HFL representative at an Association of Racing Commissioners International meeting, and things began falling into place.

“We had been brainstorming about how to attract someone to here to head a lab, and then they came to us, and they have a great reputation,” said Underwood. “Mary Scollay (equine medical director for the KHRC) went over and toured the lab in Newmarket, and then we started negotiations and went from there.

“I think it’s a great thing for Kentucky and the horse industry to promote integrity and safety. I have total confidence that (HFL) is going to do an excellent job.”

HFL’s parent company, HFL Sport Science Ltd, is based in Fordham, near Cambridge, in the United Kingdom, and has more than 40 years of continuous experience in the science of sports doping control. This includes experience testing within the framework of the World Anti-Doping Agency and testing human and animal food supplements for substances prohibited in sports. The company also delivers both operational screening services and innovative research into prohibited substance detection.

Hall said the British horse racing industry spends more on research than any racing authority in the world. His goals for the future with the Lexington-based HFL are to “increase quality standards and invest heavily in instrumentation.” Eventually, he hopes to work with pharmaceutical companies to study drugs that may become subjects of abuse several years down the road, something HFL has been doing in the United Kingdom for the last decade.

“It’s a seven or eight-year heads up to see what’s coming down the pipeline,” he explained. “So we saw early on and were able re-equip the skills of the lab in the UK with biological skills instead of just chemistry skills, and we were more ready (to detect illegal substances) than anyone else in the racing community.”

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60341/hfl-sport-science-laboratory-opens-in-ky>

Senate Designates 2011 as World Veterinary Year

December 14, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

While today's veterinarian plays a critical role in protecting the health and welfare of both people and animals in the United States, veterinary medical education actually got its start 250 years ago when the first veterinary medical college opened in Lyon, France. In honor of this anniversary, the United States Senate passed a resolution declaring 2011 as "World Veterinary Year" to bring attention to and show appreciation for the veterinary profession.

"...It's important that we recognize the important role that the veterinary profession plays in our lives," says Senator John Ensign, DVM (R-NV), the only veterinarian serving in the Senate. "Many people in my state and across the country view their pets as important members of their families and look to their veterinarians to ensure that their animals live long, healthy lives. Also, veterinarians play an integral role in food safety. For this reason, I have asked the Senate to officially bring attention to and show appreciation for the veterinary profession by declaring 2011 as World Veterinary Year."

"It is remarkable that 250 years ago, educators clearly understood the link between human and animal health," said Larry Kornegay, DVM, president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). "I would like to thank the United States Senate for recognizing this important link and passing this resolution."

World Veterinary Year will launch internationally with an opening ceremony on Jan. 24, 2011, in Versailles, France. The AVMA—along with many partners on the U.S. Vet 2011 National Committee—has planned a number of events across the United States during the year to commemorate World Veterinary Year. The AVMA is hosting a symposium, "World Veterinary Year: 250 Years of Improving Animal and Human Health" on July 17, 2011, during the AVMA Convention in St. Louis, Mo.

Additional international events will include a World Veterinary Conference on Education from May 12–16, 2011, at VetAgro Sup - Campus Vétérinaire, in Lyon, France. The closing ceremonies will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from Oct. 10–14, 2011.

For more information, visit www.avma.org. To learn more about World Veterinary Year, visit www.vet2011.org.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60346/senate-designates-2011-as-world-veterinary-year>

Regulatory Employment Positions

Position Open to Candidates
Commonwealth of Virginia
Executive Secretary (Director)
Virginia Racing Commission

Located in New Kent (Richmond area), Virginia, this full-time position is responsible for the daily operations of the state agency regulating pari-mutuel thoroughbred and standardbred racing in Virginia. The Executive Secretary reports directly to the five-member Racing Commission which is appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth. The Virginia Racing Commission is responsible for promoting sustaining and growing the native horse racing industry in Virginia, including control of all horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering conducted in the Commonwealth. For a detailed job description, on-line application and more information, please visit www.vrc.virginia.gov.

Qualifications—

General knowledge of horse racing, breeding and pari-mutuel wagering preferred. Demonstrated management skills. Experience in working with the Administration of government and the legislative process. Basic knowledge of accounting procedures and budget preparations. Skill in communicating with racing commissioners, general public, political and business leaders and horse racing stakeholders. Some college preferred with course work emphasis on management, administration, public relations or accounting.

Deadline for Applying—December 15, 2010—Must Be Filed On-line

Contact Info: Name, Phone, e-mail

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Richmond, VA 23219
804-225-2007
Debbie.wyattsmith@dhrm.virginia.gov

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Position Wanted

Regulatory Affairs Director (Racing)
Evaluation of existing racing integrity protocols, design and implementation of pre-race horse inspection programs, blood-gas and out-of-competition testing protocols, furosemide/permitted medication administration procedures, etc.

Consultations available.

Inquiries to: racingregulatoryaffairs@gmail.com

STATE JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Texas Racing Commission

has an opening for the Executive Director,
posting # 47611-05 in Austin, Texas. Five years
experience in executive management of a major
state agency or racing industry/trade association.

Full posting and the state application form are at www.racing.texas.gov/agency/jobs/current_jobs.php.

State Employment Application Required.

Quality Control Coordinator – Part Time

Equibase is the Thoroughbred industry's official database for racing information. We are currently looking for part-time personnel. Work includes customer service, online support, data entry, proofreading and special projects as assigned. Qualified candidates must have basic typing and computer skills, the ability to function under deadline conditions, attention to detail, problem solving skills, dependability, and an excellent work ethic. HTML experience is desirable. Knowledge of the Thoroughbred industry a plus, but not required.

Part time positions are for 20-30 hours per week. Equibase operates 7 days a week, 12 hours a day. Scheduled hours includes weekend and evenings until 9pm, Sunday hours may be required.

Starting pay is \$8.50/hr.

Qualified candidates may apply in person or direct their current resumes to:

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Groom of the Year Award



To nominate a groom, all you need to do is write a detailed letter explaining why the groom is deserving of the honor of Groom of the Year.

Send with this letter:

- **Groom's name, address, phone number, and windbreaker jacket size**
- **Your name, address, and phone number**

Mail, e-mail, or fax all information to:

Harness Tracks of America

4640 East Sunrise, Suite 200

Tucson, AZ 85718

E-mail: jen@harnesstracks.com - Fax: (520) 529-3235

All grooms nominated will receive a certificate of excellence and the first 50 nominations also will receive a handsome HTA/Hanover Shoe Farms satin windbreaker jacket.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS DECEMBER 31, 2010



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2010 Associate Members

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