

Medford Dragstrip gets a new surface

Tristan Stocker
IVN Contributing Writer

The Medford Dragstrip, formerly Champion Raceway, located in Jackson County Sports Park in White City, is currently in the process of reconstructing its quarter mile track thanks to new management and a generous donor - the Kimmel Family Foundation - who agreed to cover half of the cost (\$103,500).

The track’s current operator, Justin Goodlett, took over at the beginning of this year and turned it into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. According to Goodlett, if the dragstrip was to remain in its current state of disrepair, top fuel National Hot Rod Association cars would not show up.

“That surface has been down for 40 years,” Goodlett said. “It was in pretty sad shape... almost unsafe to run on because there were spots where the cracks were 3-4 inches wide. Since the mid-90s people have been complaining about the surface. It was only meant to last 15 years... and it went 40 years.”

According to Goodlett, when race tracks develop surface cracks, it reduces traction which is exactly what is needed to produce the breakneck speeds achieved by the drivers and their vehicles. Safety is also an issue.

“You know, we got cars out here doin’ 150 mph,” Goodlett said. “The tires break loose and they’re sideways. It

gets kinda hairy.” Copeland Paving Inc. has been hired to complete the project which consists of a 330-foot concrete burnout strip and asphalt for the remainder of the quarter mile.

A new dragstrip, however, is not the only improvement implemented by Goodlett.

“What we’ve done is we’ve kinda changed the whole program,” Goodlett said. “Generally, drag racing is what we call bracket racing, and we still do bracket racing, but what I did is that - with the onslaught of Street Outlaws and all the TV stuff - I brought a bunch of guys in that have been on the TV show and we put on some charity races for cancer patients.

“And our format of that is no-prep: Street Outlaw style racing where we start in the middle of the track - start with a flashlight - and you know the people just love it because it’s basically bringing reality TV right here to the valley. So we had a really good response to that.”

The construction part of the project should be complete within a couple of weeks, said Goodlett, but about a month’s worth of prep work needs to be done before cars can run on it. The new season is set to begin in either mid-March or April, depending on the weather.

In order to help pay for the other half of the track, Goodlett opened a Benefit Account at the Umpqua Bank on Pine Street where cash or check donations can be made. Also,



(Courtesy photo for the Illinois Valley News)

credit card donations can be made via <https://paypal.me/MedfordDragstrip>. Goodlett is also selling raffle tickets to racers who’d like to be the first pair down the new track. For further information, please visit <https://medforddragstrip.com>.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF OREGON
IN THE COUNTY OF JOSEPHINE

PREGNANCY CENTER OF THE ILLINOIS VALLEY, an Oregon public benefit nonprofit Corporation.

Plaintiff,

vs.

Aaron Beckord, an individual

Defendant.

CASE NO. 18CV26534

SUMMONS

TO: Aaron Beckford,

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: You are hereby required to appear and defend the complaint filed against you in the above-entitled cause within 30 days from the date of service of this summons on you. If you fail to appear and defend, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY

You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically. To "appear" you must file with the court a legal paper called a "motion" or "answer." The "motion" or "answer" must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the plaintiffs' lawyer or, if the plaintiffs do not have a lawyer, proof of service on the plaintiffs.

If you have any questions, you should see a lawyer immediately. If you need help in finding a lawyer, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636.

DATED this 3rd day of October, 2018.

Michael W. Franell, OSB# 902680
Attorney for Plaintiff

Michael W. Franell, Attorney at Law
724 S. Central Ave Ste 113
Medford, OR 97501-7808
T: 541-646-4111 F: 541-646-4112
mike@franelllaw.com

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