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June 2026

**MARYLAND MIRACLE!
GOV. WES MOORE KEEPS PREAKNESS**



EXERCISES \$85M RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL

The game of musical chairs that the Maryland horse industry has been subjected to for the past half-dozen years is over. Whew! It's been exhausting at times. But on Thursday, June 18, just three days before the 60-day deadline to exercise its right of first refusal, the state of Maryland stepped in to acquire the intellectual properties of the Preakness Stakes and Black-Eyed Susan Stakes.

The \$85-million price tag to own the Preakness, rather than perpetually leasing it from Churchill Downs Inc., will be paid for through a bond issue that fixes the financing fees, and saves the local horse industry \$53 million over a 30-year period.

The president of The Maryland Jockey Club, Bill Knauf, addressed the Maryland Horse Breeders Association annual meeting on June 24. As he clicked through a slide show of the progress at rebuilding Pimlico, a sense of relief filled the Maryland Horse Foundation Library. The slides included a Venn Diagram highlighting the overlapping advantages to Maryland's ownership of its signature racing event, under the heading:

THE RIGHT TEAM, THE RIGHT PLAN, THE FUTURE OF THE PREAKNESS.

You're invited to:
The 92nd-Annual
Maryland Yearling Show
THIS Sunday, June 28, 10 a.m.
Timonium Fairgrounds Horse Show Ring



Reinvigorated by positive news attending the Maryland horse industry, the 92nd edition of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association Yearling Show drew nearly 50 entrants this year.

The nine-decade tradition of yearlings being shown by Maryland horse folks is well-known nationally. This year's judge is popular Midwest trainer Ron Moquett, who conditioned 2020 Eclipse Award champion sprinter Whitmore (earner of \$4.5 million). He knows his way to Timonium, being a frequent buyer at Maryland sales.

Come out to inspect the seven Country Life Breeding Partnership yearlings:

1. Combat Queen's filly by VEKOMA;
2. Fifteen Moons' filly by KNOWN AGENDA;
3. Grecian Maiden's filly by FRIESAN FIRE;
4. Jennemily's colt by MANDALOUN;
5. Maybe I Will's colt by BOLT d'ORO;
6. Miss Nondescript's filly MANDALOUN; and
7. Truancy's colt by CYBERKNIFE;

...as well as Country Life-foaled and Merryland-prepped yearlings:

1. Tanterra Stables (Wendy & Drew Komlo) - KNICKS GO filly out of Determined Honor;
2. Tanterra Stables' BLOFELD colt out of Stormy Mistress;
3. Tanterra Stables' INDEPENDENCE HALL colt out of Last Love;
4. Adele Dilschneider's MOSLER colt out of Rotate

EARLY RETURNS SELLS OUT EARLY



Luck favors the prepared, and in our preparation for the Post-Preakness 2-Year-Old sale at Timonium, we got lucky identifying a New York-bred filly by emerging young stallion EARLY VOTING. Consignor Joe McMahon had told us that she was the best filly among his offerings. We purchased her for \$80,000, threw her name up on our website, and promptly sold 10 shares at \$8,000 each, at no markup from wholesale to retail.

A vote among those 10 partners resulted in the name EARLY RETURNS for the gray filly, who shipped down to trainer Mike Trombetta's Laurel string last week. She is breezing three furlongs in company, and we are hopeful that she will be ready for the summer Saratoga meet, or the inaugural meeting of the "new" Belmont Park in September.

Meanwhile, her sire EARLY VOTING is poised for a huge weekend. His maiden winners VALKYRIE and HE IS NO LIE are both entered this Sunday at Churchill Downs, VALKYRIE in the \$225,000 Debutante Stakes, and HE IS NO LIE in the \$225,000 Bashford Manor Stakes. And this Friday, June 28, our trainer Mike Trombetta sends out POLL POSITION in an \$87,500 Colonial Maiden event. All good news for our 10 savvy partners in EARLY RETURNS:

1. Peter Bloom, CT
 2. Matt Brunner, MD
 3. Timothy Burr, MA
 4. Randy & Pat Doerter, TN
 5. Gregg Johnson, NJ
 6. Gregg Johnson, NJ
 7. James Knapp, NY
 8. Tom Knapp, MD
 9. Nancy Miller, MD
 10. Kevin Price, NJ
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**COUNTRY LIFE BREEDING PARTNERSHIP
MARE "IN IT FOR THE GOLD" is the dam of
G1-Woody Stephens Stakes winner
ENGLISHMAN**



As ENGLISHMAN blazed to a 5 3/4-length win on the June 6th Belmont Stakes undercard in the \$500,000 Woody Stephens Stakes, our 10 partners in his dam IN IT FOR THE GOLD were cheering their hearts out. They had watched the super-hyped colt set the pace in the G2 Pat Day Mile Stakes on Kentucky Derby Day, but he tired to a Bob Baffert speedball named CRUDE VELOCITY. In the Woody Stephens, ENGLISHMAN turned the tables on that rival, earning the highest Beyer Speed Figure of the year with a 115. He left no doubt who is the fastest horse at seven furlongs in America in 2026.

IN IT FOR THE GOLD has been pronounced in foal to 7-time Leading Sire INTO MISCHIEF for 2027. She has a 2026 TIZ THE LAW colt by her side in Kentucky at this moment, and her 2025 filly by MANDALOUN is scheduled to be offered for sale at the 2026 Keeneland September yearling sale. Well done, ENGLISHMAN.

Merryland Training Center



Country Life's Merryland Training Center is the place to send your yearlings to be broken, your young horses to get more of an education, and your layoffs to refresh and leg-up.

Our staff, led by farm trainer Sonja Aleksic and seasoned riders Milan Milosevic (also a licensed trainer), Brett Owings, Luis Martinez Barajas and Jose Silva-Dominguez, tailor each horse's training program to what they need.

We have plenty of grass paddocks for turnout, a 5/8ths-mile track that is professionally conditioned each day, a 4-stall starting gate, field gallops with hills, expansive sand-pens, and a six-stall automatic Eurocyser walking machine.

Call us to arrange to send your horse to school at the "University of Merryland." Congratulations to the following graduates and trainees who won during the first 6 months of this year:

And Sum (breeder/owner Tanterra Stables (Wendy Komlo & Drew Komlo, trainer Michael Trombetta) - 6/14 ALW win

Breezing Up (breeder Erin Fisher, owner Foxglove Stable, trainer Donald Barr) - 1/23 CLM win

Carvellian Quest (breeder Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Milton Higgins, III, owner Liberty House Racing LLC, trainer Horacio De Paz) - 1/18 CLM win

Downtown Channel (breeder John Spinello, Carol Spinello, Conrad Zurich & Linda Zurich, owner AGB Equine Racing, trainer Horacio De Paz) - 4/18 ALW win

Exciter (breeder/owner Daniel McConnell, trainer Michael Pino) - 3/18 MDN win
Falcon Blue (breeder Little Man Farm, owner Gus Pesaturo and Kevin Joy, trainer Kevin Joy) - 2/13 ALW win
Fontabelle (breeder Stoneriggs Farm, owner/trainer Kevin Joy) - 1/7 CLM win
Forgotten Gift (breeder Mr. & Mrs. Charles McGinnes, owner B and C Stable, trainer Charles Frock) - 2/26 SOC win
Good Man Dan (breeder Mohns Hill Farm, owner Port Lairge Stables and Merribelle Stables LLC, trainer Henry Walters) - 6/12 MSW win
Holy Brick (breeder Frank Bonsal, owner/trainer Joanne Shankle) - 3/28 MDN win
Hot Boss (breeder/owner Richard Blue, Jr., trainer Suzanne Stettinius) - 6/21 CLM win
Intel Agent (breeder Walter Vieser, owner/trainer Virginia Demczyk) - 6/21 MSW win
Lastchance Romance (breeder Owen Kiernan, owner Maria Guadalupe Jimenez, trainer Erin McClellan) - 2/26 CLM & 5/6 SOC wins
Noah Chance (breeder Maria Haire, owner Mens Grille Racing, trainer John J. Robb) - 5/15 & 6/6 CLM wins
Roberta (breeder Frank Bonsal, Jr & Heen Bonsal, owner Frank Bonsal, Jr., trainer William Dowling) - 6/18 MDN win
Shubagail (breeder Joe-Dan Farm, Inc., owner Pearly White RACING LLC and Wire To Wire Stable, Inc., trainer Richard Vega) - 5/2 SOC & 5/26 ALW win
Sin Sin (breeder/owner Robert & Mary Atkinson, trainer Anthony Pecoraro) - 2/4 MDN win
Striker Has Dial (breeder Kingswood Farm, owner Chief Horse Futures, LLC, trainer Horacio De Paz) - 5/16 **Skipat Stakes** win
Weekend Wife (breeder Mr & Mrs. Charles McGinnes, owner Richard Blue, Jr., trainer Timothy Keefe) - 1/30 & 5/23 CLM and 6/20 STR win

Country Life Bred or Sired Winners

DIVINING ROD

VODKATINI: 5/5 at TDN, Claiming (breeder Barak Farm; owner Charlie J. Williams, LLC; trainer Michael Rone)

COLOMA: 5/6 at PEN, Claiming (breeder Caroline and Gregory Bentley Breeders; owner Joseph Besecker; trainer Brandon Kulp)

GALLO: 5/10 at LRL, Maiden (breeder Milan Milosevic; owner/trainer Joanne Shankle)

CAMELIA ROD: 5/14 at CT, Claiming (breeder Country Life Farm & Atlantic Tide Broodmare LLC; owner/trainer Amanda Barton)

WICKEDDIVINE: 5/16 at LRL, Allowance (breeder Randy Ridgely; owner Bonuccelli Racing; trainer Kenneth Cox)

VIOLET'S CHARM: 5/23 at DEL, Starter (breeder Roland Farm; owner Elizabeth R. Jackson; trainer William Dowling)

STRAIGHT TO WATER: 5/29 at LRL, Allowance (breeder George Louis Doetsch, Jr.; owner/trainer Linda Albert)

MOSLER

QUINT'S BREW: 4/4 at LRL, **Frank Y. Whiteley Stakes** (breeder Paul Berube, Karen Lineell & Spinnaker Hill Farm; owner Paul Berube, Karen Linnell and Heather Hunter; trainer Ned Allard)

PUT A ROCK ON IT: 5/2 at LS, Allowance (breeder CLF & Rock Sapphire LLC; owner Kaya Gokmen; trainer Jerenesto Torrez)

WATERWORKS: 5/4 at MNR, Claiming (breeder Wes Carter; owner Emerald Spring Stable LLC; trainer J. Michael Baird)

ROYAL RENEGADE: 5/28 at PEN, Maiden (breeder/owner/trainer Elizabeth Merryman)

RAPIDO ROSA: 5/30 at BTP, Allowance (breeder Barak Farm; owner/trainer Colby Williams)

FRIESAN FIRE

RED SPITFIRE: 4/3 & 5/29 at LRL, Claiming (breeder Daniel Eubanks; owner Rising Sun Racing Stables & Annette Eubanks; trainer Annette Eubanks)

JOLLY GREY GIANT: 5/12 at PRX, Claiming (breeder Joe-Dan Farm; owner/trainer Daniel Lopez)

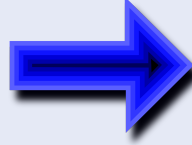
SKIMBLE SHANKS: 5/15 at PEN, Claiming (breeder Warrior's Reward LLC; owner Warrior's Reward LLC and Flat Out Racing; trainer Brandon Kulp)

OTHER COUNTRY LIFE/PARTNERSHIP-BRED OR owned WINNERS:

JEN d'ORO (Bolt d'Oro - Jennemily) - Won an Allowance at Belterra Park on 5/1 for trainer Timothy Hamm and owner America's Thoroughbred Investors. Bred by Country Life Farm & Jennemily Broodmare LLC, she's the first foal out of the mare. This was her 2nd lifetime win after breaking her maiden at Tampa Bay Downs in January.

CREED'S VISION (Jimmy Creed - Moon Vision) - Won an Allowance at Laurel Park on 5/23 for trainer Arnaud Delacour and owners West Point Thoroughbreds, Michael Lyden and CJ Stables. Bred by Country Life Farm & Moon Vision Broodmare LLC, he's the first foal to race out of the mare (who is a 2nd generation homebred). The win was his 2nd and increased his earnings to \$107,055.

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stallion videos,
training videos and more!**



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