



BREEDING NEWS

Aurelius Maximus to Stand at Red River Farms

Aurelius Maximus has been retired from racing and will enter stud in 2021 at Jay Adcock's Red River Farm in Coushatta, La., it was announced Friday, January 22. The deal was brokered by Andrew Cary of Cary Bloodstock.

The 5-year-old son of Pioneerof the Nile will stand in a partnership that includes Stonestreet Stables, George Bolton, and Peter Leidel, who raced the colt, with Nathan Granger.

"Aurelius Maximus is the most exciting horse to retire to Louisiana for many years," said Cary. "His combination of impeccable pedigree, gorgeous conformation, and top-class ability on the racetrack make him a very tantalizing prospect for breeders in the Southwest."



Aurelius Maximus



CORRECTION: The above photo of Our Lost Love was mistakenly credited to Marshall Blevins. The credit should have been to Ann Switalski/ Hodges Photography.

"We're very excited to get a horse of such talent and grit—not to mention his great looks. We're just as excited to partner with one of the premier ownership groups in the industry in Stonestreet Stables, Mr. Bolton, and Mr. Leidel," said Granger.

Aurelius Maximus showed top ability from the outset, breaking his maiden at Belmont Park by 7 3/4 lengths in his second career start. He was then fourth in the Champagne Stakes (G1) behind grade 1 winners Complexity and Code of Honor. Sidelined afterwards, he returned with two dominant allowance victories at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots and Churchill Downs, including a win over future grade 1 winner

Bodexpress. He was then beaten a neck by Mr Freeze in the Hagyard Fayette Stakes (G2) at Keeneland after a difficult trip.

Aurelius Maximus is one of seven winners produced by the grade 3 winner La Reina, who also produced grade 2 winner Chief Havoc (Giant's Causeway) and grade 3-placed Special Event (Arch). La Reina is a half sister to grade 1 winner and sire Brahms (Danzig) and to stakes winner Olympic (Danzig). This is the high-class female family of grade 1 winners Queena, Too Chic, Chic Shirine, Somali Lemonade, and Verrazano.

Aurelius Maximus will stand for \$2,000 live foal, with consideration to approved mares.

OBITUARIES**KENNY BOURQUE DIES AT 67**

Longtime jockey Kenny "Chopper" Bourque, died Dec. 29 in Taylorsville, Ky., at age 67 from liver cancer.

The oldest of six siblings, Bourque was born in Abbeville, La., not far from Lafayette, where many Cajun-born riders learned to ride at unsanctioned racetracks called "bush tracks." He and his youngest brother, Curt, became successful riders.

He gained the nickname "Chopper" as a youth, and the name stuck for his life on the racetrack. He was the leading rider at defunct Jefferson Downs in Kenner, La., in the late 1970s and at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots during its 1986-87 meet. Bourque retired in 1999 having won 2,467 races from 19,873 rides with earnings of more than \$20.4 million.

In addition to his home state of Louisiana, he rode in Kentucky, winning the Iroquois Stakes (G3) at Churchill Downs in 1996 for late trainer Jim Keefer, and Bourque settled in the state when his riding career ended. He worked in the automobile and truck industry before resuming galloping and becoming an assistant trainer. In recent years, he was assistant clerk of scales at Churchill Downs and Keeneland.

Kenny Bourque is survived by a large extended family that includes his mother, Louella, and his wife of 46 years, Mary. His siblings include Curt, Donald Bourque, Lynda Coco, Teresa Bourque, and Becky Pullin. He leaves behind six children—Tiffany, Kenny Bourque Jr., Jamie Frensley, Dustin Bourque, Michael Bourque, and Samatha Soutar—plus nine grandchildren.

Judy Lyn Dugas

Judy Lyn Dugas passed away November 20, 2020. A native and lifelong resident of Sulphur. Judy was a 1960 Graduate of Sulphur High School where she was a member of the rodeo team and won the All-Around Champion Cowgirl Award in the State Championship Rodeo. She also attended the University of Arizona and studied Horse Racing on the Flat.

A loyal employee to Choupique Enterprise, Inc. and Orange Rice Milling Company, Inc. for many years, Judy was also an employee of Delta Downs, Inc. as a placing judge/official timer and association steward, followed by employment with the Louisiana State Racing Commission where she served as a State Steward for over 20 years. After retirement, she continued as an alternate State Steward until her death. She was always described as a fair and qualified judge and was held in such high esteem. Judy loved horses, rodeoing, and horse racing.

Survivors include her sister, Kathy Dugas Melancon (Paul) of Richland, TX; her nephews and nieces, Jason Melancon (Krista),

Continued on Page 48

GSW Bobby's Wicked One to Acadiana Equine at Copper Crowne

David Tillson announced new 2021 stallion, the Graded Stakes Winner Bobby's Wicked One, by red hot Speightstown, leading sire of Grade 1 winners in 2020, has retired to Acadiana Equine at Copper Crowne.

Bobby's Wicked One defeated Mitole winning his racing debut at 2 at the Fair Grounds by over 5 lengths. Winner of Keeneland's Commonwealth S.-G3 and second in the Churchill Downs S.-G1, Bobby's Wicked One defeated the winners of over \$29 million, including 19 Graded stakes winners, earned multiple triple digit Beyer Speed Figures and retired with earnings of \$547,673.

Out of the Ghostzapper mare Wicked Charm, a winning half-sister to champion Turf Sire of 2020 English Channel, his third dam is multiple champion Committed.

Lone Star Special to Holly Hill

Lone Star Special (Malabar Gold-Sunshine Special) has moved to Dr. Robert Hewlett's Holly Hill Farm in Benton, Louisiana for the 2021 breeding season. Benton Salmon has acquired 50% interest in the stallion who stood at Cherokee Ridge Farm in Carencro, Louisiana for the previous two seasons for Irwin Olian's Tigertail Ranch. Tigertail Ranch has retained 50% ownership.

Mr. Salmon, a successful businessman with growing interest in the horse racing and breeding industry, is excited about his venture into stallion ownership and is planning on breeding a number of high quality mares to the stud.



Bobby's Wicked One

“Lone Star Special has demonstrated remarkable success producing a number of high class runners from a very small number of foals. Notable among his offspring are Mobile Bay, Wheatfield and Trevilion. Lone Star Special has never had a fair chance and I intend to give him that. We are looking to gain the support he deserves from the Louisiana breeding community.”

Lone Star Special is the sire of two Graded Stakes horses, both accredited Louisiana-breds.

G2 Super Derby winner Mobile Bay ran from ages three to six, hitting the board in 21 of 29 lifetime starts. Lifetime earnings of \$1,246,440 rank him 4th among all-time Leading Accredited Louisiana Bred Runners. A multiple Accredited Louisiana Bred Champion, Mobile Bay was named 2015 3YO Colt or Gelding and Horse of the Year, 2016 Older

Male and Horse of the Year, and 2017 Older Male.

Multiple stakes winner, Wheatfield ran 2nd in the '17 G2 Inside Information Stakes at Gulfstream. She was named 2016 4YO & Up Louisiana Bred Champion Filly or Mare. She earned black type in 11 stakes events, many against open company, and currently has \$394,603 in lifetime earnings.

Lone Star Special will stand the 2021 season for a fee of \$2,000 live

DELTA DOWNS 2020-21 THOROUGHBRED STAKES SCHEDULE.

- 2-10 **LOUISIANA PREMIER NIGHT**
 \$100,000 LAPN Prince
 \$50,000 LAPN Ladies Starter
 \$100,000 LAPN Distaff
 \$100,000 LAPN Starlet
 \$50,000 LAPN Gentlemen Starter
 \$125,000 LAPN Championship
 \$40,000 LAPN Ragin Cajun Starter
 \$100,000 LAPN Sprint
 \$40,000 LAPN Bon Temps Starter
 \$100,000 LAPN Matron

foal payable when foal stands and nurses.

RACING NEWS

Fair Grounds Announces Second Purse Increase of the Meet

On January 8, 2021, Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots announced a 10% purse increase across the board. This is the second time purses have been raised in the young 2020-21 meet. The boost was inspired by strong simulcast handle during the first seven weeks of the 149th racing season, which includes solid bettor response to the newly implemented traditional early and late Pk5 wagers.

As a result of the increase, which starts with condition book #4, February 3, 2021, purses on allowance races will be bumped up \$5,000, the mid-level races will be boosted by \$3,000, while all other races will receive a \$2,000 hike.

FAIR GROUNDS 2020-21 THOROUGHBRED STAKES SCHEDULE.

- 2-13 **LOUISIANA DERBY PREVIEW DAY**
 \$200,000 G3 Mineshaft S.
 \$400,000 G2 Risen Star S.
 \$300,000 G2 Rachel Alexandra S.
 \$150,000 G3 Fair Grounds S.
 \$100,000 Colonel Power S.
 \$100,000 Albert M. Stall Mem. S.
- 2-16 \$75,000 Mardi Gras S.
- 2-27 \$75,000 Black Gold S.
 \$60,000 Dixie Poker Ace S.
- 3-7 \$75,000 Allen Lacombe Mem. S.
- 3-14 \$60,000 Red Camelia S.
- 3-20 **LOUISIANA DERBY DAY**
 \$100,000 Tom Benson Mem. S.
 \$75,000 Costa Rising S.
 \$300,000 G2 Muniz Mem. Classic
 \$400,000 G2 New Orleans Classic
 \$400,000 G2 Fair Grounds Oaks
 \$1,000,000 G2 Louisiana Derby
 \$75,000 Crescent City Derby
 \$75,000 Crescent City Oaks
- 3-27 \$60,000 Star Guitar S.
 \$60,000 Shantel Lanerie Mem O/N

OBITUARIES *Continued from Page 46*

Kristin Melancon (Joe Durantini), Donna Istre (Kevin), Sheila Hanks, Pam Haney (David); 10 great nieces and nephews, and 7 great-great nieces and nephews. Judy also leaves behind her life long, devoted friend, Sue Granger and her children who considered Judy as their second Mom.

Royal B. Kraft, Sr.

Royal Brent Kraft, Sr. passed away peacefully on Monday, December 7, 2020 at the age of 86.

Royal was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 1, 1934, and was a resident of Covington for the past 50 years.

Royal was a graduate of Holy Cross High School and attended Southeastern University. He served proudly in the Louisiana National Guard, attaining the rank of Master Sergeant. Royal was a very caring and giving man who was a friend to all, and touched the lives of all who knew him. He was an avid horse lover and active member of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association. One of his biggest passions was working with his thoroughbred horses. Royal was the founder and owner of a local wholesale food distribution business.

He is survived by his children, Royal Kraft, Jr. (Diane), Keith Kraft (Mary), Kolt Kraft, Celynn Ducasse (Eddie), and Todd Kraft (Gretchen); grandchildren, Chase, Blake, Brandon, Kasey, Victoria, Cassidy, Kristian, Bennett, and Robyn.

Ken LeJeune Dies at 60

Longtime horseman Ken LeJeune, 60, died at home Dec. 4 after a brief illness, according to his wife, Carey. Throughout LeJeune's 40-plus-year career as a jockey, trainer, and bloodstock agent, his family said he never lost his enthusiasm as a fan of horse racing.

Over the years, he had the good fortune of finding or developing many top runners, including Peace Rules, Divine Park, Genuine Devotion, Anne's Beauty, Bay to Bay, Clearly Now, Flipcup, and, more recently, grade 1 winners Mo Forza and Gufo and grade 3 winner Totally Boss, according to Carey LeJeune.

"He was a true Cajun, and he never left his roots," she said. "He enjoyed fishing in the Gulf, a few cold beers at the end of the day, and a stop at the farm to check on the horses. He found total happiness in sitting on his pony and watching his charges march like soldiers to the track. Although he was ill, even he did not know in the end that it would come so soon. He lived life by the drop and consumed every last bit."

LeJeune is survived by his children, John and Piper.

Continued on Page 50

Maiden special weight races will now be worth \$55,000. The purse increase includes both open races and Louisiana-bred races.

Oaklawn Trims Purses at Start of Meet

Overnight purses have been reduced in advance of the start of the Oaklawn Park meet, a 57-day run which began Jan. 22. The Arkansas track is making the move due to limiting attendance because of social distancing requirements because of COVID-19. Average daily purses will be about \$600,000 instead of the originally projected \$700,000, for about a 15% reduction. Stakes purses will not be altered.

Oaklawn To Limit Number Of Fans

Pursuant to the Arkansas Department of Health directive, Oaklawn plans to conduct the 2021 live meet with limited spectators. The 57-day season runs from Friday, Jan. 22 – Saturday, May 1.

"We're happy to announce we will be welcoming back race fans in 2021, albeit on a limited basis," General Manager Wayne Smith said. "Our main concern is for the safety and well-being of our guests and team members."

In accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Arkansas Department of Health, Oaklawn has submitted a plan to allow a limited number of spectators at the races during the 2021 live race meet highlighted by the following:

- General admission into the Grandstand will not be allowed initially in 2021.
- Entrance into the Grandstand will strictly be for guests with a racing credential and/or reserva-

tion for that day's races.

- Current seasonal box seat holders and current Oaklawn Jockey Club members may enter the Grandstand with weekly reservations required.
- Restaurants inside the Grandstand, following Arkansas Department of Health directives, will be open to the public with weekly reservations required.
- Simulcast will be open Wednesday–Sunday, 11 am–8 pm to limited capacity with weekly reservations required.
- Social distancing will be enforced.
- All guests and team members will be required to have non-invasive temperature checks as they enter the facility. Anyone presenting a temp at/over 100 degrees Fahrenheit will not be permitted inside the building.
- All guests and team members will be required to wear masks at all times.
- Smoking will not be allowed anywhere inside the facility, including the casino.

For additional details and future updates, please visit oaklawn.com.

SALES NEWS

Texas 2YO in Training Sale Set for April 7, 2021

The Texas Thoroughbred Association and Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie have announced that the 2021 Texas 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale will be held on Wednesday, April 7, at the Dallas-area track. The breeze show will be held Monday, April 5.

The sale will be held about two weeks before Lone Star Park kicks off its expanded Thoroughbred

meet with 48 days of racing starting on April 22. The track has announced an enhanced stakes schedule worth more than \$2.2 million and the revival of Lone Star Million Day. As usual, the Texas Thoroughbred Sales Futurity, for TTA Sales graduates and those made eligible through a consignor berth, will be held at Lone Star with two divisions at \$100,000-estimated apiece.

“With daily purses at Lone Star expected to be around \$250,000 and maiden races at \$36,000, this sale will offer buyers the chance to get an almost immediate return on their investment,” said Tim Boyce, sales director. “In addition to the Sales Futurity in July, Lone Star will be running two divisions of the Clarence Scharbauer Jr. Texas Stallion Stakes for 2-year-olds in June, so that’s another opportunity for Texas-sired horses.”

Weanling Son of Bradester Tops Texas Mixed Sale

The first standalone Texas Winter Mixed Sale in nearly a decade was held Dec. 6 at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, topped by a weanling son of Bradester.

TTA reported 50 horses sold for gross receipts of \$223,000, an average price of \$4,460 and a \$2,600 median. There were 67 horses that went through the ring not sold.

Top price of \$16,000 was paid by Highlander Training Center for the Bradester colt (Hip 78) from the Benchmark Training Center consignment. Bred in Texas by Haynes Stables, the colt is out of the winning Street Boss mare Blasted Boss. The colt's third dam, grade 1-placed Shooting Party, produced millionaire Breaking Lucky (by

Lookin At Lucky) a grade 3 winner in Canada who finished second in the 2016 Clark Handicap (G1).

Shooting Party is the granddam of Country House (Lookin At Lucky), who finished second in the 2019 Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1), and was elevated to first upon disqualification of Maximum Security and of Mitchell Road (English Channel), a grade 3 winner who has won or finished second in 14 of 18 career starts to date.

The most expensive mare to pass through the ring was Hip 23A, an unraced daughter of Cherokee Run named Running Dispute. Consigned by Brant Schafer, the 16-year-old mare was purchased by Ronald J. Podraza Sr. for \$15,000.

Bred in Kentucky by Stonerside Stable, Running Dispute is out of the Danzig mare Dispute, a four-time grade 1 winner who earned classic honors in 1993 when she won the Kentucky Oaks (G1). The dam of seven foals, Running Dispute has produced multiple stakes winner Can't Be Wrong (Broken Vow) and stakes-placed Indisputable (Valid Expectations). She was offered in foal to Midnight Lute.

The auction was a joint venture between the Texas Thoroughbred Association and Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie and the first TTA winter mixed sale since 2011.

Coteau Grove Goes To \$500K for Contributing at KEENOV

Continuing with their high level of activity at the Keeneland November Sale, Louisiana-based Coteau Grove Farms went to \$500,000 to acquire hip 958, the 6-year-old Contributing (Medaglia

OBITUARIES *Continued from Page 48*

Chad Steven White

Chad Steven White, 59, of Bossier City, LA, formerly of Magnolia, passed away Sunday, November 22, 2020 at the Willis Knighton Bossier Medical Center in Bossier City.

Chad was born on July 2, 1961 in El Dorado. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Minden, LA where he was a member of the Salt and Light Sunday school class and actively involved with the Senior Adult Ministry.

He was the assistant to the director of Rider Administration for the Championship Bull Riding Association and Tuff Hedeman Bull Riding Tour. He was the “concierge” to the rodeo contestants, he enjoyed helping them with whatever they needed.

Chad was preceded in death by his mother, Patsy Ruth (Harris) White.

He is survived by his father, Chad White of Magnolia; sister, Bekki White of Little Rock; and lifelong family friend, Becky Elliott of Magnolia.

d’Oro–Taegu, by Halo) from the Hill ‘n’ Dale Sales consignment. Cary Bloodstock’s Andrew Cary signed the winning ticket on behalf of Coteau Grove’s Keith and Ginger Myers.

Campaigned by Heider Family Stable, Contributing won four of 15 career starts, including the 2019 Pan Zareta S. while under the care of Brad Cox, and bankrolled \$150,225. She was bought back on a bid of \$260,000 at last year’s November sale and was put in foal to Speightstown for her first cover.

Contributing is a half-sister to Grade II-winning juvenile filly Classic Elegance and to El Fasto, the dam of GI Kentucky Oaks winner Believe You Can. The resulting foal will be bred on the same cross responsible for Grade I winners Rock Fall and Competitionofideas and Grade III winner Strike Power.

Coteau Grove has acquired nine head for gross receipts of \$2.88 million at Keeneland November thus far.

OF INTEREST

Clear Creek Stud Offers Scholarship

With an eye toward the future of our industry, Clear Creek Stud will be making a \$5000 Scholarship Donation in the name of their clients to a student with Louisiana based connections to the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse Breeding and Racing Industry.

The scholarship recipient will be chosen by the Louisiana Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association (LaHBPA) and based on their opinion and evaluation of need and merit.

Interested students should send a letter and resume to Eddie Fenasci at the La.H.B.P.A. office by January 31, 2021. Letters can be mailed to La.H.B.P.A. attention to Eddie Fenasci 1535 Gentilly Blvd. New Orleans, La. 70119 or email to efenasci@lahbpa.org.

The recipient will be named by March 20, 2021 at the New Orleans Fair Grounds.

Tom’s Ready Arrives at Old Friends

Tom’s Ready (More Than Ready), a three-time graded-stakes winner, has been added to the roster at Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Center in Georgetown, Kentucky.

The 7-year-old, trained by Dallas Stewart for Gayle and Tom Benson’s GMB Racing, was runner-up in the GIII Lecomte S. and GII Louisiana Derby, before winning the GII Woody Stephens S. and the GIII Ack Ack S. in 2015. Winner of the GIII Bold Ruler H. in 2016, the Pennsylvania-bred entered stud at Spendthrift and was later relocated to Red River Farms in Louisiana.

“It gives us great pleasure to have our wonderful Tom’s Ready retire to Old Friends,” Gayle Benson said. “He was our first purchase, he is a Grade II winner, and he raced in the Kentucky Derby and the Breeders’ Cup, so we are very proud of him and he is deserving of the great care that Old Friends will provide.”

Amoss Awarded 2020 Big Sport of Turfdom Honors

Trainer Tom Amoss received the 2020 Big Sport of Turfdom Award, the Turf Publicists of America announced Dec. 5. The award rec-

ognizes a person or group of people who enhances coverage of Thoroughbred racing through cooperation with media and racing publicists.

Amoss has amassed more than 3,800 victories and earnings of more than \$107 million, highlighted by Serengeti Empress, the winner of the 2019 Longines Kentucky Oaks (G1) and this year's Ballerina

Stakes (G1) and Azeri Stakes (G2); Woody Stephens Stakes Presented by Claiborne Farm (G1) winner No Parole; and Ohio Derby (G3) winner Dean Martini.

Amoss has also served as a racing analyst for TVG, ESPN, NYRA TV, and Fox Sports.

"Tom Amoss' passion for racing, and his generously sharing his knowledge with fans through his

broadcast work, is the embodiment of the Big Sport of Turfdom Award," TPA president Amy Gregory said. "He understands the importance of educating fans and conveying why they should love this sport. We congratulate Tom on his racing success and on winning this year's award."

A native of New Orleans, Amoss began his racing career in high

SERVICES & SUCH



Professional Dependable

RICHARD GOETZ
HORSE TRANSPORTATION
"We Goetz'em where you wants'em"

Boarding facilities in Louisiana and Kentucky

Call
Desiree Goetz
Cell (318) 564-4743
or Lorenza Goetz (318) 965-4179

EQUINE LAWYERS

Our Firm Represents Horse Owners, Breeders, Trainers, Jockeys and Farms in Equine-Related Disputes and Litigation

CALOGERO
LAW FIRM, P.L.L.C.

Gerald J. Calogero, Attorney-at-Law
(504) 581-1416 • www.calogeroLawfirm.com

MUSCADINE FARM

David & Melissa Meche

- ☛ Agent
- ☛ Boarding
- ☛ Foaling
- ☛ Sales prep

411 Muscadine Rd, Sunset, LA 70584
337-280-9494 • 337-258-5537
dmeche123@gmail.com

YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!

Louisiana Horse is delivered to nearly 2,500 horsemen throughout Louisiana and the surrounding states.

Call today!
985-386-0360
or email: linda@louisianabred.com

Dr. Kenneth J. Guilbeau Dr. Phillip L. Stelly Dr. Jeffrey M. Maestri

General Dentistry
(337) 896-3267

258 Arceneaux Rd.
Carencro, LA 70520



Monday-Thursday:
8:00 - 5:00
Friday: 7:30 - 12:00

"Serving the dental needs of Louisiana Horsemen for over 25 years through the HBPA."

Thoroughbred Transport, Inc.



NATION WIDE HORSE TRANSPORTATION

Angelo Troclair
Owner - Agent
1171 Wemple Road
Bossier City, LA 71111

Office: 318-747-6883
Home: 318-747-4202
Mobile: 318-288-9009

school working for Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg. After graduating from Louisiana State University, he worked for trainer Frank Brothers, was a veterinary assistant for Backstretch Surgery & Medicine, and was an assistant trainer to both Larry Robideaux and John Parisella. He took out his trainer's license in 1987.

Amoss also trained grade 1 winners Heritage of Gold and Big World, as well as graded stakes winners Chocolate Martini, Lone Sailor, Mo Tom, Venus Valentine, Grand Contender, Delaunay, Sum of the Parts, Backtalk, Rush Bay, and Baghdaria. Amoss trainee Mylute finished third in the 2013 Preakness Stakes (G1) Longines

Inducted into the Fair Grounds Racing Hall of Fame in 1998, he has earned leading trainer titles at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots, Churchill Downs, Ellis Park, Kentucky Downs, Hoosier Park, Indiana Grand, and Presque Isle Downs.

"I am humbled and honored to be the recipient of the Big Sport of Turfdom Award," Amoss said. "Please be assured I will wear it proudly and respectfully."

The Big Sport of Turfdom has been presented annually since 1966.

Horseracing Integrity And Safety Act Signed Into Law

The legislation passed by the Senate on Dec. 21 that will put anti-doping/medication control and safety programs under the umbrella of one independent, non-governmental Authority, the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act was part of a 5,500-plus page, \$2.3 trillion

bipartisan government funding bill that included \$900 billion in coronavirus relief extending unemployment benefits and providing up to \$600 in cash payments to individuals. President Donald Trump, whose Treasury Department officials helped negotiate the package, had threatened to veto the bill, in part demanding that the \$600 individual benefits be increased to \$2,000.

On Sunday night, Trump signed the bill into law.

A previously formed nominating committee can now move forward in naming the nine members who will comprise the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (five independent members from outside of the horse industry, four from within the industry but without current investments or conflicts of interest). The Authority has been charged with contracting with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to oversee the anti-doping/medication control program on a national basis.

Two working committees also will be named.

Passage of the legislation, originally supported by the grassroots Water Hay Oats Alliance and sponsored in the House of Representatives by Democrat Paul Tonko of New York and Republican Andy Barr of Kentucky, was years in the making. It got fast-tracked earlier this year when Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell threw his support behind it after Churchill Downs came on board and joined with other major racing organizations. It passed the House in September and was part of the omnibus bill passed overwhelmingly by the Senate Dec. 21.

The omnibus legislation that is now law includes other measures beneficial to the horse industry, including continuation of H-2B visa programs for foreign workers and extension of three-year tax depreciation for purchase of racehorses and COVID relief for small businesses in the horse business.

RCI Strengthens Rule Restrictions on Crop Use

Jockeys will be prohibited from using the riding crop more than two consecutive times before being required to wait three full strides in order to give the horse a chance to respond under an expanded Model crop Rule adopted by the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI).

The modified rule tightens restrictions already in place but clearly says that any use of the crop to "urge" the horse must be limited. The new RCI Model Rule continues to rely upon the judgement of the Stewards as to when to impose sanctions, but is clear that using the crop more than two consecutive times or not waiting three full strides before reuse is to be regarded as a rule violation.

The RCI did not include an overall strike count in the actual rule but did approve corresponding guidelines to advise officials that use of the crop more than six strikes during the race is something to be assessed. The RCI Board did not want to remove the authority of the Stewards to exercise judgement based on the specific instances of the race but did want to provide guidance as to when to start questioning the possibility of overuse.

RCI President Ed Martin noted that testimony from the Jockey

Club as to public perception was taken to heart and the regulators found it compelling to help address that by defining clearly what the chance to respond should be.

“The image of someone wailing away on a horse coming down the stretch is not a good one for a sport struggling to assert a positive image. But controlled and limited use with three full strides to respond was something the regulators believed would help mitigate that,” he said.

There was universal agreement that any abuse of the horse in any way must be severely addressed.

The RCI committees intend to develop progressive penalty guidelines in this area in the coming months to ensure that multiple violations are deterred across the system.

“We appreciate the input we have received on this issue from countless individuals and organizations like Breeders Cup, the Thoroughbred Safety Alliance, the Jockey Club, the AQHA, the Jockeys Guild and our regulatory veterinarians,” said RCI Chair Tom Sage.

“We believe we have found a balance that protects the horse, mit-

igates perception problems, and maintains the essence of a sport where every horse runs its best in every race,” he said.

Omnibus Legislation Will Allow Current H-2B Visa Provisions To Continue

A series of current H-2B visa program provisions are set to continue as part of omnibus legislation passed Monday December 28, 2020 by Congress.

H-2B visa program policies set to continue include:

Authority for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in con-



LOUISIANA HORSE RESCUE ASSOCIATION

8900 Melrose Lane, River Ridge, LA 70123

Federal Tax ID# 26-1257231

Dear Owner,

Louisiana Horse Rescue Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to Racehorse welfare and aftercare. Currently the program is funded entirely through the fundraising efforts of committed volunteers, with 100% of funds raised going directly to the horses. We invite you to read more about our organization at www.louisianahorserescue.com.

In order to continue our efforts of rescuing, retraining, rehabbing and rehoming retired racehorses it is necessary that the horse racing industry provide a regular source of income to the program. LHRA hereby requests that each owner by virtue of signing their name below, authorize the LHBPA to debit their Horseman's account as indicated below per start as a tax deductible donation to the LHRA, or an optional other amount as you deem appropriate. Once signed, please return this form to us via mail at the post office address above.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

I hereby authorize the LHBPA to debit my account

\$10.00 per start as a tax deductible donation to LHRA.

\$5.00 per start as a tax deductible donation to LHRA

OTHER amount per start as stated here (may be a percentage)

One time deduction of \$ _____, deducted from next placing

This voluntary deduction is to remain in effect until I notify the Executive Director or Secretary / Treasurer of the LHBPA in writing of my decision to terminate this authorization

Owner Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Address as registered with LHBPA _____

E-mail address _____

sultation with the Department of Labor (DOL), to increase the H-2B cap for fiscal year 2021 by up to approximately 69,000 visas if it determines that the needs of seasonal businesses cannot be met with U.S. workers;

Continuation of the use of private wage surveys for prevailing wage determinations;

A prohibition against DOL enforcing the corresponding employment and three-quarters guarantee provisions of its H-2B regulations relating to total work hours; and

Provisions extending the maximum employment season for up to 10 months, as opposed the nine-months in current DOL regulations.

The H-2B visa guest worker program is a nonimmigrant visa program used by many industries that need temporary non-agricultural help when domestic workers are unavailable. For the horse racing industry, racehorse trainers rely heavily on the H-2B program to fill various backside positions. Demand for H-2B visas often exceeds their availability and the cap level is quickly reached, leaving employers without sufficient help.

The NTRA, through its involvement with the H-2B Workforce Coalition, supports efforts for comprehensive reform of the guest worker visa program.

T.I.P. Announces Shows, Award Offerings, and Youth Ambassadors for 2021

The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program (T.I.P.) today announced that it has approved more than 7,000 awards and classes

at more than 1,500 shows in 42 states, Puerto Rico, and six Canadian provinces in 2021.

Awards are available for multiple disciplines, including eventing, dressage, Western and English pleasure, hunter/jumper, endurance, Western performance, games, and polocrosse. Awards are again available at some events for Thoroughbreds within their first two years of showing or for Thoroughbreds within two years of their last start.

A full calendar of shows offering awards is available at tjctip.com/CalendarOfEvents.

“This year marks the 10th year in which T.I.P. is offering awards, and we are proud of the success of this initiative in promoting the versatility of the Thoroughbred,” said Kristin Werner, senior counsel for The Jockey Club and administrator of T.I.P. “Through 2020, there have been more than 6,500 shows that have offered T.I.P. awards, more than 30,000 T.I.P. numbers that have been assigned, and more than 60,000 award entries submitted for horses. We look forward to adding to these totals in 2021 and continuing to demonstrate to the equestrian community the talents of Thoroughbreds in a range of disciplines.”

In addition, T.I.P. will be offering year-end or championship awards in association with the American Endurance Ride Conference; Equine Trail Sports; United States Eventing Association; United States Pony Club; and United States Dressage Federation. Furthermore, T.I.P. will offer awards at selected polo tournaments in conjunction with the United States Polo Association.

T.I.P. also announced its youth ambassadors for the 2021 T.I.P. Youth Ambassador Program. The 16 ambassadors, including four returning ambassadors from 2020, come from 12 states and cover multiple disciplines. The following are the 2021 T.I.P. youth ambassadors: Grace Baierl – Pennsylvania
Kaylynn Berry – Kentucky
Emily Cantler – Maryland
Gabiellia Chevalier – Connecticut
Lottie Crawford – Virginia (returning)
Megan Farnsworth – Washington (returning)
Julia House – Maine (returning)
Victoria Navarrete – Virginia
Alexis Novak – Washington
Jenna Presley – Indiana
Grace Regan – South Carolina
Victoria Reinholdt – Florida
Olive Scaff – New Jersey
Emma Scheier – New Jersey (returning)
Remington Sharp – Virginia
Sabrina Wood – Texas

Additional information about the Youth Ambassador Program is available at tjctip.com/About/TBY-PAM.

Created and announced in October 2011, T.I.P. recognizes and rewards the versatility of the Thoroughbred through sponsorship of Thoroughbred classes and high point awards at sanctioned horse shows, performance awards, and non-competition awards. In addition to the complete schedule of T.I.P.-sponsored shows, other information about the program is available on the T.I.P. website, tjctip.com. Those interested in T.I.P. can follow the program at [facebook.com/tjctip](https://www.facebook.com/tjctip).