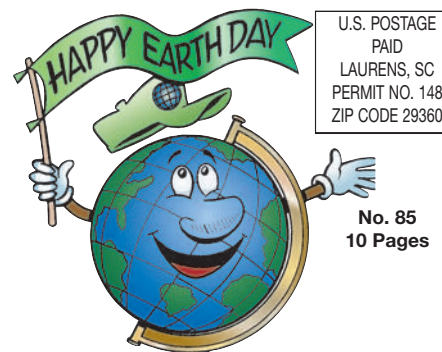




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Lawn mower racing coming to Gray Court's Creekside Speedway

By John Clayton
Editor

Gentlemen, start your mowers. That's exactly what is set to take place Sunday, April 29, at the new Creekside Speedway on S.C. Highway 101 in Gray Court. The eighth-mile oval will host lawn mower racing each week, a first for Laurens County and possibly the state.

"We want everyone to come out and participate," said Creekside owner Scott Campbell, who is opening the track with girlfriend Luwana Burnett.

The green flag on the inaugural race day is scheduled to drop at 2 p.m., and racing will be done by 5 p.m. The track will host five divisions — Kids, Women, Stock, Super Stock and Modified — each Sunday with the season set to run into October.

"It's a lot cheaper than building a race car," said Burnett, who, along with Campbell, is part of the local auto-racing community. Son-in-law Michael Smith is a regular competitor at Laurens County Speedway.

Campbell said lawnmower racers could get into the sport for \$200 or less. Mowers require some modifications for safety, but can be put on the track pretty much as is in the stock division.

As is the case in other forms of racing, the price of speed goes up at every level, so Super Modified mowers will be more expensive, but will go faster.

"Safety is definitely first," Campbell said.

Racers will be required to wear a helmet and



GREEN FLAG — Creekside Speedway owners Scott Campbell and Luwana Burnett stand along with track with mascot Samson. Creekside is set to host lawn mower racing Sunday, April 29, at 2 p.m.

long pants. Mowers must have kill switches to cut the engine in case of an accident, and, of course, the blades must be taken off.

"Most everybody now buys zero-turn lawnmowers, so there are a lot of (more traditional riding) lawnmowers sitting in yards or going to

the dump, so this is a chance to do something with them," Campbell said.

Campbell and Burnett emphasized that the Sunday lawnmower races will be family-

(Continued on page 2)

Second trial in VFW murder to start Monday

By John Clayton
Editor

The man accused of killing Laurens resident James Bolt in 2003 at the local Veterans of Foreign Wars building is expected to come to trial Monday.

Arthur "A.J." Bowers is charged with murder in the nearly 15-year-old case that shocked the local community because of its brutality. Prosecutors aim to prove that Bowers, now 32, entered the VFW building around closing time and bludgeoned Bolt to death on Sept. 26, 2003.

Although the case was never closed by the Laurens Police Department, it remained cold until the LPD and investigators from the 8th Circuit Solicitor's Office uncovered new evidence. Bowers was

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Arthur "A.J." Bowers

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 <p>'11 Chevy Silverado New tires, 5.3L V8, stepbars, very sharp.</p> <p>\$16,995</p>	 <p>'02 Chevy 3500 HiCube Van Low miles, new Goodyear Wranglers, 5.7L V8, full walk-in storage box, cold AC</p> <p>\$7,995</p>	 <p>'13 Nissan Altima 2 year limited warranty, Pure Drive, S Edition.</p> <p>\$9,995</p>	 <p>'11 Ford F250 Lariat Only 65K miles, leather, 6.2L V8, Super Duty, like new!</p> <p>\$24,995</p>	 <p>'12 Chevy Malibu LT 96K miles, chrome wheels, very sharp.</p> <p>\$9,995</p>	 <p>'07 Cadillac Escalade Nav., sunroof, back-up camera, DVD, touchscreen radio.</p> <p>\$18,995</p>	 <p>'15 Dodge Challenger Bluetooth, 72K miles, sport suspension, V6.</p> <p>\$17,995</p>
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