

MAY 22 Youth Beats

The harness racing 'zine for kids



A CHANGE OF PLANS

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Youth Beats



Caroline Vazquez works with horses, and also takes photos for social media posts and advertising, at Diamond Creek Farm in Kentucky
PHOTO COURTESY CAROLINE VAZQUEZ



KATHY PARKER
Youth Beats editor

Letter from the Editor

It's the time of the year when we are looking forward to summer fun, and that includes working with horses. There is nothing better than spending time with horses when the air is warm, the grass is green, the days seem to go on forever, and we don't even mind that there might be a fly or two to swat!

Do you like working with horses at the racetrack or the farm? Not sure? We have two stories inside about some of the differences. Spring is the time of the year when the Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF) announces its summer camp dates, and the camps are an excellent opportunity to learn more about Standardbred horses, and especially about working with racing Standardbreds.

In our last edition we had a list of words that are frequently used when talking about horses and horse racing. Now we're giving you a chance to see what you remember with a puzzle in our Standardbred Spotlight section. If you are going to a HHYF camp this summer, the crossword puzzle is a fun way to make sure you can talk horses.

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Caroline Vazquez handles a variety of responsibilities at Diamond Creek Farm
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BY KATHY PARKER

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An Unexpected Career

Internship at Diamond Creek Farm changed plans of Caroline Vazquez

BY KATHY PARKER

Horses can take you anywhere. Just ask Caroline Vazquez.

Vazquez grew up in the Pittsburgh suburb of Fox Chapel and became involved with Quarter Horses and hunter jumpers. She decided she wanted to work with horses, so she enrolled at Penn State University with the intention of becoming a veterinarian. She changed her mind about becoming a vet, but not about being with horses and now she lives and works in Kentucky's Bluegrass horse country.



Caroline Vazquez works at Diamond Creek Farm in Kentucky and also serves as vice president of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation

"I couldn't find a job, but then I found an internship at Diamond Creek Farm in Kentucky and I took it. I didn't know anything about Standardbred horses, but I learned," shared Vazquez.

"I started as a foaling intern and I had never foaled a horse in my life," she noted. "It wasn't a great first experience because the mare was mean and kicked, but I found out that wasn't typical."

Vazquez ended up with a full-time job at Diamond Creek and has since helped bring hundreds of Standardbred horses into the world. She's also worked various other jobs on the farm and now splits her time between duties on the farm as Director of Marketing & Stallion Syndicates.



Caroline with her first-ever foal in 2012.

"It's been a journey," she said. "I worked in Kentucky for a year and then Diamond Creek opened its Pennsylvania farm, and since I'm from Pennsylvania, I went there, where the farm stands most of its stallions. Then I did a foaling season in New Zealand. When I was back in Pennsylvania,



Caroline with a Southwind Frank filly out of Bayou, who was foaled recently at the Kentucky farm

I ended up in the office because they needed help.”

Today Vazquez helps with Diamond Creek’s marketing, social media, open-house events, and special Winner’s Circle lounge at the annual Breeders’ Crown racing championship of racing.

In addition, she has learned about stallion syndications, bookings and contracts and is involved in the office administration involving those matters.

“When I first joined Diamond Creek the farm had just one stallion, Ponder; now we have many stallions, so there is great deal of work with their breeding activities,” said Vazquez.

Vazquez is back in Kentucky, where Diamond Creek stands just one stallion at stud, the trotter Gimpanzee. Because of enhancements to the racing program for horses born and raised in Kentucky, Diamond Creek has moved most of its mares from Pennsylvania to the Bluegrass State to foal. In addition to broodmares that are sent by clients to be boarded, Diamond Creek will foal about 60 mares in Kentucky during the breeding season.

“When I was in New Zealand, we foaled about 400-500 each breeding season, so when I became

involved with foaling again this year, it seemed a little slow, but now it’s fine with me,” she said.



At New Zealand’s Addington Raceway with a friend’s horse, “Buzz”

Once foaling season ends, usually in early to mid-June, the yearlings will take center stage at Diamond Creek, which sells yearlings each fall at various sales, including in Lexington, Ky. (at the Fasig-Tipton Sale Pavilion) and in Harrisburg, Pa. (at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show Arena).



Caroline with one of her favorite mares, Loving Caroline, and her new foal

“I didn’t know about the breeding industry at all,” says Vazquez of her career journey thus far. “There is a bigger world than just working directly with horses every day, and there are more opportunities at breeding farms than you might realize. You can do horse stuff, but if you aren’t interested in barn work, there are other positions. And you get to see the whole process.”

While Vazquez earned a degree in Animal Science at Penn State, she’s still a bit surprised by her career path and today promotes both Diamond Creek and vocations in harness racing/Standardbred breeding through her work with the Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF).



In Pennsylvania with Continentalvictory (in fly mask) and See You At Peelers

“With Diamond Creek, when I started out doing marketing, I became aware of HHYF,” she said. “I never attended a camp, I never knew about the camps. I was just trying to be more involved and now I’m the HHYF vice president.”



During her career at Diamond Creek Farms, Caroline Vazquez has enjoyed spending time with many horses, including one of her favorites, the award-winning pacing filly Pure Country, a winner of \$2,438,619. NIGEL SOULT PHOTO



Baby Pure Country in Pennsylvania

HHYF Camp Dates, Details Announced

As usual, if it's summer, the Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF) will be traveling.

One-day HHYF camps provide an introductory peek into harness racing with each participant getting hands-on time with the HHYF horses. Harnessing and the opportunity to jog one of our racehorses along with an assistant driver is a big highlight, but the day also includes other games and activities as well as lunch.

If you are 13 and over, you might consider attend-

ing the HHYF Leadership Program, which will be hosted by Crimson Lane Farm in Anderson, Ind. This program is a sleepover (at the local Fairfield Inn) with five days and four nights packed with activities, guest speakers, and field trips to Harrah's Hoosier Park and area training centers mixed in with regular daily duties with the Trottingbreds.

Four gracious Midwest families stepped up to the spring training responsibilities, which is no easy task since the horses are full of hair to be shed and carrying some extra pounds. Big shouts out to Hank LeVan Stable who has I Want Another; Ryan Miller Stable with Royal Attire; Vicki Rouch and Ima's Hit; John DeLong Stable taking CD's Miss M.

HHYF Public Programs (pre registration is required)

May 20	Van Wert County Fairgrounds, Van Wert, OH Family/Adult Night Registration Deadline: May 13	Fee \$10
May 21	Van Wert County Fairgrounds, Van Wert, OH 1 Day Camp (ages 11 & up) Registration Deadline: May 13	Fee \$15
May 22	Van Wert County Fairgrounds, Van Wert, OH 1 Day Camp (ages 11 & up) Registration Deadline: May 13	Fee \$15
June 3	Union County Fairgrounds, Marysville, OH Family/Adult Night Registration Deadline: May 13	Fee \$10
June 4	Union County Fairgrounds, Marysville, OH 1 Day Camp (ages 11 & up) Registration Deadline: May 13	Fee \$15
June 5	Union County Fairgrounds, Marysville, OH 1 Day Camp (ages 11 & up) Registration Deadline: May 13	Fee \$15
June 27	Harrington Raceway, Harrington, DE 1 Day Camp (ages 11 & up) Registration Deadline: June 15	Fee \$35
July 10-14	Crimson Lane Farm, Anderson, IN Leadership Program (ages 13 & up) Registration Deadline: June 20	Fee \$250
July 16	DeLong Farm, Anderson, IN 1 Day Camp (ages 11 & up) Registration Deadline: July 8	Fee \$35
July 23-24	Windsor Fairgrounds/Union Fair, ME 2 Day Camp non sleepover (ages 11 and up) Registration Deadline: July 8	Fee \$40
July 30	Goshen Historic Track, Goshen, NY 1 Day Camp (ages 11 & up) Registration Deadline: July 16	Fee \$35
Aug. 8-9	Gaitway Farm, Manalapan, NJ 2 Day Camp non sleepover (ages 11 & up) Registration Deadline: Aug. 1	Fee \$40
Oct. 1	Shenandoah Downs, Woodstock, VA 1 Day Camp (ages 12 & up) Registration Deadline: Sept. 15	Fee \$35

HHYF Partnership/General Public Events (open to all)

April 7-9	Equine Affair, Columbus, OH
June 4	Diamond Creek Open House, Wellsville, PA
June 11	Base Ball at Goshen Historic Track, Goshen, NY
July 2, 3	All American Weekend, Goshen, NY
August 6	Hambletonian, East Rutherford, NJ
Jul. 28-Aug. 21	Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis, IN
Sept. 9-11	Dan Patch Festival, Oxford, IN
Sept. TBA	Great Frederick Fair, Frederick, MD
Sept. 23	Harrah's Hoosier Park Community Night, Anderson, IN
Date TBA	Open Space Pace, Freehold, NJ

HHYF Private Events (registration is restricted)

May 5, 6	Harrison County Ag Days, Corydon, IN
July 1	National Ag In The Classroom Convention, Saratoga Springs, NY
July 8	Westfield Washington Field Trip, Anderson, IN
Sept. TBA	Anderson Community Schools Field Trip, Anderson, IN
Oct. 26-28	National FFA Convention, Indianapolis, IN



All registrations must be made online. If financial assistance is needed, please contact the HHYF office at **317.908.0029**.

Scan the QR code to sign up now!



2021 Horse of the Year

TEST OF FAITH



PHOTO BY MARK HALL





A Learning Experience

HHYF camp is about more than just horses

By Sarah Irianne

I am 13 years old and I have been around horses and animals my whole life and my family grew up around them too. My mom loves riding with me. My twin sister even started showing competitively this past year and really enjoys it a lot. I have been riding horses for about eight years. I have a riding pony of my own. His name is My Knight & Shining Beau, aka Beau.

My stepdad, Mike Fiumenero, is a harness racing trainer, owner, and driver in New Jersey. His stable is at Gaitway Farm in Manalapan and he has been training for 25-plus years. He may not know a lot about the riding end of things, but he is a wealth of very useful knowledge when it comes to horses.

My stepfather always gives me advice on how to handle Beau's bad habits and problems. My stepfather is my mentor and a huge inspiration to me on many levels, but especially when it comes to horses. On the weekends, I go to the barn with my stepfather where I muck stalls, harness the horses, drive them every once in a while, and hose them down afterwards. My stepfather has taught me a lot about supplements, racetracks, drivers, famous horses, and horses in general.

When my stepfather was a kid he attended a Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF) camp. So 30-plus years later, he thought it would be a great fit for me and my sister too.

I have been taught more things than I can count by participating in the HHYF Camp. HHYF doesn't only give you the experience of being

around horses for the day. The program also gives you the experience of learning to harness, drive and care for a horse. The whole experience also helps you with your confidence with horses, learning about yourself and working together with others. All while having a lot of fun.



HHYF campers

The HHYF Camp comes every summer to the farm where he trains our race horses.

The program travels to different states every summer with their Trottingbreds, teaching children of all ages about race horses. The program also teaches the children how to put the tack and harness on along with how to drive the horse/pony.



Sarah and former HHYF graduate/intern Travis Ceppaluni (photo on opposite page) putting tack on Royal Attire

The HHYF Camp has taught me a lot about horses and a lot about myself. The HHYF taught me a lot about trusting myself, others, and the horses I'm working and learning on. It has also given me a lot of self-confidence, independence, and how to effectively work as a team with my fellow HHYF friends.

The HHYF Camp is a camp that every kid should participate in. It's a fun camp. A camp where you learn about horses, but you learn a lot about yourself as well. It's truly amazing how horses help you with your fears, confidence, and team building skills. If you want to learn more about horses and the harness racing industry you should consider HHYF. It is an amazing program!

Participating in the HHYF program, and my love for horses, has helped me succeed in my own riding. My horse Beau was a very green riding horse when I first got him, but because of my experiences, the things I have learned along the way and the programs that I have been lucky to participate in, it has all helped me turn Beau into a very good riding pony.

Beau has become the horse that I have always dreamed of and wanted. He has taught me so much about myself and he's always there for me. I have had him for a little over a year. Beau and I even made it to the ECRDA Dressage Championships 2021. Wow, what an experience that was!

My stepfather, my mom, HHYF and my horse, they have all helped me progress and have made me the horse girl and equestrian I am today. I'm very blessed and thankful for my family!

Horses are lifelong companions, a great way to learn responsibility, and a "Girl's Best Friend."



Hitched and ready to go!

**Scan to Learn about
HHYF Camps!**



STANDBRED

Ask A Pro

Caroline Vazquez, who works at Diamond Creek Farm in Kentucky, has been at the side of hundreds of broodmares as they have given birth, serving as a foaling watch person—yes, there are people whose sole job is to keep an eye on broodmares as they are getting ready to foal, horse talk for giving birth. Broodmares generally show signs that they are ready to foal. Caroline shares what she's learned while she's been on foaling patrol.

What is the most common sign you have seen that a broodmare is within just a few hours of giving birth? Or are they all different?

They are all different; some are pretty clear, others surprise you. We don't use cameras, because you miss tiny details on cameras. But typically they will "bag up," which means develop an udder; they might have wax on their teats, might start pacing around the stall looking restless.

Is it critical that a broodmare is in a stall in a barn to have her baby, or is a field OK?

Many horses have foaled outside with no issues! For us, stalls are easier because foaling season starts in very cold January. Mares don't always make it to the barn if they try and go during the day. When I was in New Zealand, with warmer weather, we foaled everything outside.

Does a first-time broodmare know what to do?

Sometimes they are confused..."what is this thing?" But giving birth is very instinctual, and fun to watch them become moms (the ones that are good at it, not all are!)



HHYF ACTIVITY BOX: THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THE HOMESTRETCH!

"We did our first lesson from the Activity Boxes today in the class and the students loved it! It went so well that I highly recommend them!" – Jeff, FFA Advisor



Do you love Standardbreds?
How much do you know about foaling? Racetrack sizes?
Do you want to know about how to read a sales catalog or a condition sheet?
What are some differences between harness and flat racing?
Does your 4-H club, FFA chapter or riding stable enjoy learning about other disciplines?

Are you interested in a horse career?
Any "yes" answers to these questions means an HHYF Activity Box is a must have resource!

HHYF Activity Boxes are filled with more than 40 fun fact sheets, puzzles, games, worksheets and even a copy of the HHYF Guide To Careers In Horse Racing!

Price: \$35 each (includes shipping within continental US)
For further information, contact the HHYF office 317.908.0029 or ellen@hhyf.org

<https://hhyf.org/activity-boxes/>

How quickly does a baby horse, a foal, stand and nurse?

There is a 3-2-1 rule. The foal should stand within an hour, nurse within two hours, and the mare's placenta should pass within three hours.

What is the immediate bonding of the mare and her baby like?

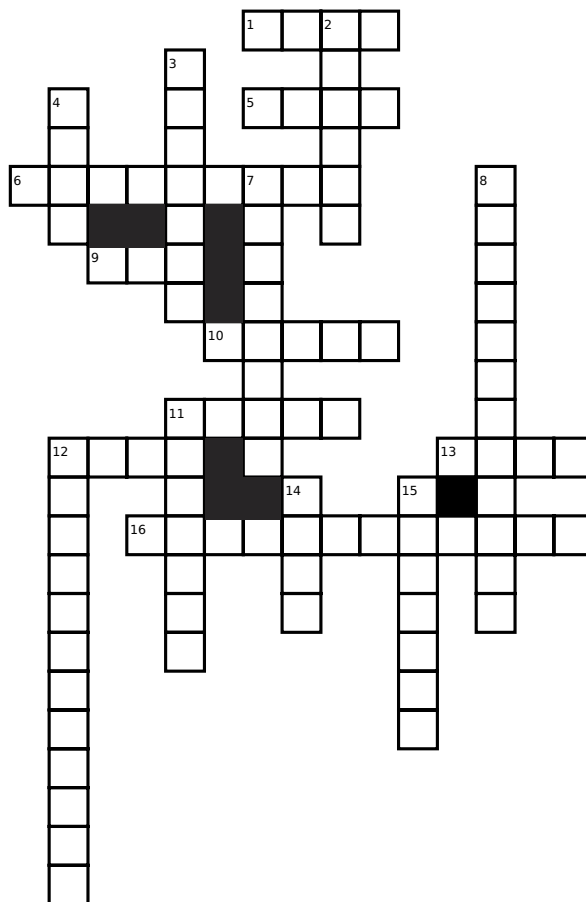
The mare knickers at the foal, licks it, becomes very protective of it.

How long before the broodmare and the foal are separated?

We wait to wean until the foal is six months old.

SPOTLIGHT

Crossword Challenge



Across:

1. a horse whose legs or feet are not 100 percent healthy
5. the journey a horse may have in a race
6. a horse who is a mother
9. when a horse finishes first in a race
10. a female horse age 2 or 3
11. a horse whose legs or feet are 100 percent healthy
12. a male horse age 2 or 3
13. a horse's foot
16. a doctor for a horse

Down:

2. a horse that has never won a race
3. a male horse that has had surgery and can no longer reproduce
4. a horse who has fathered horses
7. a material used to make horseshoes
8. trotting race
11. the straight section of a racetrack
12. the physical appearance of horse
14. a part of a horse's foot
15. a fenced field for horses, or a building for horses to be in before racing

Answers on page 13

Farm Livin'

Standardbreds are generally easy-going horses whether they're at the racetrack or the farm

BY KATHY PARKER

Working with Standardbred horses is not just about those that race. Naturally, it all starts at the farm, where horses are bred and born, and raised before going into training to race at age two.

Working with horses on a farm has a different rhythm and order, but many activities are the same: feeding horses, leading them from fields to stalls and back again, topping off their water buckets to make sure they have fresh water, and checking on their physical condition, among other things.

Art Zubrod manages the famed Brittany Farms in Kentucky and has been around horses all his life. Zubrod grew up working with Saddlebreds but ended up with a career working with Standardbreds, starting at the racetrack but gravitating toward farm work. Zubrod and his wife, Leah Cheverie, have daughters and grandchildren who are involved with horses, and the couple has also been involved supporting the Harness Horse Youth Foundation.

"In general, horses at the farm are the same as horses in training," said Zubrod of working at the farm instead of a racetrack. "Sometimes when a horse is in training, and this is true for both colts and fillies, their hormones can be a factor, but in general a Standardbred horse is a pretty docile breed. They accept things easily."

About 50 broodmares reside at Brittany Farms, located in the heart of Kentucky's Bluegrass horse country, just outside of Lexington. Every year a few farm-owned racehorses are retired to begin their lives as mothers, joining the farm's broodmare band. Breeding season for Standardbred horses officially begins on Feb. 15, although some farms wait a few more weeks.

"When a filly or mare is retired from racing, it's pretty basic for them to adjust, but you do keep an eye on them to make sure that they have what they need," said Zubrod. "Sometimes one won't do well with a large group of mares, so we put them with just one mare, hoping they become buddies. But sometimes two will fight like cats and dogs, and then we add a third mare to the group and it works out.

"The pecking order of horses in a field is crazy," Zubrod added. "You might have eight mares in a field and there is a certain pecking order, and it's like that every single day of their lives. Then you add one more mare, and everything changes. There always seem to be one or two instances where a mare has a tough time acclimating to farm life."

Zubrod has raised many world champions during his tenure with Brittany Farms, among them the recently retired trotting mare Manchego, one of the few three-time Dan Patch Award winners.



The trotter Manchego is one of the many female racehorses retired after last season's racing campaign. Manchego retired as a winner of 39 of 65 of her races, with purse earnings of \$3,144,777. She was born in Kentucky and is now back living in Kentucky as a broodmare. ADAM STROM PHOTO

Brittany Farms sold Manchego as a yearling for \$120,000 to Black Horse Racing and she earned \$3,144,777, making her the third-richest money-winning filly or mare trotter of all time. She also finished her racing career with the distinction of being the fastest trotting filly or mare in history with a mark of 1:49, which was equaled later that same year by her great rival, Atlanta. She also holds the world record on a five-eighths mile track (1:49.3f) and was the fastest trotter — regardless of gender — of both the 2019 (1:49) and 2020 (1:49.3f) racing seasons. She also won three Breeders Crown titles and the classic for 3-year-old trotting fillies, the Hambletonian Oaks.

“Manchego was a lovely horse from the very beginning,” said Zubrod. “If she was just a little bigger, she would not have been sold and she would be a Brittany broodmare.”

Nevertheless, Manchego is settled into re-



Manchego ADAM STROM PHOTO

tirement at a different Bluegrass horse farm: Kentuckiana Farms.

“She didn’t have any big adjustments; she settled in fine and is already in foal to the stallion Walner,” said Kentuckiana manager Bob Brady.



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE ANSWERS

Across

- 1-lame
- 2-trip
- 6-broodmare
- 9-win
- 10-filly

- 11-sound
- 12-colt
- 13-hoof
- 16-veterinarian

Down

- 2-maiden
- 3-gelding
- 4-sire
- 7-aluminum
- 8-Hambletonian
- 11-stretch
- 12-conformation
- 14-frog
- 15-paddock



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