

# The Divine gift of horses

The longer I've been around horses, the more it becomes clear that they really are one of God's most perfect creations ever given to mankind. They have been used for transportation, early mail delivery, plowing crops, fighting wars, herding cattle, jousting and the list goes on. They were also used to settle bragging rights as to who owned the fastest equine specimen. They evolved into many different breeds, but it's always been the thoroughbred that became the most versatile. They do one thing exceptionally well...run! The afterglow of Derby 152 is a great time to reflect and debrief on what we experienced. If God played baseball, I think he would have been an excellent curveball or knuckleball pitcher, because just when you're looking for the fastball, he makes you look awfully silly. Every year since 1875, on the first Saturday in May, we step up to the plate and try and figure out what's coming. He uses the Kentucky Derby to humble us. The late great D. Wayne Lukas's famous line, "people ask questions, horses have the answers," is truer now than ever before. I'd like to submit exhibit A. On the Derby undercard, Tour Player, one of the Coach's horses that was moved to the barn of trainer Whit Beckman, won the \$200k Knicks Go Stakes. Wayne Lukas is even trying to beat you from his barn in heaven. Divine intervention?

bles was started by another woman, Gladys Mills Phipps (Daisy's great-great Grandmother) and of course the Derby itself was won by a woman, Cherie DeVaux, the first woman to have ever won the Kentucky Derby. Divine intervention? The jockeys that finished 1-2 are brothers. The first time that's ever happened in 152 years of the race. Divine intervention?

The race perfectly encapsulated life itself. It's very satisfying when the underdog comes from far back to win, something that Cherie DeVaux knows all too well. When she first went out on her own, eight years ago, it took her almost a year to win her first race. There's only one woman that knows how winning the Kentucky Derby felt. Thousands now know what it means. It was time for a little diversity in a male dominated sport so God shook off the fastball and lodged a sweeper that not even Aaron Judge could hit.

The people in this sport that make it all about the horse, reap the benefits of that care and nurturing, maybe not right away, but God pays attention to such things. Most like Cherie DeVaux get horses sent to them from people like the Phipps, because of one thing, they put their heart and souls into the job. Sometimes those hearts get broken. Sometimes events we'll never be able to explain happen to people and horses that we didn't see coming. The uncontrollable and unpredictable spirit of a horse is divinely managed. It's what creates inconceivable results in an event like the Kentucky Derby. Lord only knows what's in store for us for Derby 153.

Preakness picks: Derby Champ and runner up both sit this one out. Here's how I see the race ahead of the draw on Monday. It's possible Baffert could enter the Pat Day Mile winner Crude Velocity, and if he does, he's the most likely winner.

1st - Crude Velocity - Baffert going for his 9th Preakness win. If he doesn't ship to Laurel, I think Silent Tactic gets the same set up as Golden Tempo and rolls home late.

2nd - Silent Tactic - if Crude Velocity goes. Lots of early gas to close in to ala Golden Tempo

3rd - Taj Mahal - undefeated local horse and seems legit. Trained by Brittany Russell - could it happen again?

4th - Ocelli - still a maiden but will get another hot pace

Recently, the great sire Curlin had to be removed from his breeding schedule due to health and fertility problems. Curlin's blood flows through the veins of the top three finishers of Derby 152, Golden Tempo, Renegade and Ocelli. Divine intervention? It could be said that it was divine intervention that kept Ocelli from being disqualified after wiping out several down the stretch, but we won't argue the merits of the decision to let it go, at least for now.

There's a wonderful story about a seriously ill fellow called Derby Bob, who had attended the Derby for 79 consecutive years. Bound to a wheelchair with his 80th Derby looking impossible, a social media plea to Churchill Downs went out, and Churchill responded. They provided a Kentucky State Trooper escort to the Derby and set him up with a very good view of the race. Bob's only request was if he could get a signed program from the winning trainer and jockey. Churchill Downs VP of Communications, Darren Rogers made that happen. Oh, and by the way, Bob's Derby bet was a box on 1-19-22. Sadly, Bob Weihe (1939-2026) passed away in his bed at Hesperus almost exactly a week from post time of the Kentucky Derby. Divine intervention? I'm sure Cody Dorman (Cody's Wish) would know something about that.

Golden Tempo's ownership reads like a who's who of American racing. The Phipps Stable's cherry red cap with the black silks just had its 100th anniversary. The current racing manager of the Phipps Family Stable, and I do mean family is Daisy Phipps Pulito. The Phipps stable, originally known as Wheatley Sta-



CHUCK HARPER

## OLDHAM

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point, our defense played outstanding. I've got two girls. Emerson Miller has played for four years, but two of those years were at South, but this is first year as a basic starter at defense. Skyla Decloedt started playing last year as a sophomore, she's just in her second year, and both of them just play outstanding defense. I can have Sara [Alvarado] and Raegan [Richins] in with them, who both have been here for three years now. My middies dropped down, which is Gianna, Tatum and Ella Klingenberg...If you watch, they're all able to switch positions."

The Lady Mustangs regained possession for a few seconds, but Falcioia knocked the ball loose for the Lady Colonels, leading to a goal by junior Ella Klingenberg. The goal led to an offensive surge by Oldham County to end the first half.

"I'm seeing a lot of trust through our defense and trust through our whole team," Millet said. "I think that a good part of why we work so well together is because we can trust our defense to stop the ball, get it back and even take it all the way back down if needed. Me personally, I rely a lot on [Kiera DeVault] and Sara to be able to get back there. If I can't make it or they're closer, I rely on them for defense. I see that working. I trust them to be down there. You have to have a strong defense to be able to build your offense off of it."

The Lady Colonels won the draw, and Abbott extended their lead on a goal 40 seconds later. Oldham County won the draw again. Millet scored at the buzzer, giving the Lady Colonels a 5-2 lead at the break.

"It was just all about how we worked so well together [Monday], and we all just understood that, in order for us to keep where we're at and win this game and really push through, we all have to work together and understand where everybody's going and where the best place to help your teammate out, because we have this thing called make place for your teammates. That was definitely really important for today's game," Abbott said.

The Lady Colonels went back to slowing down the game to begin the second half, holding the ball for the first three minutes of the third quarter. The North Oldham defense stood tall, not allowing a shot.



PHOTO BY Wyatt Sparkman

**Oldham County senior Erin Abbott looks for a pass in an 8-4 win over North Oldham in the Sixth District Championship.**



PHOTO BY Wyatt Sparkman

**North Oldham senior Katie Raymond posted up in an 8-4 loss to Oldham County in the Sixth District Championship.**



PHOTO BY Wyatt Sparkman

**Oldham County senior Tatum Millet won the Sixth District Tournament MVP. Oldham County senior Erin Abbott and juniors Raegan Richins and Ella Klingenberg made the All-Tournament Team. South Oldham seniors Greta Bushue and Angela Soto and North Oldham seniors Katie Raymond and Lorelei Regan and junior Margaret Harrington made the team as well.**

Lady Mustang sophomore Addison Brantley scooped a loose ball to start an attack. Freshman goalie Autumn Riordan made a save on the possession, starting a fastbreak for Oldham County. Abbott extended the Lady Colonel lead with her third goal of the game.

"I think it was just important to calm down and be able to see the field and use our field IQ with where cuts would have been best and where shots could be made," Abbott said. "It's just kind of a feeling. You get this feeling when you do it and take it."

North Oldham started a fastbreak a few minutes later with junior Lauren Sanders drawing a foul near the goal. On the restart, Sanders found junior Kyleigh Johnson for a goal to cut into their deficit.

The Lady Mustangs won the ensuing draw and held the ball for a few minutes to

no avail. The Lady Colonels regained possession and struck on a goal by Klingenberg. Oldham County added to its lead a minute and a half later on a goal by Millet to take an 8-3 lead to end the third quarter.

Oldham County started the fourth quarter attacking. Regan made a save just over a minute into the period before both started battling back-and-forth for possession near midfield. North gained possession, and Sanders cut into its deficit on a goal with 7:55 left in the game.

Regan made another save less than a minute later, but Oldham County's defense held strong and didn't allow a shot on goal for the final six minutes of play. North Oldham created a chance for a goal in the final minute, but the Lady Colonels secured an 8-4 victory and the district championship.

"This year, especially after our very winning season last year, we noticed that we were going to be the prey rather than the hunter, so we definitely went in with a different mindset," Abbott said. "The mindset of, 'yes, we have to play hard, but we have to play even harder and continue to prove ourselves for who we are and how we play.'"

Oldham County will host the District Eight runner-up in the semifinals of the region tournament on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Veech wants his players to treat it like any other game, and he wants to see them build on the experience of making the state quarterfinals last year.

"One of the things I used to always say, especially with the two kids I had that won a state tournament in wrestling, I told both of them ahead of time, I was like, 'you have to wrestle this just like it's every other match. If you do anything other than that, then you put yourself in a position to get yourself in trouble,'" Veech said. "We just have to go Wednesday and play like it's the fifth or sixth game of the season. I just want to take that experience, understand that it's do or die time, but that it's a game just like the rest of them."

North Oldham will play the District Eight champion at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in the semifinals of the region tournament.

## ONGOING ESTATE SALE

**Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16**  
9 AM to 6 PM - Both Days  
**903 N. Randolph Ave. • Clarksville, Indiana**  
Lots of different items, glassware. VHS tapes, very old pie safe, really nice dog box for pickup truck, old safe about 5 ft. tall. Lots of miscellaneous.  
~ Rain or Shine ~

## LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**OLDHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026 - 9:00 AM**

A Public Hearing of the Oldham County Board of Adjustments and Appeals will be held on **Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 9:00 am.** The Public Hearing will be held on the Second Floor of the Oldham County Fiscal Court Annex Building, 100 West Jefferson Street, La Grange, Kentucky.

**OC-26-015** - (TABLED) An application has been filed requesting a Conditional Use Permit for a Home Occupation for property located at 4740 Bennett Ln., La Grange.

**OC-26-020** - An application has been filed requesting a Locational Variance for an Accessory Structure for property located at 7430 W. Hwy 524, Westport.

**OC-26-021** - An application has been filed requesting Maximum Square Footage Variance for and Accessory Structure for property located at 2802 Whirlaway Cir., Crestwood.

**OC-26-022** - An application has been filed requesting an Update of a Previously Issued Conditional Use Permit for property located at 5998 Pleasant Colony Ct., Suite 17, Crestwood.

Detailed information is on file in the office of the Oldham County Planning and Zoning Commission, Fiscal Court Building, 100 West Jefferson Street, Suite 3, La Grange, Kentucky and may be examined during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

**RYAN FISCHER, DIRECTOR**  
**OLDHAM COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

## LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**NORTH OLDHAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

The North Oldham Fire Protection District will hold an election for a member of the Board of Trustees on June 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Voting will take place at the North Oldham Fire Department, located at 1660 Highway 1793, Goshen, Kentucky.

Candidates Name and address listed below  
John Marsteller  
13303 Peach Tree Lane  
Prospect KY 40059

## LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**OLDHAM COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**  
**TUESDAY, May 26, 2026 at 9:00AM**

The following item has been scheduled for Public Hearing by the Oldham County Planning and Zoning Commission to be held on **Tuesday, May 26, 2026.** The Commission Meeting will be held on the second floor of the Oldham County Fiscal Court Building, 100 West Jefferson Street, La Grange, Kentucky.

**DOCKET PZ-26-006** - An application has been filed by Sunanza, Inc. for a Preliminary Subdivision Plan with twenty-seven (27) lots on property located at 5401 Old Sligo Rd., La Grange. The property is 169.14-acres and zoned AG-1, Agricultural District, and CO-1, Conservation District.

**DOCKET PZ-26-007** - An application has been filed by Greenberg Enterprises for a Preliminary Subdivision Plan with one hundred twenty-three (123) lots on property located at 3104 and 3112 Cedar Point Rd., Buckner. The property is 89.92-acres and zoned R-2, Residential District, and CO-1, Conservation District.

**DOCKET PZ-26-009** - Proposed Zoning Text Amendment for the following ordinances:

- Division 250-080 Manufacture Housing
- Division 260-210 Golf Driving Ranges
- Division 260-400 Self-Storage Units
- Division 250-050 Short-Term Rental Permits

Detailed information is on file in the office of the Oldham County Planning and Zoning Commission, Fiscal Court Building, 100 West Jefferson Street, Suite 3, La Grange, Kentucky and may be examined during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

**RYAN FISCHER, DIRECTOR**  
**OLDHAM COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

## LEGAL NOTICE

NO. 23-CI-00065 OLDHAM CIRCUIT COURT  
FIFTH THIRD BANK, N.A. PLAINTIFF  
VS  
STEVEN ESTES, ET AL. DEFENDANTS

COMMISSIONER SALE  
VALERIE L. SHANNON, MASTER COMMISSIONER

**\*\* SALE WILL BE HELD AT THE OLDHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT, 100 W. MAIN STREET, LA GRANGE, KY 40031\*\***

Per Judgment in Oldham Circuit Court, Master Commissioner will sell at 10:00 am on MAY 26, 2026, at public auction to the highest bidder at the Oldham County Courthouse, Oldham Co., Ky., the property described as: Property Address: 2107 Sugarmaple Dr., La Grange, KY 40031; Deed Book 1089, Page 328; PARCEL ID: 38-43H-04-105. Terms are 10% & bond per KRS 426.705, the unpaid portion of the purchase price bears interest at the rate of (4.125%) percent per annum from the date of sale, balance due in 30 days from date of sale. Property is indivisible; sold free & clear of all liens encumbrances & interest of the parties except: A) All current real estate taxes and all taxes due thereafter, for which the purchaser shall not have a credit against the purchase price; B) Easements, restrictions, stipulations and agreements of record; C) Assessments for public improvements levied against the property; D) Any facts which an inspection and accurate survey of the property may disclose. Successful bidder shall carry fire and extended insurance coverage on improvements from the date of sale pursuant to Judgment and Order of Sale. However, neither the Plaintiff, its Counsel, the Court, nor the Commissioner, shall be deemed to have warranted title to any purchaser. **Amt to be raised-\$296,764.52.**

Hon. Chris Wiley, Plaintiff's Atty. Valerie L. Shannon, Master Commissioner, Post Office Box 54, LaGrange, Kentucky 40031; (502) 222-9898.

**ALL SALES WILL BE CONDUCTED PER KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND CDC GUIDELINES**  
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