



NM Horsemen's Association's Weekly Update March 2, 2026

Stakes Winners

The Sunburst Stakes

“Lovely Josie James”

West Texas Derby

“Traxion”



*NMHA Sunland Park
Committee*

Paul Jenson, President

Marci Cross

Delinda Green

Danna Buechler

Bart Hone

Dick Cappellucci

Casey Lambert

Tim Gleason

Sunray Park Update

- Stall applications due today 3/2/2026
- Barn area opens 4/4/2026
- Track opens 4/6/2026

Ruidoso / Albuquerque Update

- Stall applications are due 3/18/2026
- Barn area opens 4/22/2026

Join us in Hot Springs, Arkansas for the 2026 Annual HBPA Conference - Book Rooms Soon



Join us in Hot Springs, Arkansas for the 2026 Annual HBPA

Conference.

We are excited to go back to Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort and have a full conference planned.

Horsemen and Jockeys are asked to contact their representatives regarding any complaints with the Stewards actions, who will then forward them to the NMRC Commissioners.



DAA / Ruidoso will run a mixed meet from May 22, 2026, through October 25, 2026. Stall applications are out and need to be returned by March 18, 2026. There will be a stall limit per trainer in order to accommodate everyone coming to Albuquerque this summer.



Ruidoso Meet will be run at Albuquerque this summer. The Stakes Schedule will be spread out between May 22 through August 9 and All-American Races will be run on September 6th. Exactly when the Ruidoso meet ends, and the DAA begins will be announced.



Make sure you open page 5 for exciting news from Sunland Park.



Sunray Park stall apps are due today. Please be sure to get them in.



No update.

NMHA State Office Contacts

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AGENDA FOR 2026 NHBPA CONFERENCE



Tuesday March 3

2:00p – 6:00p Registration – Oaklawn

5:00p – 7:00p Welcome Reception

Wednesday March 4

7:30a – 8:30a Breakfast

8:30a – 5:00p Registration

9:00a – 9:20a Opening Remarks

9:25a – 10:45a Presentation: HISA: Law, Litigation, and the View from the Inside Rail

10:50a – 11:50a Presentation: owner/trainer Q and A, hosted by Tom Law

Noon – 2:30p Conference RSVP Lunch and Awards Presentation (RSVP only)

12:45p – 1:15p Recognition NHBPA 2025 Claiming Horse of the Year

1:20p – 1:50p Recognition and Resolution Presentations

1:55p – 2:05p Introduction for Keynote Speaker: Everett Dobson from Nancy Holthus

2:10p – 2:50p Keynote Address

2:55p – 4:00p Presentation: Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the Track: Smart Tech for Racing's Next Frontier

4:05p – 5:00p Presentation: Reimagining Racetrack Ownership: A Future Led by Horsemen and Participants

Thursday March 5

7:00a – 8:30a Benefit Providers Breakout

7:30a – 8:30a Breakfast

8:30a – Noon Registration

9:00a – 9:05a Return and Welcome Remarks

9:10a – 10:20a Presentation: Prediction Markets and Wagering: An Emerging Threat to Horse Racing and Interstate Horseracing Act Revenue

10:25 – 11:30a Presentation: Strengthening Integrity Through Education, Support, and Collaboration: ROAP & ORI

11:35a – Noon Presentation: Beyond the Finish Line: Building Pathways to Second Careers for Thoroughbreds

12:10p – 1:30p Benefits Provider Luncheon

12:15p – 12:35p Matt Delehanty of Sterling Thompson Equine

12:35p – 12:50p Katie LaMonica of Godolphin, Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards

12:55p – 1:25p Living Legend Recognition

2:00pm – 5:00pm NHBPA Executive Committee Meeting – BOARD MEMBERS ONLY

Friday March 6

7:30a – 8:30a Breakfast

9:00a – 9:05a Return and Welcome Remarks

9:10a – 9:25a Gunner laCour, who will discuss the value and operational benefits affiliates receive through National HBPA Sponsor CHRIMS

9:30a – 11:45a Presentation: Kent Stirling Memorial Medication Panel

11:50a Conference Wrap Up and Thank You by CEO Eric Hamelback

1:00p – 5:00pm Day at The Races – Carousel Room

1:00p Post Time for 1st Race

Saturday March 7

7:30a – 8:30a Board Members Only - Breakfast

9:00a – 12:30p NHBPA/NHAC Full Board Meeting & NHBPA Foundation Meeting



Below is the press release that Eric sent out this morning with the purse increases on the stakes.

Monday, March 2, 2026

Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino

Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino announces purse increases and expanded race schedule

Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino officials announced today a significant boost to its remaining racing season, including a \$310,000 increase in stakes purses and an expanded daily race schedule beginning Friday, March 6.

Driven by stronger-than-predicted casino performance and available purse funds, the track will now card a minimum of 10 races per day through the conclusion of the current meet.

The purse increases impact several of the meet's most prestigious events. Both the New Mexico Breeders' Oaks and the New Mexico Breeders' Derby will see jumps from \$130,000 to \$175,000. Additionally, the Casa Ford Sunland Stakes—a key fixture on the local calendar—has been raised to \$250,000.

The schedule of increases includes:

Casa Ford Sunland Stakes: Increased to \$250,000 (from \$200,000)

Mine That Bird Derby: Increased to \$175,000 (from \$125,000)

NM Breeders' Oaks & Derby: Increased to \$175,000 (from \$130,000)

NM State University Stakes: Increased to \$100,000 (from \$80,000)

NM Spring Fling & West Texas Juvenile (Consolations): Increased to \$100,000 (from \$50,000)

The expanded 10-race minimum schedule ensures more opportunities for owners and trainers to compete for the enriched prize money during the final month of the season.

For more information on the upcoming stakes schedule or to view daily entries, visit the Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino website.