

# PUZZLE

FROM PAGE B1

Todd Pletcher-trained Renegade opened as the favorite, but it could just as easily be Brad Cox's Commandment or Further Ado or Bill Mott's Chief Wallabee by the time the field of 20 leaves the gate. The first leg of the Triple Crown is so wide open that at least a half-dozen horses have a legitimate chance to win the 152nd running of the Kentucky Derby on Saturday.

"There's a lot of different ways you could go if you were handicapping this race," said Chad Brown, the trainer of Emerging Market. "You could really make an argument at this point for maybe half the horses in

the field if they ran their very, very best race and had a good trip that could win this race."

## RENEGADE ON THE RAIL

Renegade was set as the 4-1 favorite on the morning line, but last weekend he drew the inside No. 1 post position on the rail. No horse has won the Derby from there since Ferdinand in 1986.

"It's not the one we would have chosen," Pletcher said. "It's not ideal, but it's what we got and we'll do the best we can with it."

When Pletcher watched replays of every race since the new starting gate was introduced in 2020, he thought his horses and others on the rail were negatively affected and their chances

compromised. The last horse to break from the very inside to finish in the money was Lookin At Lee in 2017.

Irad Ortiz Jr. is being counted on to navigate Renegade through the 1 1/4-mile journey around the dirt track at Churchill Downs, and while he has yet to win the Kentucky Derby, he's in his prime as one of the best jockeys in the world.

"Irad's riding in great form right now, so they just got to work it out," Pletcher said. "I think his natural running style is to kind of settle and make one run like he has been doing, so we're not looking to change that."

## COX'S TRIO IS A DUO BUT STILL FORMIDABLE

Cox entered three horses but is down to two

after ruling out Fulleffort on Thursday because of a chip in the colt's left hind ankle. Mark Casse's Silent Tactic and Kenny McPeck's Right to Party were also scratched, putting Great White, Ocelli and Robusta into the field on the far outside.

Commandment and Further Ado each has shown the ability to finish first in this deep class of 3-year-olds. Commandment has won four in a row, including the Florida Derby, while Further Ado bounced back from a lengthy absence and won the Blue Grass Stakes.

They will now face rivals who thrived all over the country.

"There's a lot of talent, obviously, coming from different regions, whether it's California, Florida, Louisiana, New York," Cox said. "I do feel like

the horses in Florida were definitely the strongest region this year."

Bob Baffert's Potente was second to So Happy in the Santa Anita Derby in Southern California, and Litmus Test comes from Oaklawn Park in Arkansas. Baffert is tied for the most Derby victories among trainers and can take sole possession of the record if one of his long shots comes through.

With Danon Bourbon and homebred Wonder Dean, Japan again has strong presence two years after Forever Young was a close third. The country is in search of its first Derby win.

## NO SUPER HORSE?

It does not look like there is a super horse in this field who is capable of sweeping the Triple Crown like Justify in 2018 and American

Pharoah in 2015.

"There's by no means an American Pharoah in here, at least up to this point, going into the race," Brown said. "Now, whoever wins this race and goes on, maybe one emerges and turns into one of the best 3-year-olds in the last few years. Who knows?"

The bigger question is whether any of them would get the chance, given the reluctance of owners and trainers to run a horse two weeks later in the Preakness Stakes, which this year takes place at Laurel Park while Pimlico Race Course is rebuilt. Two of the past four Kentucky Derby winners did not run in the Preakness, which could soon move from the third to the fourth weekend in May to attract more horses.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE**

**KENTUCKY HOUSING CORP. V. AARON G. THOMAS, ET AL. CIVIL ACTION NO. 26-CI-00152, MAP #6-10-6-36 AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT: \$120,906.73 ADDRESS: 2530 EBACH ST., OWENSBORO, KY**

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Daviess Circuit Court the undersigned will, on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at the Courthouse 2nd Floor Fiscal Court Room in Owensboro, Ky., expose to PUBLIC SALE the above real estate. For a complete legal description of the property see the Court record in the Circuit Clerk's Office.

TERMS: CASH OR 10% DOWN & BALANCE 30 DAYS. If on credit purchaser must post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, plus 6.75% interest per annum from the date of said bond. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes.

**MASTER COMMISSIONER DAVIESS CIRCUIT COURT**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE**

**U.S. BANK N.A. V. JASON HUST, ET AL. CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-01005, MAP #6-8-2-28 AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT: \$47,879.52 ADDRESS: 61 GILMOUR CT, OWENSBORO, KY**

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Daviess Circuit Court the undersigned will, on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at the Courthouse 2nd Floor Fiscal Court Room in Owensboro, Ky., expose to PUBLIC SALE the above real estate. For a complete legal description of the property see the Court record in the Circuit Clerk's Office.

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**MASTER COMMISSIONER DAVIESS CIRCUIT COURT**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE**

**KENTUCKY HOUSING CORP. V. COREY KUNDERT, ET AL. CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-01007, MAP #3-9-3-10 AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT: \$78,860.22 ADDRESS: 2814 ALLEN ST., OWENSBORO, KY**

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Daviess Circuit Court the undersigned will, on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at the Courthouse 2nd Floor Fiscal Court Room in Owensboro, Ky., expose to PUBLIC SALE the above real estate. For a complete legal description of the property see the Court record in the Circuit Clerk's Office.

TERMS: CASH OR 10% DOWN & BALANCE 30 DAYS. If on credit purchaser must post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, plus 6.5% interest per annum from the date of said bond. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes.

**MASTER COMMISSIONER DAVIESS CIRCUIT COURT**

**Owensboro KENTUCKY**

**CITY OF OWENSBORO** seeks qualified applicants for the following Full-time, Non-civil service position:

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR FINANCE**

Management position responsible for assisting the Director of Finance in overseeing the City's accounting functions. Primary essential functions include but are not limited to:

- Supervise the Finance Accounting staff, including hiring, annual evaluations, and addressing disciplinary actions.
- Oversee and assist with the City's annual audit, including preparation of schedules and notes, and reviewing the Annual Comprehensive Report (ACFR) prepared by the auditor.
- Oversee the preparation of journal entries and monthly financial reports
- Oversee tasks associated with managing daily bank transactions and debt management
- Oversee the City's Short-Term Rental program operations
- Prepare and file year-end 1099's
- Prepare budget adjustments for Finance Director approval
- Oversee and assist with the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program, collecting tax information, prepares quarterly and annual reimbursements
- Assist City staff with accounting questions, train staff in other departments as needed
- Prepares federal program draws for Transit, HOME, and CDBG
- Assist the Alcohol Beverage Control Administrator
- Maintain and support the ERP system

Starting pay \$109,190/yr. Provided benefits include but are not limited to, health insurance, group life insurance, wellness program, and CERS retirement through Kentucky Retirement Systems. Paid time off includes vacation, sick time, and holidays (for eligible employees).

**QUALIFICATIONS (Required at time of application):**

Bachelor's degree in Finance or Accounting or its equivalent AND a minimum 6 years experience in a top level accounting position (i.e., Cost Accountant, Controller, Deputy Director of Finance). An equivalent amount of education and/or experience is acceptable. Valid driver's license required. Please submit a resume with your application.

**TO APPLY:**

In order to be considered, applications and resumes must be received no later than Saturday, **May 16, 2026**. Visit [www.owensboro.org](http://www.owensboro.org). Click on "Join Our Team" and the position link. First-time users need to create an account as instructed. If you have questions or wish to confirm receipt of an application, call Human Resources at (270) 687-8540 or toll-free (888) 616-8540 **prior to** application deadline. Hearing impaired, call (270) 687-4459.

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ADA accommodation may be requested by calling (270) 687-8542.

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**Owensboro KENTUCKY**

**CITY OF OWENSBORO** seeks qualified applicants for the following Full-time, Non-civil service position:

**DIRECTOR PARKS AND RECREATION**

Responsible for the Parks and Recreation Department, including but not limited to recreation facilities, parks/open spaces, special events, youth programs, and leisure/fitness activities. Responsible for quality-of-life opportunities for our citizens; provision of green space for future generations; and ensuring resources support the local economy through sport and recreation tourism. Director shall create policy and procedures to ensure the orderly, safe and customer-friendly operation of all city parks and recreational facilities.

Primary Essential Function(s) include but not limited to:

- Directs and oversees operations of 25 city parks, 960 plus acres of City owned property, the Parks and Recreation Administrative Center, Ben Hawes Golf Course, Hillcrest Golf Course, City Ice Rink, 2 City swimming pools, Jack C. Fisher Park Complex, Dugan Best Recreation Center, Moreland Tennis Complex, Owensboro Tennis Complex, Travis Aubrey Skate Park, Smothers Park, 3 Spray Parks and Adkisson Greenbelt Park divisions
- Develops, maintains, and implements long-range plans, annual objectives, and departmental budget
- Manages operations of the Enterprise Fund Accounts, including Ben Hawes Golf Course, Hillcrest Golf Course, Ice Rink, Cravens Pool, Combust Pool, Jack C. Fisher Park Complex, Centre Court Tennis Facility; and operations of the General Fund Accounts Parks Administrative Center, Parks Maintenance, Dugan Best Recreation Center, Youth, Smothers and Sports
- Reviews and approves plans, technical reports, budget estimates, and proposed ordinances and regulations relating to Parks and Recreation
- Develops general policy, in consultation with appropriate department personnel and City officials, for expansion, modification, or discontinuance of various departmental programs
- Develops general rules, regulations, procedures, and policies for department administration

Starting annual pay \$109,190+, commensurate with qualifications/experience. Provided benefits include but are not limited to health insurance, group life insurance, wellness program, and CERS retirement through Kentucky Retirement Systems. Paid time off includes vacation, sick time, and holidays (for eligible employees).

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's degree in Recreation, Management, or other job-related field, AND minimum 6 yrs. top-level experience in public parks and recreation. Equivalent amount of education and/or experience is acceptable. Valid driver's license required.

**TO APPLY:** Applications must be received no later than Sunday, **May 24, 2026**. Visit [www.owensboro.org](http://www.owensboro.org). Click "Join Our Team" and the position link. First-time users need to create an account as instructed. If you have questions or wish to confirm receipt of an application, call Elaine Timmel (270) 687-8540 or (888) 616-8540 **prior to** application deadline. Hearing impaired, call TDD/Voice (270) 687-4459.

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