

17

The Tipping Point

What does this year's panel of Celebration Judges Have in Common? Wait for It.

In a year when the industry is under scrutiny as never before, the Celebration hires five judges that all have HPA violations. Very classy.

He's Just Doing What Comes "Naturally" Questions? Ask the VAC



Wheelon Cited 2

With felony charges pending, Larry Wheelon is cited for unilateral sore horse just days before a court hearing.

Governor Dunn 7

Former TN GOP governor Dunn endorses PAST Act urges Congressional TN delegation sign on.

USDA Actions 8

Consent Decisions means some folks won't be at the Celebration this year at least not in person.



You've heard the expression "put your best foot forward" in regards to personal performance but the action photos above and at left, with a horse showing the entire bottom of his foot as he hyper-flexes from the knee, even as the outside front bends behind the knee while hitting the way high in his victory pass, isn't quite what your parents had in mind. More to the point, it certainly can't be what veterinarians are taught is an appropriate and balanced way of going when they learn about movement and biomechanics during their studies.

Thus, it will be interesting to see what the Celebration's new PR initiative, centered around a group of supposedly independent and highly credentialed veterinarians, will make of this ungainly sprawl and to what they would attribute this unnatural but, apparently, prize winning goose step.

The Celebration has reached all the way back to 2006, the year they didn't crown a WGC because of multiple disqualifications of contenders, to an idea called the National Horse Protection Society, whose new show vet, Dr. O'Brien, just happened to be the interim director, to start pumping out news releases about how the show intends, through independent vets, to ensure that no horse that comes to the Celebration is harmed. They're spending a quarter of a million dollars to convince the public of it. The troika is called The Veterinary Advisory Committee. VAC has a spokesman, big lick enthusiast attorney Tom Blankenship, who represented clients like the serial violators the Sherman's in federal HPA prosecutions and tried to get the HPA quietly amended in 2006 to remove the scar rule and change the meaning of soring, helped by "independent" VAC vet Dr. Johnson and show vet O'Brien. What vet would say that things are fine if a horse that looks like this one is considered to be not just OK but a winner? By every standard this sort of movement is clearly NOT okay. Your eyes tell you that this ain't right; what will the VAC say come Celebration time when this way of going is what the announcer means when he sings out, "Let 'em walk on!" and what's left of a crowd goes wild? Will anyone stop to ask when looking at these horses if VAC is just the short way to say vacuous?

News Round Up

Wheelon Cited Again



Tennessee trainer Larry Wheelon and one of his employees, Randall Stacy Gunther, both presently under indictment for felony and misdemeanor aggravated cruelty to animals charges related to Tennessee Walking

Horses being trained in April of 2013 with Wheelon in Blount County, Tennessee, were cited again for presenting a sore horse, this time at a one night show.

The incident took place on July 12th at the Chestnut Hill Horse Show in Dandridge, Tennessee where Shock It To Me, owned by Sharon Lambdin of Heskil, Tenn., was presented for inspection and was found to be unilaterally sore by a Kentucky HIO inspector. Wheelon was put on suspension for the violation, as was Gunther. The horse was also cited.

This latest incident occurred only 12 days before Wheelon and Gunther were to be in court for a status hearing on the original charges of felony abuse. That hearing was carried over until August when Wheelon's attorney called for a dismissal of all the charges alleging prosecutorial misconduct by a deputy district attorney in Wheelon's earlier General Sessions court appearance in 2013.

The judge in the case, Tammy Harrington, set a new hearing date for August, as she required time to read through the voluminous trial record from the earlier general sessions proceeding. She has since ruled against Wheelon on the motion to dismiss and said that the case could proceed, although she did not set a trial date.

Meanwhile, horses that were involved in the seizure and then returned to their owners by order of the General Sessions judge have been shown in performance classes in 2013, returned once again to their lives in performance packages and chains.

HSUS Urges USDA to Take Action Against Auctions that Sell Sore Horses and Slaughter Bound Dutch Makes National News

After the culmination of a year long investigation by the USDA into the selling of a walking horse, now called Dutch, at the New Holland Sale in Pennsylvania, revealed that the badly scarred horse, still wearing his performance horse shoes, had passed rapidly through public auctions in Kentucky and Tennessee, after first being sold for \$300 in a parking lot in Kentucky to a buyer, the USDA issued warning letters known as 7060s to all of the parties involved in the sales for violation of the Horse Protection Act. The original seller of the horse to the parking lot buyer was never identified.



Now recovering from years of abuse, Dutch, above, will always wear the scars from chemical soring combined with chain action devices to produce the big lick.

It's a good start in stopping the illegal sales of scarred and sored horses but the HSUS would like the USDA to do more. They have written a letter to the USDA asking that they put public sales on notice about the provisions of the Horse Protection Act that makes such sales illegal and

prosecute those who continue to violate the law.

“Without adequate enforcement of the Horse Protection Act at horse and livestock auctions, unscrupulous owners and

trainers have the opportunity to discard scarred show horses without facing the consequences of illegally selling a horse who has been subjected to soring,” Keith Dane, HSUS vice president of equine protection said. “Livestock and horse auctions are responsible for complying with the Horse Protection Act and should be held accountable for violations of the law at their sales – not allowed to provide an easy outlet for the dumping by their owners of horses who have been victims of soring abuse. We urge the USDA to pursue maximum penalties available against any auction that sells horses in this condition rather than issue warnings.”

Dutch's story made national news in August when a feature written about him by The Tennessean's Heidi Hall ran in USA Today. Comments by Celebration CEO Mike Inman that he was baffled why the media would pay any attention to Dutch drew outraged as well as supportive comments on comment pages in both USA Today and The Tennessean. Inman suggested to Hall that Dutch wasn't even a walking horse but —“ that he's some other breed that the Humane Society put tall shoes on as a publicity stunt.” "It could be a fabrication to raise more money and cause more controversy," Inman was quoted as saying. "There's no credibility."

Letters to the Editor from Across the Nation

State Sen. Gregory's recent letter regarding the PAST act asks readers to support the competing legislation filed by senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul but she provides readers with no factual information on which to base a decision.

The 1970 Horse Protection Bill made soring illegal; however, enforcement of the bill was left to the walking horse industry. A U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection of horses at the 2012 Big Lick Celebration in Shelbyville, Tenn. found that 76 percent of the horses examined tested positive for prohibited substances. The PAST Act would replace the existing failed self-regulation with inspections by the USDA.

The PAST Act would also ban the action devices (chains, stack shoes, etc.) used in conjunction with soring; the McConnell bill would allow their continued use. Both the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Association of American Equine Practitioners support this ban; the U. S. Equestrian Federation has always banned these devices in all breeds in the show ring.

With every major equine and animal professional organization supporting the PAST Act, any reasonable and humane person has to conclude that the PAST Act is the only way to end the soring atrocities that plague the walking horse industry.

FAITH HARDERS

Lexington, Ky. 40508

Appeared in the *Courier Journal*, KY 8/2/2014

Op-Ed from Chattanooga Times Free Press Pulls No Punches

Make yourself heard

Sen. Lamar Alexander — 423-752-5337 or 202-224-4944

Rep. Marsha Blackburn — 615-591-5161 or 202-225-2811

It's almost Celebration time in Tennessee. Again.

The 76th annual 11-day Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville is scheduled to begin in 10 days.

Organizers bill the series of shows as "the premier event" for the Tennessee Walking Horse. It is where the breed's "World Grand Champion" and another 20 "World Champions" in various contest categories are named, claiming more than \$650,000 in prizes and awards and far more in stud fees and foal sales. There's also a barn decorating contest, a trade fair and a dog show.

It all sounds fun. But it's not. Especially not for the so-called "performance" horses — the ones with big padded hooves and the "big lick" gait that in the past four or five decades has been artificially exaggerated from a once gorgeous natural high-step to what now looks like a tortured lunge.

The exaggeration comes from soring — an illegal training practice that uses caustic chemicals, chains, or pressure shoeing under tall hoof pads. The combinations of those affronts make the horses' legs and hooves so sore that the animals stretch to unusual lengths to keep their legs in the air as long as possible because it hurts when they strike the ground.

Michael Blackwell, former dean of veterinary medicine at the University of Tennessee, recently likened the "excruciating" pain to biting something solid with an abscessed tooth.

Soring has been illegal under federal law for more than 40 years, but the law is weak and the enforcement — in other words funding — is even weaker. The result is that the walking horse industry largely polices itself, and problems go unresolved. Only in the past two years has anyone been federally convicted of the abuse, and that happened only after secret videos were made by the Humane Society of the United States and turned over to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Proposed legislation, the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act, would toughen the law and bring back Tennessee's real walking horses by banning the pads, chains and soring practices that have corrupted this beautiful breed. The bill, known as the PAST Act, also would end the industry self-policing. U.S. Reps. Ed Whitfield of Kentucky and Steve Cohen of Tennessee introduced the bill, and it is co-sponsored by 305 other representatives and 57 senators.

Those numbers might make the bill's passage seem like a slam-dunk, but that's not the reality. Instead the legislation is being held hostage in committees under the power of other lawmakers from Tennessee and Kentucky — the two states where the walking horse industry is king.

Tennessee Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander has said he wants to save the \$3.2 billion walking horse industry, so he offered up a softer bill that really would just add a layer to the industry policing itself. Alexander's bill is co-sponsored by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and McConnell is said to be blocking the tougher PAST Act in the Senate where it is three sponsors short of the number needed to overcome a filibuster.

Continued on page 4

From the Times Free Press **continued page 3**

Meanwhile in the House of Representatives, Tennessee's Rep. Marsha Blackburn, with her own version of Alexander's bill, is blocking the PAST Act in the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where she is vice chairman. Her bill has 12 co-sponsors, including Republican Reps. Chuck Fleischmann and Scott DesJarlais. Alexander's has four. Both have said they want to involve veterinarians and "scientific" testing to detect soring. That is horse hockey.

Science has already been used at the Celebration in Shelbyville in recent years. There the lay inspectors — hired by the Celebration, trained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and overseen by veterinarians — administered swab tests and had them analyzed for chemicals. Soring was still prevalent, and even the "science" testing results from the lay inspectors differed from results obtained by USDA inspectors. Currently, USDA inspectors can police only about 10 percent of shows.

Frankly, no matter how many layers of vets and scientific tests are added, horses will continue to be sored as long as the fox guards the stable and prosecutions are made periodically every 40 years or so.

Perhaps a more effective tool might simply be a citizen pocketbook vote. Boycott the Celebration and every other walking horse show or exhibition or sale in the region.

The industry already is reeling financially after several years of falling sales and show receipts after national news audiences in 2012 were horrified by surveillance video of abuse in the stable of walking horse Hall-of-Famer Jackie McConnell. Seats prices have been cut and alcohol was sold to the arena audience last year to encourage attendance at the "family" event.

If Sen. Alexander and Rep. Blackburn can't wean themselves from this industry's influence and do what's right, perhaps the horse trainers and owners must come to understand that their profits suffer from the public's horror and disdain.

It is past time to return these beautiful horses to their oh-so-pleasing natural high-step.

It is past time for the PAST Act.

From the Huntley Patch

Congressional Candidate Dennis Anderson Urges Randy Hultgren to Co-Sponsor Bill to Stop Horse Abuse

Ending torture of animals is something even Congress should

agree on. Reps Hultgren and Shimkus are the only members of the Illinois Congressional delegation who have not co-sponsored this bill.

U.S. Congressional Candidate Dennis Anderson is urging his opponent, Representative Randy Hultgren, to co-sponsor the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act of 2013/H.R. 1518. This widely bi-partisan legislation would crackdown on the abusive practice of "horse soring".

Widely used within the Tennessee Walking Horse show world, soring is the intentional infliction of pain to a horse's limbs to produce an exaggerated, artificial gait prized by some shows and judges. Common soring practices include the use of caustic chemicals on the horses' legs, sharp objects driven into their hooves, chains, grinding the sole to expose sensitive tissues, and other devices and techniques that make it painful for the horse to step down.

Although 68 percent of the House is now on board as co-sponsors, H.R. 1518 remains bottled up in the Energy and Commerce Committee. In order to get the bill to the floor before the upcoming Congressional recess, only a few additional Republican co-sponsors are needed to achieve the required 'majority of the majority'.

Why isn't legislation to end the torture of helpless animals something that every member of Congress wholeheartedly supports? We think it's shameful that Mr. Hultgren has not joined with 114 of his fellow House Republicans -- as well as with all but one other member of the Illinois Congressional delegation, both House and Senate -- to prevent these inhumane practices.

Recent constituent communications from Mr. Hultgren's office include remarks about the need to protect the "vulnerable among us—people and animals alike" and "whether at home or at a show, how we treat animals reflects the values of our society." Clearly, it's time for Mr. Hultgren to heed his own advice and co-sponsor this bill."

The Prevent All Soring Tactics Act is not new legislation and serves to make existing legislation (the Federal Horse Protection Act of 1970) more effective and efficient. With the stigma of soring gone, horse show spectators and participants who left the show ring to escape association with abuse will return, bolstering the industry and creating more jobs for ethical horse trainers and farriers. The bill also has overwhelming support from veterinary groups and horse organizations in every state.

For more information on the Dennis Anderson for Congress campaign, go to: www.dennisanderson14.com or visit us at: <https://www.facebook.com/dennisanderson.IL14>

Andrews, Robert E NJ-1
 Amodei, Mark NV-2
 Bachmann, Michelle MN
 Bachus, Spencer AL-6
 Barber, Ron AZ-2
 Barletta, Lou PA-11
 Bass, Karen CA-37
 Beatty, Joyce OH-3
 Becerra, Xavier CA-34
 Bentivolio, Kerry (MI-11)
 Bera, Ami (CA-7)
 Bilirakas, Gus (FL-12)
 Bishop, Timothy NY-1
 Blumenauer, Earl OR-3
 Bonamici, Suzanne OR-1
 Bordallo, Madline Z GU
 Brady, Robert A. PA-1
 Braley, Bruce L. IA-1
 Brown, Corrine FL-5
 Brownley, Julia CA-26
 Buchanan, Vern FL-16
 Bucshon, Larry IN-8
 Bustos, Cheri IL-17
Butterfield, G.K. (NC-1)
 Calvert, Ken CA-42
 Camp, Dave MI-4
 Campbell, John CA-45
 Capito, Shelley Moore WV-2
 Capps, Lois CA-45
 Capuano, Michael E. MA-7
 Cardenas, Tony CA-29
 Carney, John DE
 Carson, Andre IN-7
 Cartwright, Matt PA-17
 Castor, Kathy FL-14
 Castro, Joaquin TX-20
 Chabot, Steve OH-1
 Christensen, Donna VI
 Chu, Judy CA-27
 Cicilline, David N. RI-1
 Clarke, Yvette D. NY-9
 Clay, Wm. Lacy, MO-1
 Cleaver, Emanuel II MO-5
 Coble, Howard NC-6
 Coffman, Mike CO-6
 Cohen, Steve TN-9
 Collins, Chris NY-27
 Collins, Doug GA-9
 Connolly, Gerald E. VA-11
 Conyers, John, Jr. MI-13
 Courtney, Joe CT-2
 Crenshaw, Ander (FL-4)
 Crowley, Joseph NY-14
 Cummings, Elijah E. MD-7
 Daines, Steve MT
 Davis, Danny IL-7
 Davis, Susan A. CA-53

Davis, Rodney IL-7
 DeFazio, Peter A. OR-4
 DeGette, Diana CO-1
 Delaney, John K. MD-6
 DeLauro, Rosa L. CT-3
 DelBene, Susan K. WA-1
 Denham, Jeff CA-10
 Dent, Charlie, PA-15
 Deutch, Theodore E. FL-21
 Diaz-Balart Mario FL-25
 Doggett, Lloyd TX-35
 Doyle, Michael F. PA-14
 Duckworth, Tammy IL-8
 Edwards, Donna, MD-4
 Ellison, Keith MN-5
 Ellmers, Renee NC-2
 Engel, Elliot NY-16
 Enyart, William L. IL-12
 Eshoo, Anna G. CA-18
 Esty, Elizabeth H. CT-5
 Farr, Sam CA-20
 Farenthold, Blake TX-27
 Fattah, Chaka PA-2
 Fitzpatrick, Michael G. PA-8
 Flores, Bill TX-17
 Forbes, J. Randy VA-4
 Foster, Bill IL-11
 Frankel, Lois FL-22
 Frelinghuysen, Rod NJ-11
 Gabbard, Tulsi HI-2
 Gallego, Pete TX-23
 Garcia, Joe FL-26
 Gardner, Cory CO-4
 Gerlach, Jim PA-6
 Gibbs, Bob OH-7
 Gibson, Christopher. NY-19
 Gingrey, Phil GA-11
 Granger, Kay TX-12
 Grayson, Alan (FL- 9)
 Green, Al (TX-9)
 Green, Gene TX-29
 Griffin, Tim (AR-2)
 Griffith, Morgan VA-9
 Grijalva, Raul M. AZ-3
 Grimm, Michael G. NY-11
 Guterrez, Luis IL-4
 Hahn, Janice CA-44
 Hall, Ralph TX-4
 Hanabusa, Colleen HI-1
 Hanna, Richard L. NY-22
 Hastings, Alcee L. FL-20
 Heck, Dennis WA-10
 Heck, Joe NV-3

Herrera Beutler, Jaime WA-3
 Higgins, Brian NY-26
 Himes, James A. CT-4
 Hinojosa, Ruben TX-5
 Honda, Michael CA-17
 Huffman, Jared CA-2
 Horsford, Steven NV-4
Hoyer, Steny MD-05
 Hunter, Duncan CA-50
 Israel, Steve NY-3
 Jackson Lee, Sheila TX-18
 Jeffries, Hakeem NY-8th
 Jenkins, Lynn KS-2
 Johnson, Bill OH-6
 Johnson, Eddie B. TX- 30
 Johnson, Henry Jr GA-4
 Jones, Walter B., Jr NC-3
 Joyce, David P. OH-14
 Keating, William R. MA-9
 Kelly, Robin IL-2
 Kelly, Mike PA-3
 Kennedy, Joseph P. MA-4
 Kildee, Dan MI-5
 Kilmer, Derek WA-6
Kind, Ron (WI-3)
 King, Peter T. NY-2
 Kinzinger, Adam IL-16
 Kline, John MN-2
 Kuster, Ann M. NH-2
 Lance, Leonard NJ-7
 Langevin, James RI-2
 Larsen, Rick WA-2
 Larson, John B. CT-1
 Latham, Tom IA-3
 Latta, Bob OH
 Lee, Barbara CA-13
 Levin, Sander, MI-9
 Lewis, John GA-5
 Lipinski, Daniel IL-3
 LoBiondo, Frank A. NJ-2
 Loebsack, Dave IA-2
 Lofgren, Zoe CA-19
 Lowenthal, Alan S. CA-47
 Lowey, Nita NY-17
 Lujan, Ben Ray NM-3
 Lujan Grisham, Michelle NM-1
 Lynch, Stephen F. MA-8
 Maffei, Daniel NY-24
 Maloney, Carolyn B. NY-
 Maloney, Patrick, NY-18
 Marino, Thomas PA-10
 Markey, Edward J. MA-5
 Matsui, Doris O. CA-6
 McCarthy, Carolyn NY-4

McCollum, Betty MN-4
 McDermott, Jim WA-7
 McGovern, James P. MA-2
 McIntyre, Mike NC-7
 Meehan, Pat PA-7
 McKeon, Buck CA-25
 McNerney, Jerry CA-9
 Meeks, Gregory NY-5
 Meng, Grace NY-6
 Mica, John FL-7
 Michaud, Michael ME-2
 Miller, Candice MI-10
 Miller, George CA-11
 Miller, Gary G. CA-31
 Monroe, Gwen WI-4
 Moran, James P. VA-8
 Mulvaney, Mick SC-5
 Murphy, Patrick FL-18
 Nadler, Jerrold NY-10
 Napolitano, Grace F. CA-32
 Neal, Richard MA-1
 Negrete-McLeod Gloria CA 35
 Noem, Kristi L. SD
 Nolan, Rick MN-8
 Norton, Eleanor Holmes
 Olson, Pete TX-22
 O'Rourke, Beto TX-16
 Owens, William NY-21
 Pallone, Frank NJ-6
 Pascrell, Bill, Jr. NJ-9
 Paulsen, Erik MN-3
 Payne, Donald M., Jr. NJ-10
 Perlmutter, Ed CO-7
 Perry, Scott PA-4th
 Peters, Gary C. MI-14
 Peters, Scott H. CA-52
 Peterson, Collin MN-7
 Pingree, Chellie ME-1
 Pitts, Joseph PA-16
 Pocan, Mark WI-2
 Polis, Jared CO-2
 Pompeo, Mike KS-4
 Posey, Bill FL-8
 Price, David NC-4
 Quigley, Mike IL-5
 Rangel, Charles B. NY-13
 Reed, Tom NY-23
 Reichert, Dave WA-8
 Ribble, Reid WI-8
 Rice, Tom SC-7
 Rogers, Mike MI-8
 Roskam, Peter IL-6
Continued on page 5

Senators Sign Up to Support S.1406**The tally is now 58 in the Senate.**

Ayotte, Kelly (NH) Sponsor
 Baldwin, Tammy (WI)
 Begich, Mark (AK)
 Bennet, Michael F (CO)
 Blumenthal, Richard (CT)
Booker, Cory (NJ)
 Boxer, Barbara (CA)
 Cantwell, Maria (WA)
 Cardin, Benjamin (MD)
 Carper, Thomas (DE)
 Casey, Robert P. Jr. (PA)
 Collins, Susan (ME)
 Coons, Chris (DE)
 Crapo, Mark (ID)
 Durbin, Richard (IL)
 Feinstein, Dianne (CA)
 Franken, Al (MN)
 Gillibrand, Kirsten (NY)
Hagan, Kay (NC)
 Harkin, Tom (IA)
 Heinrich, Martin (NM)
 Hirono, Mazie K (HI)
 Isakson, Johnny (GA)
 Johanns, Mike (NE)
 Johnson, Tim (SD)
 Kaine, Tim (VA)
 King, Angus S. Jr. (ME)
 Kirk, Mark (IL)
 Klobuchar, Amy (MN)
 Landrieu, Mary (LA)
 Leahy, Patrick (VT)
 Levin, Carl (MI)
 Markey, Ed (MA)
 Menendez, Robert (NJ)
 Merkley, Jeff (OR)
 Mikulski, Barbara (MD)
 Murphy, Christopher (CT)
 Murray, Patty (WA)
Nelson, Bill (FL)
 Pryor, Mark (AR)
 Reed, Jack (RI)
 Rubio, Marco (FL)
 Sanders, Bernard (VT)
 Schatz, Brian (HI)
 Schumer, Chuck (NY)
 Shaheen, Jeanne (NH)
 Stabenow, Debbie (MI)
 Thune, John (SD)
 Udall, Mark (CO)
 Vitter, David (LA)
 Walsh, (MT)
 Warner, Mark (VA) Sponsor
 Warren, Elizabeth (MA)
 Whitehouse, Sheldon, (RI)
 Wyden, Ron (OR)

Representatives Continue to Sign On as Co-Sponsors**Continued from page 4**

Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana FL-27
 Ross, Dennis FL-15
 Rothfus, Keith PA-12
 Roybal-Allard, Lucille CA-40
 Royce, Ed CA-39
 Ruiz, Raul CA-36
 Runyan, Jon NJ-3
 Ruppersberger, C.A. MD-2
 Rush, Bobby IL-1
 Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho (D-
 MP at Large)
 Salmon, Matt AZ-5
 Sanchez Linda CA-38
 Sanchez, Loretta CA -46
 Sarbanes, John MD-3
 Schakowsky, Janice IL-9
 Schiff, Adam CA-28
 Schneider, Bradley S. IL-10
 Schock, Aaron IL-18
 Schrader, Kurt OR-5
 Schwartz, Allyson Y PA-13
 Scott, Austin GA-8
 Scott, David GA-13
 Serrano, Jose NY-15
 Shea-Porter Carol, NH-1
 Sherman, Brad CA-30
 Shuster, Bill PA-9
 Simpson, Michael (ID-2)
 Sinema, Kyrsten, AZ-9
 Sires, Albio NJ-8
 Slaughter, Louise NY-25
 Smith, Adam WA-9
 Smith, Christopher H NJ-4
 Smith, Lamar TX-21
 Southerland, Steve II FL-2
 Speier, Jackie CA-14
 Stivers, Steve OH-15
 Swalwell, Eric CA-15
 Takano, Mark CA-41
 Thompson, Glenn PA-5
 Thompson, Mike CA-5
 Tierney, John MA-6
 Tipton, Scott CO-3
 Titus, Dina NV-1
 Tonko, Paul NY-20
 Walorski, Jackie IN-2
 Walz, Timothy (MN- 1)
 Wasserman-Schulz,
 Debbie FL-23
 Waters, Maxine (CA-43)
 Waxman, Henry A. CA-
 33
 Weber, Randy K Sr. TX-
 14
 Welch, Peter VT
 Wenstrep, Brad OH-2
 Whitfield, Ed KY-1
 Williams, Roger TX-25
 Wilson, Frederica S. FL-
 24.
 Wittman, Rob VA
 Wolf, Frank VA-10
 Yarmuth, John KY-3
 Yoder, Kevin KS-3
 Yoho, Ted S. FL-3
 Young, C.W. Bill FL-13
 Young, Don (R-AK-
 At Large)

**305 Co-sponsors as
of July 18, 2014.**

A Letter from the Former Governor of the State of Tennessee, Winfield Dunn

Courtly, refined, ,gracious, -- these are not the words normally used when describing the ongoing issue of the performance walking horse , its adherents, their strategies for resistance to change, or the legislation that hopes to bring an end to the stacked shoes, action devices, heavy flat shoes, and other means of chemical and mechanical soring that have led to years of widespread abuse. The willingness to ignore the Horse Protection Act and defeat the PAST Act reveals comments made on social media about these subjects that are frequently crude and both misinformed and uninformed. Governor Dunn's letter to Congressman Whitfield on this subject reminds that it is possible to be passionate about the need for change and still remain civil in discourse. Born in 1927 in Mississippi, Dunn, a Republican, was the 43rd governor of the state of Tennessee. He remains a gentleman of the old school.

WINFIELD C. DUNN

Nashville, TN 37205



July 24, 2014

Honorable Ed Whitfield, MC
U. S. House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Whitfield:

I write this message to endorse and offer my support for your proposed legislation, HB 1518. You are due total gratitude from animal lovers and Walking Horse owners across our nation. As a former Governor of Tennessee and Walking Horse owner I fully appreciate your courage and commitment toward the breed and the magnificent animals which make it up.

Regrettably, past practices involving false pride and ambition have led us to a point where physical mistreatment and pain now characterize an industry and a pastime which Tennesseans and horse lovers everywhere have treasured over the years. The abuse and suffering which these innocent and loyal animals now experience every day must be brought to an end. I have made my feelings known to members of the Tennessee delegation.

I look forward to a day, very soon, when walking horse enthusiasts, both pleasure seekers and competitors, can enjoy the beauty and naturalness of the horse. Your efforts toward those goals will earn the gratitude of animal lovers everywhere. I congratulate you, wish you every success and stand ready to support you and others as you move forward.

Most earnestly,

Winfield C. Dunn

Some USDA Federal Disqualification Consent Decisions as of July 17, 2014

(*We won't be seeing them at this year's Celebration, at least not directly.*)

11-0311 Jeanette Baucom Monroe , NC, 5 years , 1/07/2013- 1/06/2018

(note: connected with WCG rider Chad Baucom)

13-0035 Brice Edwin "Eddie" Baucom, Monroe, NC , 5 years, 1/01/2013-12/31/2017

(note: connected with WGC rider Chad Baucom)

13-0022 Michael Chiappari, Santa Rosa, CA, 3 years, 12/02/2013-12/01/2016

13-0346 Brandi Mills, Richmond, KY, 1 year, 11/19/2013-11/18/2014

12-0613 O & W Moody, Ltd. Co., Batesville, AR, 14 months, 2/14/2014-4/13/2015+\$2,200

12-0613 Wilsene Moody (Kwok) , Delaware , OH, 14 months, 2/14/2014-4/13/2015+\$2,200

(note: Mrs. Kwok's horse, Moody Star, pictured on the front page of this issue, was formerly trained by Jackie McConnell, and is now trained by Bobby Hugh. Mrs. Kwok's competition horses were transferred to her husband, Dr. Jack Kwok, a minister, before her federal disqualification and are currently competing under his sole name and ownership. Now known simply as Star, Moody Star will compete in section A of the Celebration stallion class that leads to the World Grand Championship title at the 2014 Celebration.)

14-0013 Nancy Groover, Waco, Tx, 8 months, 5/02/2014- 1/01/2015 + \$1,000

13-0026 Kemp Martin, Owenton, KY, 1 year 5/19/2014-5/18/2015

13-0025 William Ford, Owenton, KY, 1 year 5/19/2014-5/18/2015

13-0349 William Beard, Wartrace, TN, 8 months, 5/02/2014-1/01/2015

0231

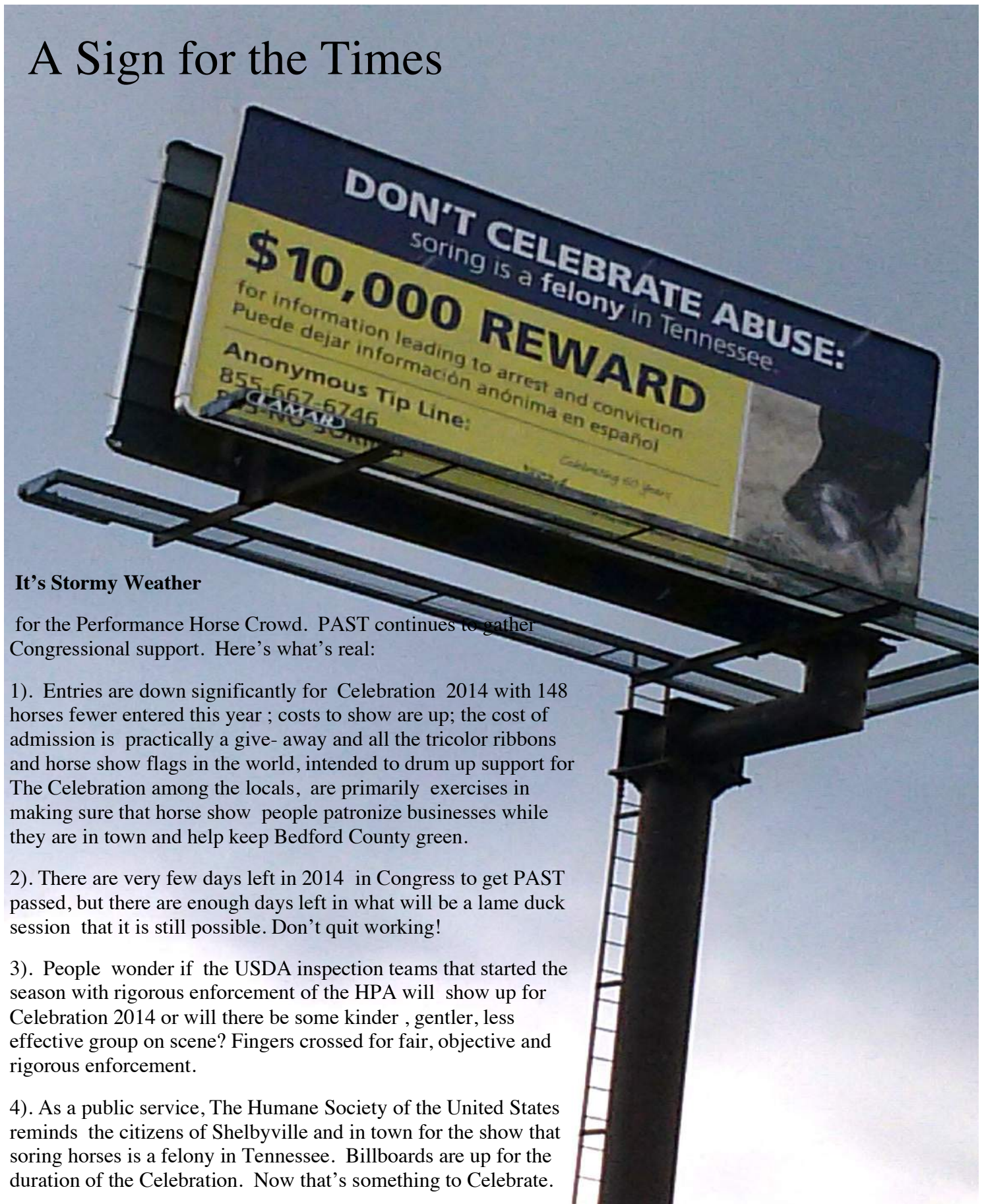
13-0249 James William Dean, Lewisburg, TN, 2 years, 1/27/2014-1/26/2016 + \$3,500

13-0297 Bill "Billy " Gray, Shelbyville, TN, 4 years, 1/14/2014-1/13/2018 + \$2,200

(note; Recidivist Mr. Gray is a multiple time WGC rider of performance horses, a multiple time federal violator, and a multiple time HPA HIO violator.)

13-0024 Tom Ware, Cynthiana, KY, 1 year, 5/19/2014- 5/18/ 2015 + \$3,500

A Sign for the Times



It's Stormy Weather

for the Performance Horse Crowd. PAST continues to gather Congressional support. Here's what's real:

1). Entries are down significantly for Celebration 2014 with 148 horses fewer entered this year ; costs to show are up; the cost of admission is practically a give- away and all the tricolor ribbons and horse show flags in the world, intended to drum up support for The Celebration among the locals, are primarily exercises in making sure that horse show people patronize businesses while they are in town and help keep Bedford County green.

2). There are very few days left in 2014 in Congress to get PAST passed, but there are enough days left in what will be a lame duck session that it is still possible. Don't quit working!

3). People wonder if the USDA inspection teams that started the season with rigorous enforcement of the HPA will show up for Celebration 2014 or will there be some kinder , gentler, less effective group on scene? Fingers crossed for fair, objective and rigorous enforcement.

4). As a public service, The Humane Society of the United States reminds the citizens of Shelbyville and in town for the show that soring horses is a felony in Tennessee. Billboards are up for the duration of the Celebration. Now that's something to Celebrate.