

GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS

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Phoenix, Arizona

Fall 2006/Winter 2007

177 Greyhounds Hauled to Colorado from Tucson Greyhound Park Presumed Dead

Phoenix, Arizona: The Arizona Department of Racing's Phoenix Board of Stewards held hearings on Oct. 4 and Oct. 18 for Richard Favreau, who is under investigation in the disappearance of 185 greyhounds he had taken from Tucson Greyhound Park (TGP) during numerous hauls beginning in November 2005. The department launched an investigation into the missing greyhounds after receiving information from Greyhound Protection League President Susan Netboy on July 24, 2006.

Favreau owns a breeding and training facility in Calhan, Colorado, a small town outside of Colorado Springs. TGP's general manager Chris McConnell reportedly paid Favreau \$150 for each dog, which is more than twice the average price of \$60 to transport retired racing dogs.

The first hearing was continued for two

weeks to allow Favreau more time to provide the department with documentation of the dogs' whereabouts, but he was unable to produce any records. Favreau, who has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, was not present at either hearing and testified by speaker-phone. He previously told department investigators that some of the dogs were adopted, some were returned to their owners and some were his own dogs.

According to information received by Netboy from Colorado Greyhound Adoption, eight of the 30 dogs from the November 2005 haul have been accounted for and were placed in adoptive homes. Approximately one month later the group's adoption coordinator contacted Favreau to inquire about the other retired greyhounds the group had seen on his property. He told her they were "no longer available."

The three-member board of stewards concluded Favreau was "unable to provide verifiable information about the whereabouts" of the missing greyhounds. The stewards suspended his license for 60 days and fined him \$1,000, the maximum penalty allowed under Arizona racing statutes. According to a department document, the agency believes Favreau has "disposed of these greyhounds in an inhumane manner." The stewards referred the matter to Geoffrey Gonsler, Director of the Arizona Department of Racing, with a recommendation to revoke Favreau's license.

Dan Hartman, director of the Colorado Division of Racing, said his investigators assisted Arizona investigators and visited Favreau's kennel in Calhan, but there were no dogs present at the time. "Favreau is licensed in Colorado, but we will follow Arizona's lead if his license is revoked."

Gonsler scheduled a director's hearing for Favreau Nov. 29, but Favreau failed to appear. At the request of *The Arizona Republic*, *The Arizona Daily Star* and *Greyhound Network News*, Gonsler released the 72-page investigation report that day.

According to the report, TGP's McConnell and Tony Fasulo, chief operating officer for ZapCon, Inc., which owns the track, contacted the National Greyhound Association (NGA) to verify Favreau's standing with the organization. NGA executive director Gary Guccione reportedly told TGP management that Favreau was in good standing, but he also advised them that Favreau's Colorado license had been suspended in 1998 for the sale of greyhounds to Colorado State University (CSU) for terminal research without the permission of their owners.

Colorado regulator Hartman confirmed that Favreau had been fined \$500 and had his owner and kennel operator's license suspended for four months in 1998, after two owners filed complaints stating their dogs had been euthanized without their permission. According to records obtained by *GNN* in April 1998, 2,652 racing dogs had

(continued on page 7)

Iowa Hauler Accident Kills Driver, Three Greyhounds

Davenport, Iowa: A fatal early morning accident on Thursday, Jan. 11, occurred on Interstate 80 involving a pickup truck hauling racing greyhounds in a trailer. The driver, Francis Evans, 62, of Rayland, Ohio, was pronounced dead at the scene of massive head injuries. Two teenage passengers were uninjured.

The truck was hauling 30 greyhounds from Oklahoma to Dairyland Greyhound Park in Kenosha, Wisconsin, when it went off the right side of the road at 4:30 a.m., struck a large sign and came to a stop in a field 350 feet south of the highway, police said. The trailer broke free from the truck, plowed through a ditch, and overturned at least once before landing upside-down. Three greyhounds escaped from the trailer and were killed by oncoming traffic. Four other greyhounds ran from the scene; three of the four were recovered by 3:00 p.m., all within a mile of the accident.

The accident scene was chaotic, according to witnesses. "Police officers were down on their hands and knees trying to get the dogs out of the trailer," said Davenport Police Capt. David Struckman. "They were

just scared to death," he said. "You could see it in their eyes."

Twenty-three greyhounds, three of them slightly injured, were taken to the Quad-Cities Greyhound Adoption (QCGA) center north of Davenport. Tom Ryan, retired Davenport fire chief and QCGA member, said, "They had some cuts and abrasions . . . they were traumatized." Members of the group also collected the remains of the dogs killed on the highway.

The last greyhound remained at large overnight but was found early Friday afternoon by Struckman. The frightened, muzzled female approached Struckman, who carried her to a waiting van for transport to QCGA's kennel, where she was treated by a veterinarian for a cut on her leg, which was probably caused by barbed wire.

The 27 surviving greyhounds were sent to a kennel owner in Dubuque where they will be "de-traumatized" before being sent to race at Dairyland. The owner of the dogs has been identified as West Virginia Sen. Michael Green.

Sources: *Quad-City Times*; *Des Moines Register*; *Wheeling News Register*; Michelle Blum

STATE-BY-STATE NEWS UPDATE: October 2006 through January 2007

ALABAMA

Montgomery: The Alabama Supreme Court ruled Dec. 1 that the casino-style sweepstakes machines in operation at the Birmingham Racecourse are illegal.

Milton McGregor, the track's owner, said in a statement he would ask the state's highest court to reconsider its ruling. Mark White, one of McGregor's attorneys, said he will try to "have this decision reviewed at all appropriate levels." McGregor said that if he cannot get the high court to reconsider, he will look for an issue that would allow him to take the case into federal court.

McGregor began operating the sweepstakes machines in December 2005, then sued Sheriff Mike Hale after Jefferson County deputies raided the dog track and confiscated several hundred machines. In January 2006, Circuit Judge Scott Vowell ruled that McGregor and the manufacturer of the machines, Innovative Sweepstakes Systems, had found a loophole in Alabama's gambling laws, allowing McGregor to continue operating the sweepstakes machines.

The Alabama Supreme Court Jan. 12, 2007 refused without comment to reconsider its December ruling that the sweepstakes machines were illegal. Immediately after the ruling, attorneys for Innovative Sweepstakes Systems announced that they were packing up the equipment "for removal from the State of Alabama."

Source: *The Birmingham News*: Eric Velasco, Kent Faulk, William C. Singleton III

ARKANSAS

West Memphis: The newly renovated and renamed Southland Park Gaming & Racing reopened Nov. 18 as a "racino," which is a racetrack that offers casino-style gambling on either video or coin-drop slot machines. The revamped facility offers 137 variations of video poker and blackjack on 900 electronic gaming machines. The 50-year-old greyhound track recently completed a \$40 million renovation project, which includes a nightclub, sports bar, 450-seat special events center and a 300-seat casino-style buffet. Live entertainment will be featured regularly as well.

"It was a major remodeling of the facility," said Ronald Sultemeier, President of Delaware North Gaming & Entertainment, the owner of Southland, who was on hand for the reopening. "We wanted to create a

first-class entertainment facility for the people of West Memphis and the Memphis area," he said. The remodeled racetrack facility will conduct seven weekly live greyhound racing performances and simulcast greyhound and thoroughbred racing.

Track officials hope the remodeled track and expanded gambling options will breathe new life into the facility. Southland's fortunes began to decline in the early 1990s when Las Vegas-style casinos began operating in Tunica, Mississippi, approximately 40 miles southeast of the West Memphis dog track. Southland's live wagering handle dropped from \$212 million in 1990 to \$86 million in 2004.

Sources: *Commercial Appeal*: Pamela Perkins; *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*: Michelle Hillen

COLORADO

Loveland: After years of declining revenues, the Cloverleaf Kennel Club will no longer conduct greyhound racing, its owner announced Nov. 30. The track, which ran its final live race in May 2006, will not seek a racing permit for 2007. Club president David Scherer said the move has been on the table for five years. "These things just come to an end," he said.

Scherer said several factors led to the decision, including new state laws that ate into revenues, the enormous cost of resurfacing its racetrack, estimated to cost more than \$50,000, and little chance of legislative relief for the racing industry in the future. A track employee who did not want his name used told The Associated Press that the kennel club started last season \$250,000 in the red.

In recent years, the track supported legislation to allow poker rooms or video lottery terminals to draw more business, but former Gov. Bill Owens opposed it. Scherer said it was unknown whether Gov. Bill Ritter would support such legislation. "We can't bank on what he might do. We don't have the time. We're down to the time where we have to bite the bullet," Scherer said.

The Cloverleaf Kennel Club opened in 1955. Scherer, Cloverleaf's president for 27 years, said the track's closing reflects the decline of dog racing nationwide. Cloverleaf will continue to offer year-round simulcasting.

Sources: The Associated Press: Catherine Tsai; *Denver Post*: Karissa Marcum

CONNECTICUT

Plainfield: Starwood Ceruzzi, a prominent Fairfield developer, has purchased the former Plainfield Greyhound Park for more than \$7.5 million and plans to develop a retail shopping center. The property includes three parcels that make up the 137-acre site of the dog track, which has been closed since May 2006. Ceruzzi purchased the property through a Delaware-based subsidiary, BVS Plainfield Investors LLC.

The largest payout went to the track's principal owner, Connecticut Yankee Greyhound Racing, Inc., which received \$4.3 million, according to land records. In addition to Connecticut Yankee, part-owners K&S Building Associates received \$1.9 million, and Martin J. O'Meara Jr. received \$260,000.

The deal appears to have ended plans by Trumbull-based developer Eugene Arganese to build a 140,000-seat domed auto racetrack on the track's property in partnership with Connecticut Yankee. The controversial plan fell apart when the Plainfield Planning and Zoning Commission rescinded a decision to allow the project.

Sources: *The Day*: Ted Mann; *The Boston Globe*

FLORIDA

Hallandale Beach: The first slot machines in Broward County began operating Dec. 28 at the Mardi Gras Racetrack and Gaming Center, formerly Hollywood Greyhound Track. Broward County voters approved a local slot machine ballot measure in 2004. Mardi Gras President Dan Atkins said the racetrack casino is providing free shuttles from hotels, condominiums and apartment complexes to bring in senior citizens, its core patronage. He said he hopes that slots players arriving after 5:00 p.m. might be drawn to bet on greyhound racing.

Pat Fowler, President of the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling, said that the crossover between those who bet on races — social, action gamblers, and those who bet on slots — solitary, escape gamblers, is very low.

Source: *Miami Herald*: Roberto Santiago

Sarasota: The Sarasota Kennel Club Nov. 24 opened for the 2006-2007 racing season with the addition of the One-Eyed Jack's card room. The 24-table card room, which is located on the second floor of the mezzanine, will be open six days a week from

noon to midnight. There is a minimum buy-in of \$20 for a seat at a table.

The track's director of racing Tom Bowersox said he thinks the addition of the card room will herald a new era for the dog track, which opened in 1944 as a seasonal racetrack. "Now that we are going to year-round racing, I think more kennel owners will be interested in coming here," Bowersox said. "We asked some of the kennels how they felt, and the response was pretty good."

Sarasota KC's general manager and vice president Jack Collins Jr. thinks the addition of the card room will upgrade the track's profile throughout the state and the greyhound industry. There are 21 racing kennels on the grounds, primarily from New England, Iowa and the Naples-Fort Myers area.

Source: *Bradenton Herald*: Mike Henry

TEXAS

Austin: The Texas Racing Commission Dec. 14 approved Gulf Greyhound Park's request to reduce its 2007 live racing schedule to 88 races a week from 104 in 2006. The commission also voted to adopt fee changes, including an \$80,000 annual license renewal for greyhound tracks. Declining revenues at the state's dog and horse tracks have negatively impacted the budget of the racing commission which regulates the pari-mutuel industry. Final approval will be considered at the Jan. 31 commission meeting.

In a Nov. 27 letter to racing commissioners, Gulf's general manager Sally Briggs said proposals by the commission to increase race-day fees, along with a new yearly license fee, would cause more problems for the track. "I am at a complete loss as to how the Texas Racing Commission thinks we can afford such extravagant additions to an already constrained situation," Briggs wrote. "If any of these plans are adopted, Gulf Greyhound Park will most likely be cutting our performance schedule even more drastically than we are forced to do now."

In the last four years, Gulf Greyhound has reduced its staff from 740 to 319. The 2005 live wagering handle was \$20 million, a drastic decline from the 2000 live wagering handle of \$49.6 million. [Approximately 80 percent of the wagering handle is returned to the public in winning bets. — *Ed.*]

Source: *Galveston Daily News*: Laura Elder

El Paso: U. S. District Judge Philip Martinez Jan. 5 sentenced former special agent in charge Hardrick Crawford to six months in prison, three years of supervised release, a \$10,000 fine and 200 hours of community service. "This is a sad day," Martinez said. "It's a sad day for your family. It's a sad day for me." Crawford is believed to be the first person of his rank to do hard time.

Crawford was convicted in August 2006 for making false statements regarding expensive gifts he received from Juarez Racetrack owner Jose Maria Guardia, and concealing material facts from the FBI about his friendship with Guardia. Guardia was suspected of drug trafficking and laundering money for the Juarez drug cartel, though that was never proved.

Crawford will remain free on bond until March 5, when he must surrender to authorities and begin his prison term at an undisclosed location. Crawford did not comment after the sentencing and has not decided whether to appeal, said his attorney, Mary Stillinger.

Source: *El Paso Times*: Louie Gilot

WEST VIRGINIA

Kanawha County: Greyhound breeder Sam R. Burdette filed a lawsuit against the West Virginia Racing Commission Nov. 6 for allegedly failing to properly distribute money in the state's Greyhound Breeding Development Fund. Burdette alleges that the fund has amassed a surplus of approximately \$3.9 million. Commission chairman Andrew A. Payne and commission members George T. Sidiropolis and Bryan F. Mitchell are named in the suit.

The development fund was established by the Legislature in the early 1990s to promote the breeding of West Virginia racing dogs. The fund uses a cut of the live wagering handle and a small percentage of the video lottery proceeds to supplement breeders' awards and purses at the state's two dog tracks in Wheeling and Cross Lanes.

The lawsuit seeks a court order forcing the racing commission to distribute 100 percent of money in the fund to greyhound breeders.

Source: *The Charleston Gazette*: Andrew Clevenger

WISCONSIN:

Madison: The Wisconsin State Journal reported Nov. 25, 2006 that the license of Kenosha trainer Robert E. Johnson, 36, was suspended for 90 days by the state Division

of Gaming following the heat-related death of a greyhound in August. Johnson also was fined \$1,300 following an investigation by state racing officials. Johnson's appeal of the license suspension was denied.

According to division records, Johnson violated the state's racing regulations by removing seven retired racers from the state without notice and by placing former racing dogs at an unapproved greyhound adoption program in West Virginia. Johnson said he was forced to seek out-of-state adoption groups after he was given a deadline from unidentified Dairyland officials to remove the dogs from the track's overflow kennel.

"The group that we originally planned to place the dogs with backed out, so I had to call around and try to find another group," Johnson told the appeals board, according to a transcript of the September appeal. He said his search was limited because he did not want to place the dogs "with an anti-racing group."

Johnson finally managed to arrange temporary care for the dogs with Central Virginia Greyhounds, but that group is not an approved adoption agency by the state of Wisconsin. In mid-August 2006, Johnson left Dairyland during the night with the seven greyhounds and drove approximately 500 miles to the Tri-State Racetrack and Gaming Center in Cross Lanes, West Virginia. He said he checked on the dogs' welfare several times during the haul to make sure they had water and ice. However, when he reached Tri-State "three of the greyhounds were definitely, you know, in the start of heat exhaustion," Johnson said. He and a friend placed the dogs in water and two of the dogs recovered quickly. The third dog, Kambrie Rose, a white and brindle female born Dec. 15, 2003, died several hours later at his friend's kennel.

Source: *Wisconsin State Journal*: George Hesselberg

Wheeling: The Wheeling Island Race-track and Gaming Center will move its gambling area out of the Ohio River flood plain with an \$8 million 24,000-square-foot expansion project. The Wheeling Planning Commission unanimously approved the project Dec. 11. The project is scheduled for completion in May 2007. The plan calls for 12,000 square feet of new gambling space and the relocation of 400 of the greyhound track's 2,400 video slot machines. The property was flooded in January 2005, causing more than \$600,000 in damage.

Source: *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*: Associated Press

Dear Readers

Beginning with the last issue of *GNN*—Summer 2006—the newsletter can now be downloaded in its published format directly from *GNN*'s website, including photographs. This is a convenience for those people searching online for the latest news about racing greyhounds and to those readers who might want extra copies. The online version *will not* replace the hard-copy edition mailed to *GNN* subscribers. Also, groups and individuals who receive extra copies of the printed newsletter will continue to receive extra copies through the mail.

This 53rd edition of the newsletter begins *GNN*'s 15th year of publication. This has been possible through the generosity of the readers whose tax-deductible donations cover printing and mailing costs. On behalf of racing greyhounds worldwide, please accept my gratitude for your unwavering support.

For the love of greyhounds,
Joan Eiding, Editor
January 31, 2007

GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS®

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The newsletter, in print for more than a decade, continues to be the primary source of information about the worldwide dog racing industry. This newsletter is dedicated to all the racing greyhounds who have suffered and died in service to this industry.

Editor & Publisher
Joan Eiding

Contributors
Sylvia Arena
Renata Golden
Susan Netboy

Legal Advisor
Stephanie Nichols-Young

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GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS
P.O. Box 44272
Phoenix, Arizona 85064-4272
www.greyhoundnetworknews.org

Letters to the Editor

The enclosed donation is made in memory and honor of Rhapsody in Blu, a rescue from the Bonita Springs track. She was an obedience dog, graduating first in her class. She was also a certified therapy dog with the Delta Society in Southwest Florida and a regular visitor at Royal Palm Exceptional School in Fort Myers — all the kids loved her.

Blu was a gracious and wonderful ambassador for greyhound adoption in and around Southwest Florida and is greatly missed.

Barbara W. Mulle,
Florida

Enclosed is a donation in memory of Ramsey, who died in April 2006 from bone cancer at age 11 and is still missed.

Thank you and keep up the great work. Since the *Tucson Weekly* ran the initial article on the missing greyhounds, I get asked all the time about my dogs when I walk them. Hopefully some good will come out of this and the publicity surrounding it.

Cindy Nadler and Christopher Muller,
Arizona

Thank you so much for all your hard work in keeping all of us updated on what's going on around the country and the world. Speaking for ourselves, it is sometimes hard to focus on other parts of the country when we have so much going on in our "own backyard."

Your newsletter always brings back the reality of how much we still have to do to educate the world on the abuses of greyhound racing and the industry itself! We use your newsletter often for our local education and media campaigns.

Kansas City REGAP has been rescuing greyhounds for more than 13 years and we can say every day is an uphill battle. Your newsletter gives validity to the information we try to share with our community. Although the facts you print are still hard to read and comprehend the inherent evilness of the industry, it is often the slap in the face we need to keep going and keep educating and saving one life at a time!

Cher Oliver,
Kansas City REGAP
Missouri

Enclosed is an ASPCA grant to help fund the mailing costs for your advocacy newsletter. Thank you for continuing to put out a paper version of *GNN*. Today more newsletters are moving to electronic formats only, but there is something insistent about receiving your newsletter in the mail that screams "Read Me Now!" so I drop whatever I'm doing and read it from cover to cover. I know I am reading up-to-date informative articles that have been impeccably researched. Thank you for this tremendous service you provide.

Jacque Lynn Schultz, Director &
Companion Animal Programs Advisor,
ASPCA National Outreach, New York

I have just found your website — what a Godsend! I have been all over the Internet gleaning what news I can about greyhounds and their welfare issues. Please add me to your mailing list.

Debbie Roberts,
Colorado

I wish to compliment you on your most recent edition of *GNN*, Summer 2006. Although we are very active in greyhound advocacy we cannot keep up with all the news you cover so well.

David Wolf, Director
National Greyhound Adoption Program
Pennsylvania

Thank you for all the good work you are doing to help the incredible greyhounds. We recently adopted two rescued greyhounds — King Tut and Little Chewy Choo Choo. I pray for the end of greyhound racing.

Patricia Van Sant Meyer,
Florida

Thank you for bringing this important news to our mailbox. We must never forget the thousands of greyhounds that still need loving homes.

Ann and Rick Knipple,
Virginia

Thanks for doing this vital work! I want to see racing gone in my lifetime in my state and the rest of the country. Enclosed is a donation.

Patricia Farrant,
Iowa

Legislative Briefs

FLORIDA: Bolstered by the initial successes of Broward County's new slot-machine betting venues, Miami-Dade gaming interests say they will ask voters later this year to approve installation of slot machines at three existing pari-mutuel sites — Flagler Greyhound Park, Miami Jai-Alai and the Calder horse track. Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman said that with Jeb Bush out of office, the odds favor slot-machine betting becoming a ballot issue this year. Heyman supported the 2005 initiative, which was defeated in Miami-Dade County. Broward County voters approved slot machines for its racing and jai-alai venues. [See related news item on page 2. — *Ed.*]

Source: *Miami Today*: Dan Dolan

KANSAS: Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who began her second term in office Jan. 8, 2007, said she will push again for expanded casino gambling, an issue that has yet to gain approval in the Republican-dominated Legislature. At least two legislators are moving forward with casino bills. Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka, said in early January that he will introduce a bill that would allow state-run casinos in northeast and southeast Kansas. State Rep. Tom Burroughs, D-Kansas City, said he would introduce a House bill in mid-January for stated-owned destination casinos in the northeast and slot machines at racetracks.

Stephen Martino, executive director of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission, told the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee Jan. 10 that dog and horse racing could be on their last legs in Kansas. "The best word to describe the state of that industry is 'grim,'" Martino said.

The total wagering handle has fallen from a peak of \$273 million in 1990, the state's first full year of pari-mutuel betting, to \$85 million in 2005. The decline continued in the first 11 months of 2006, Marino told the committee. Martino said that revenue has decreased so much that the tax income from pari-mutuel racing no longer covers the state's cost of regulating the industry.

The Kansas Senate has taken up the issue of expanded gambling each of the past 13 years and failed to approve any proposal to expand gambling. Hensley said he hopes this will be the year that the Legislature approves slots at the tracks.

Sources: *The Capital-Journal*: James Carlson, *Lawrence Journal-World*: Scott Rothschild; *Wichita Eagle*: Dion Lefler

Political Shift in Massachusetts May Favor Racetrack Slots

Boston: Gov. Deval Patrick, who took office in early January, has indicated he may be open to the possibility of casino gambling in the Bay State. "I have more homework to do," Patrick told the State House News Service. "I've spent more time with the opponents than I have with the proponents, and the issues raised about what the social costs really are . . . not that I am opposed to gambling." Patrick also acknowledges an economic issue frequently cited by gambling proponents — the large number of Massachusetts gamblers who reportedly have spent over \$1 billion at casinos in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Struggling racetrack owners are hopeful that the odds may be finally shifting their way with the election of Patrick. Perhaps the most compelling indicator of a shift toward slots is the action of Charles Sarkis, owner of Wonderland Greyhound Park. Sarkis, who was on the verge of shutting down his track last spring because the track was bleeding red ink, is now seeking several million in financing to keep Wonderland running through the legislative session. Wonderland President Richard Dalton said introducing slots at the state's racetracks could generate \$500 million in revenue for communities and the state.

House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi de-

clared racetracks "a dying industry" last year before the House voted down plans to put 2,000 slots in the state's two dog tracks and two horse tracks. A similar proposal met defeat in 2003 but state Rep. Kathi-Anne Reinstein intends to revive the slot debate in the House this year. She has the support of state Rep. Robert DeLeo, who is House Ways and Means committee chairman. "We will again be a co-signer of the bill," said DeLeo spokesman James Eisenberg.

In other legislative news, three of the state's racetracks, including Wonderland Greyhound Park, were forced to shut down for two days when lawmakers failed to pass legislation on simulcasting rights, which expired on Dec. 31, 2006. Lawmakers approved compromise legislation two days later extending simulcasting rights through December 2008. The bill was signed by outgoing Gov. Mitt Romney Jan. 2, 2007.

Simulcasting makes up more than half of the tracks' revenues. According to the state's racing commission, the tracks generated more than \$500 million in revenue from simulcasting. By comparison, live racing generated \$72.3 million.

Sources: *Taunton Gazette*: Gerry Tuoti; *Boston Herald*: Scott Van Voorhis; *Boston Globe*: The Associated Press; *The Enterprise*; Blood-Horse Magazine: Paul R. Daley; *The (Lynn) Daily Item*: Thor Jourgensen

NEW HAMPSHIRE: State Rep. Bill Butynski, D-Hinsdale, told the *Brattleboro Reformer* Jan. 13, 2007 that with the Democrats now in control of the state House, legislation allowing video lottery terminals (VLTs) at the state's racetracks may have a chance of passing this year. "The state needs additional revenues," Butynski said. "Rather than increasing taxes, I would much rather it be through a voluntary activity like gambling."

The Senate had approved expanded gambling at the state's one horse track and three dog tracks in earlier sessions, but the House never approved the legislation. Joe Sullivan, whose family has owned Hinsdale Greyhound Park since 1986, said he is taking a wait-and-see position this year, wondering which way the Legislature will vote. Sullivan said the track sends \$1 million to the state each year. "There would be considerably more revenue for the state if we are allowed to compete with other states that have video gaming," he said.

State Rep. Tim Butterworth, D-Chesterfield, said he is not yet sold on the idea of adding video gaming to the tracks, but was keeping an open mind. "How much money do New Hampshire residents have to lose for the state to get 'x' amount of revenue? That's what I will be looking at."

Source: *Brattleboro Reformer*: Bob Audette

TEXAS: Gambling interests in the 2007 Legislature are making a renewed push for destination casinos and video slots for the state's dog and horse tracks. Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, has proposed a bill to license up to 12 casinos across the state, mostly in major cities. Proponents of expanded gambling say slots revenue would help pay for education and other services. House members have fought any expansion of gambling in past legislative sessions. This year opponents have an added advantage — Texas has a \$14.3 billion budget surplus, making it difficult to argue for a new and controversial revenue source.

Source: The Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL NEWS UPDATE

ASIA

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam: The World Greyhound Racing Federation (WGRF) held its bi-annual conference in Vietnam for the first time in October 2006. Sports and Entertainment Services Co., which operates Vietnam's only racetrack in Vung Tau, hosted the conference. Vietnam became a member of the WGRF in 2001.

Ron Sultemeier, an executive with U.S.-based Delaware North Companies Gaming & Entertainment, which operates several greyhound tracks in the U.S., is the outgoing chairman of the WGRF. Speaking to conference members, Sultemeier praised the Vung Tau breeding center and recommended that Viet Nam's emerging greyhound racing industry focus on breeding for export.

"The prices of Vietnamese greyhounds will be very competitive as the labor and other production costs in Vietnam are much cheaper than in other countries which are main greyhound exporters in the world market now."

Before adjourning the conference, members of the WGRF appointed Australian greyhound breeder Jan Wilson as chairwoman of the organization, effective Jan. 1, 2007. Wilson, 67, a 40-year resident of Dandenong, Victoria, is the first woman to hold the post. One of her goals will be to strengthen the global community's position on banning cruelty to greyhounds. To ensure the dogs are treated humanely, Wilson said she would introduce protocols that each member country would have to agree to or face expulsion.

The WGRF was established in 1969 as an international forum for the exchange of information and technology to improve greyhound racing globally

Sources: *Viet Nam News*: Le Hung Vong; *Thanh Nien Daily*: Hung Son; *Vietnam Net Bridge*; *Star News Group (Australia)*: Shaun Inguanzo

AUSTRALIA

Hobart, Tasmania: Members of the Tasmanian Greyhound Participants Association [TGPA] have renewed their call for an independent occupational health and safety audit of the redeveloped Hobart Greyhound Racing Club. The call comes after greyhound owner Walter Tusyn launched legal action in the Supreme Court over the death of his greyhound Miss Trick following an accident at the track last August. Miss Trick

died after crashing into the lure mechanism during a trial run.

TGPA chairman Duncan Foster said the dog's death was a sad accident that could have been avoided through the use of the inside rail. "Indeed, decisions including track design and rules are made by bureaucrats," Foster said. Greyhound Racing Tasmania chairman Max Walker said the council had always viewed the safety rail as a necessity. "Unfortunately the council had no involvement in the redevelopment project and the limited comments and recommendations the council has been able to put forward have been ignored," Walker said.

Source: *The Mercury*: Michelle Paine

EUROPE

Dunholme, England: More than 30 greyhounds perished following a fire in a late afternoon fire at the ZigZag Kennels Dec. 11, 2006. The dogs were kenneled in a stable on a farm in Dunholme, near Lincoln. Three days after the fire, investigators and police scene-of-the-crime officers picked through the charred remains of the stable block and concluded the fire was not started deliberately.

ZigZag Kennels owner Charles Pickering said in a statement posted on his website, "A heat lamp set fire to the bedding in one of our whelping kennels, a roof caught fire and spread along the roof line causing tremendous heat and smoke. . . several dogs were saved before it became impossible to work without breathing apparatus.

"The firefighters arrived and rescued several more before it became too dangerous after the roof collapsed. A team of local vets worked magnificently late in the evening to attend to those affected by smoke or shock. I offer my sincere gratitude to all my staff, family, neighbors, firefighters and the vets for their tremendous help throughout the evening."

Sources: *Racing Post*; *Lincolnshire Echo*

Seaham, England: David Smith, a builder who allegedly killed at least 10,000 greyhounds in the last 15 years and buried them behind his home, is facing private prosecution by the Environment Agency. The agency has accused him of depositing non-specific controlled waste without a license. The allegations relates to burying greyhounds in a makeshift graveyard behind

his home in County Durham. Durham Police said Smith had done nothing illegal by using a bolt gun to shoot the dogs in the head. A hearing for Smith before North Durham magistrates scheduled for mid-December was rescheduled for Jan. 19, and then rescheduled again for Feb. 16.

In related news, a March for Greyhounds from Whitehall to London's Hyde Park Nov. 18, 2006 drew more than 500 participants; more than 500 attended the rally that followed. The march was organized by Greyhound Action, which has chapters throughout the United Kingdom. The theme of the march was "Stop the Slaughter."

Finleigh Wells, 14, a pupil at Knox Academy, took part in the march through the capital and addressed the rally at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park. Finleigh, who has two adopted greyhounds, told the crowd, "If dogs are going to die like this," she said, referring to the David Smith killing field, "then greyhound racing has to stop — greyhounds deserve better. I am 14 and if I can see this is a cruel and ridiculous form of sport, then why can't the government?"

Finleigh's mother, Amanda, who is involved in the work of Greyhound Action Scotland, said she was proud of her daughter. "She wants to ban greyhound racing — there's no two ways about it."

[For additional international news, visit Greyhound Action's extensive website at www.greyhoundaction.org.uk — *Ed.*]

Sources: *The Northern Echo*; *The (Newcastle) Journal*: Daniel Cochlin; *East Lothian Courier*

Ennis, Ireland: Custy's Traditional Music Shop in County Clare has admitted that some of the bodhrans [drums] it sells are made from greyhound skin. Shop manager John O'Connor said, "We sell greyhound, but the majority of our bodhrans are produced locally and are made from goat skin."

O'Conner insisted that Irish greyhounds have not been used in the making of the drums. He said top-quality bodhrans are still made by hand in Ireland but most of the cheaper ones bought by tourists are imported from Pakistan. "In every tourist shop you go into, those mass-produced bodhrans would be from the subcontinent and would generally be greyhound or some other poor quality skin."

Source: *The Sunday Times*: Mark Tighe

Missing Tucson Greyhounds

(continued from page 1)

been killed at CSU over a 39-month period ending March 30, 1998. Favreau had sold or donated 197 greyhounds. The *Rocky Mountain News* exposed the kennel-to-research connection in a front page story published June 7, 1998.

Unprecedented Fine

In his six-page ruling released 20 days later, Gonsher ordered Favreau to pay \$140,000 – or \$1,000 per dog – to a greyhound adoption group for his role in the disappearance of at least 140 greyhounds. Gonsher also revoked his license and banned him from obtaining a new license in Arizona for life. Favreau did not appeal the ruling.

Gonsher wrote that “because of the circumstances and the lack of accurate and complete information from Favreau and Tucson Greyhound Park, the Department of Racing concluded that it may never know the true disposition of these greyhounds. This is a situation of tragic proportions . . .” Gonsher also questioned TGP’s role and responsibility in the dogs’ disappearance, noting that management had not maintained accurate records on the whereabouts or disposition of the animals. Gonsher told the *Tucson Weekly* that further review into the track’s conduct may be warranted.

The Numbers

Netboy said she was shocked at the dollar amount Favreau was fined. “That’s a huge fine for anyone to receive in the dog-

racine industry. I was pleased with that, but I was dismayed about one thing, and that is that they didn’t acknowledge the full number of dogs that were killed — even though they were working off the same records I was working from,” she said. Joan Eidinger, editor and publisher of *Greyhound Network News*, was also impressed with the fine. “It’s unprecedented in the 62-year history of (dog) racing in Arizona.”

The investigation report included 11 greyhound logs, listing the names and ear tattoos of the dogs consigned to Favreau. A total of 185 greyhounds were listed; eight dogs were adopted; 177 are presumed

“The worst fear is that the animals were heartlessly put to death . . . and are now in an undisclosed graveyard in the desert.”

Geoffrey Gonsher, Director, Arizona Department of Racing

dead. An exhaustive analysis of the lists by GPL and *GNN* verified the identities of 165 greyhounds. Twelve dogs could not be identified because some of the hand-written logs were either illegible or the ears numbers were incomplete.

Greyhound activists expressed skepticism about the racing department’s ability to get Favreau to pay the fine. “We are heartened by the findings against Favreau,” said Mary Freeman, president of Tucson-based Arizona Greyhound Rescue. “While the money can probably never be collected, the racing department has given notice to others in the racing industry and TGP that willful disregard of greyhound welfare and negligence in recordkeeping will no longer be tolerated without serious consequences.”

Gonsher said because he had revoked

Favreau’s license, his authority over the man was “very limited,” but added that he would be asking the collections unit of the Attorney General’s Office to extract payment from Favreau. “How successful they would be, I just don’t know,” Gonsher said.

Tucson Greyhound Park

Netboy and others would like to see TGP’s actions — or inactions — in the greyhounds’ disappearance exposed. “It’s high time that TGP pays a price for its role in being negligent about any concern as to who was hauling off these dogs,” Netboy said. Eidinger agreed, saying, “They (TGP) hired him; they paid him; they knew from

the NGA that he had his license suspended for donating dogs to research labs.”

Gonsher declined to comment on whether the Department of Racing will investigate TGP for its role in the disappearance of the dogs. However, his ruling took note of the track’s inability to produce records vital to finding out what happened to the dogs. “The permittee’s [racetrack] accountability and culpability cannot be ignored,” Gonsher wrote. “These are serious issues for which further review may be required by the Board of Stewards.”

In a Dec. 20 press release, Guccione said the NGA will “consider disciplinary action” against Favreau at the association’s board meeting in April.

[Editor’s Note: To read the articles published by the *Arizona Daily Star*, *Tucson Weekly* and *The Arizona Republic* on the missing greyhounds go to *GNN*’s website and click on *Breaking News*. The list of the missing dogs by racing name, ear tattoos and owners is also on the site.]

Sources: *Arizona Daily Star*: Josh Brodesky, *Tucson Weekly*: Saxon Burns; *The Arizona Republic*: Michael Clancy; *The Associated Press*; *The* (Colorado Springs) *Gazette*: Anslee Willett; *Denver Post*: Mike McPhee; *Tucson Citizen*; *Chicago Tribune*; Tucson’s KVOA-TV News 4 and KOLD-TV 13: Dan Maries; Colorado’s KTVK-TV 11 (Colorado Springs) and CBS-TV 4

23 Greyhounds Found Dead in VictoryLand Kennel Compound

Shorter, Alabama: Dr. Charles Woernly, Alabama Assistant State Health Officer for Disease Control and Prevention, said 23 greyhounds died at VictoryLand greyhound park. The dead dogs were sent to the veterinary schools at Auburn and Tuskegee Universities for necropsies Friday, Jan. 12, 2007. The state Agriculture Commission is investigating the deaths.

The *Montgomery Advertiser* reported Jan. 24 that the agriculture commission determined the dogs died of heat exhaustion caused by a heating malfunction of undetermined cause.

The Greyhound Protection League has called for an independent safety taskforce

review of all Alabama kennel compounds following the deaths. GPL President Susan Netboy said the deaths were an “avoidable man-made tragedy that has to be prevented in the future.” Netboy said in a statement released to the media, “Whatever the cause of death, the dead and injured dogs experienced prolonged suffering before there was any manner of human intervention. The 50 plus survivors need proper veterinary care and transportation to legitimate greyhound adoption organizations so that they can recover and live out their days in a loving home. We intend to make sure that the victims don’t quietly disappear.”

Sources: Fox News; Associated Press; WSFA-TV 12

National Moment of Silence

GPL and *GNN* request that greyhound advocates nationwide observe one minute of silence to honor the memory of the 177 greyhounds on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at noon in each time zone. Please mark your calendars.

County District Attorney's Office Investigates Race-Fixing at Mobile Greyhound Park

Odd Betting Patterns Led to Probe

Mobile, Alabama: Thirteen individuals were charged Oct. 20 in what prosecutors said was a scheme to fix greyhound races at Mobile Greyhound Park. According to Mobile County District Attorney John Tyson Jr., several members of the group gave the dogs' herbal "natural male enhancement" pills a few hours before race time. "The pill ingredients increased the dogs' heart rates so they were exhausted when the races started," Tyson said.

John Furman, an investigator for the district attorney's office, said the perpetrators fed the pills to the four favorites in an eight-dog race. Bettors who were in on the scheme would wager on trifectas or superfectas — high payout bets in which gamblers try to predict the finish of the top three or four dogs. The scheme was perpetrated for a few months before Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and then started up again this summer, Furman said. The odd betting patterns, combined with a string of suspicious losses by top-rated greyhounds, prompted Mobile track officials to begin an investigation in 2005.

The 13 individuals — 12 men and one woman — were charged with transmission of racing information for illegal gambling purposes, a felony. Nine of the 13 were booked into Mobile County Metro Jail, and more arrests were expected to be made within two weeks.

Three of the 13 were racetrack employees who were charged with an additional felony of tampering with racing animals. The charges carry sentences of one to ten years in prison. Furman said his investigation is continuing, and the district attorney's office might charge more people who had fringe involvement in the scheme.

Mobile County Racing Commission Chairman Eddie Menton identified the three track employees as Don Westley Wilson, 30, Thaddeus Burden Lett, 18, both of Mobile, and Vertis Gerald Sealy, 70, of Theodore. Wilson was the kennel master, who took the dogs from their trainers and monitored them until the last race. Lett was a lead-out, in charge of walking the dogs from the paddock to the starting gate. Sealy was the paddock judge who ran the entire paddock area and oversaw Wilson and Lett.

Two trainers, who are not track employees, were also charged. They were identified as Joseph Edgar Hempfleng, 25, and Kenneth William Christopher, 23, both of Theodore. Tyson said there appeared to be four ringleaders — Wilson, Sealy, Hempfleng and Christopher. The eight others, which included dog handlers and trainers, allegedly placed bets on the non-drugged longshots in the races.

Menton said all the participants in the scheme have had their racing licenses revoked. He said the track didn't lose money in the scheme, but the bettors "got robbed," because they didn't have a legitimate chance to win on the fixed races.

The active ingredient in the pills was identified as yohimbine, which is found on the bark of the West African yohimbe tree. The racing commission has added yohimbine to the drug-screening profile. According to Furman, the sexual performance enhancing drugs did not have any long-term impact on the health of the greyhounds.

Sources: *The Mobile Press-Register*: Dan Murtaugh; *The Decatur Daily News*: Garry Mitchell, The Associated Press, *Montgomery Advertiser*

GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS

P.O. Box 44272

Phoenix, AZ 85064-4272

greyhoundnetworknews.org

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