



OVAL — The eighth-mile Creekside Speedway will host lawn mower racing on Sunday, April 29, at 2 p.m.

Photo by John Clayton

— Speedway —

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focused events. Outside the track, there is a playground for children as well as a concession stand. Participants and spectators are also welcome to picnic.

So far, Creekside Speedway has more than 150 followers on Facebook, and quite a few people have stopped on Highway 101 to find out what type of racing the new track would be hosting.

Some were surprised to find out that lawnmowers would be featured there.

“It’s really popular up North,” Burnett said.

The U.S. Lawn Mower Racing Association is based in Illinois and conducts races in 37 states, according to its website, but none of those events are in South Carolina. The Carolina Mower Racing Association formerly held its races in Gastonia, N.C., but has since

moved to Fort Lawn, S.C., according to its Facebook page. The CMRA plans to open the Fort Lawn track in May.

So, Creekside could host the first mower races in the state.

“Some folks with churches stopped by and said they’d done it for fun, and they were excited that we’re going to be doing it full time,” Burnett said.

Campbell said drivers will receive payouts for top finishes this season, and the track could also eventually host other events featuring remote-control vehicles and go-carts down the line.

But this season will focus on the mowers.

Opening Day had been planned for late March, but Laurens County ordinances, which were aimed at go-carts, had to be adjusted to include mowers.

With that out of the way, Creekside will be open for business

on April 29.

Campbell and Burnett have watched lawn mower racing on YouTube, but the first time they will see a live event will be the first one they host at Creekside.

“We’re excited about it,” Campbell said. “It’s good, inexpensive family entertainment.”

CREEKSIDE SPEEDWAY

If you’re going:

Where: 12305 Hwy. 101 South, Gray Court

When: First race set for 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 29. Racing is scheduled each Sunday from 2-5 p.m.

Admission: \$10 for spectators and \$10 per race entry.

Race divisions: Kids, Women, Stock, Super Stock and Modified.

Online: Search Facebook for Creekside Speedway. Complete rules are available on the Creekside group page.

Spotlight on Health

Laurens County doctors getting a foothold on underserved population



Dr. Katherine Heugel and Dr. William Long

Upstate Podiatry Group now has its foot in the door in Laurens County. Its Laurens office, which opened in early March, at **1073 Medical Ridge Road** provides foot care for a local population its doctors say has been underserved.

“It’s about accessibility for the public,” said Upstate Podiatry’s Dr. William Long, an upstate native who returned to open the Simpsonville-based practice in 2013. “There’s a huge need because there’s a large diabetic population, but we love healing patients whatever the problem might be.”

Dr. Long recently brought Dr. Katherine Heugel into the practice. Both of the doctors graduated from the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine and completed their residencies at the University of Pennsylvania Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia.

Now, they are the only two four-year residency-trained podiatrists currently practicing in the upstate of South Carolina.

“We have a wide variety of surgeries we can perform, and we just love helping people,” Long said. “We’re happy to be here.”

Long was a fourth-year resident at Penn when Heugel arrived for her first year of residency. They worked together there and stayed in touch even after Long returned home to the Upstate.

“When I found out Dr. Long was looking for an associate, I was excited because we worked well together,” Heugel said. “South Carolina has an under-representation of podiatry, so to come into an area that needs good foot care was important to me, too.”

“We have a lot of hard-working people, and your feet can hurt, especially after 12 hours on concrete. If we can try to help you with that, then please allow us to assist.”

Long said he has been impressed with Heugel’s skills as a podiatrist as well as her “bedside manner” with patients. Their common background at Temple and Penn helps with their communication now.

“Knowing that she’s coming from the same pedigree that I came from, I know that we can bounce things off one another,” Long said. “We bounce things off one another all the time, especially dealing with patients here at the Wound Care Center in Laurens. At the end of the day, we get the goal of healing the patient. ... We’re a team.”

“What can we do to help you get well?” Heugel continued.

Long and Heugel are currently rotating at Upstate Podiatry’s Laurens office. The office is open Mondays from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 a.m.-noon.

LDHS AG Day



EXIT RIGHT — Above, children from Gray Court-Owings exit the hayride at the conclusion of the LDHS Ag Day tour. LDHS and Clinton High FFA students offer Ag Days for kindergartners each spring.

TAG-ALONG — At right, as she and her fellow Gray Court-Owings Elementary students prepare to board the bus to return from the LDHS Agriculture Day field trip, 5-K student Alana Clifton watches as a friendly ladybug climbs up her arm.



Photos by Judith Brown



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March for Babies next Saturday in Clinton

Local families and businesses will join together on Saturday, April 28 in Downtown Clinton for Laurens County 2018 March for Babies.

The annual event raises funds and awareness to help the March of Dimes lead the fight for the health of all mothers and their babies.

On-site registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with the three-mile walk kicking off at 10 a.m. Sign up is also available at marchforbabies.org, either to start a team with family or friends or donate directly. Several activities will be available, including options for children, such as a bounce house and face painting. Live musical performances and a free lunch for participants sponsored by WalMart will also be part of the event.

Amanda Greer, executive administrative assistant to the Clinton city manager, serves as the Laurens County March for Babies chair.

This year’s Laurens County Ambassador Family is the Bodie Family. Ruthie Bodie was born at 29 weeks and two days. She weighed just 2.7 pounds, and spent 95 days in the NICU. Today, she is healthy and her family is dedicated to fighting for the health of all moms and babies. They believe that every baby deserves the best possible start.

“When you March for Babies, you make a statement about the world you want to live in—one in

which healthy moms and strong babies are a priority for us all,” says Brantley Reames, March of Dimes senior development manager. “It is a day for everyone. We remember those babies we lost and celebrate every baby.”

Premature birth and its complications are the largest contributor to infant death in the U.S. and pregnancy-related death has more than doubled over the past 25 years. From advocacy to education to research, The March of Dimes is working so that all moms and babies are healthy.

Visit marchofdimes.org for more information, and visit shareyourstory.org for comfort and support.

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