

Tourney time

DISC GOLF: Tournament set for today, Sunday

FROM PAGE C1



PHOTOS BY SAVANNAH BLAKE | THE JOURNAL

The new championship-level disc golf course and the original course in Seneca will play host to the Oconee County Classic today before the tournament moves to Walhalla's Sertoma Field on Sunday.

have largely been put on hold, but both Medders and Ulmer agree that disc golf is the perfect sport to respect social distancing and limit close contact, and both are confident that this weekend's tournament will be a safe and fun experience for those involved.

"It's the perfect sport (for social distancing)," Medders said. "I played in a tournament two weeks ago, and everyone respected the amount of space and distance that people wanted."

"Nobody's trampling on each other, and you're out in the woods, you're getting exercise and it's beautiful. What more could you ask for?"

ation director Rick Lacey. "You have to be in shape, because it's approximately 3.5 miles to walk if you can keep your disc in the fairway."

"Tee boxes will be concrete after it's been played for a year, just to make sure we have them in the right place."

Disc golf is a popular and still fast-growing sport across the country, and just in Oconee and Pickens counties alone, there are courses in Seneca, Walhalla, Long Creek, Fair Play, Clemson, Central, Pickens and Easley.

The addition of Seneca's new course — called the gold course — has now attracted the PDGA to the area, and this weekend's tournament will feature a full lineup of 72 players, playing this morning at the gold course, this afternoon at the original course and all day Sunday at the Sertoma Field course in Walhalla.

Ryan Ulmer is the tournament director and, as a former Lake Keowee resident — he now lives in Anderson County, where he's the owner of Down South Discs — he's very familiar with the development of the new Seneca course.

"I think that the foundation of it is wonderful," he said. "I think that it has the potential to be a very good course in the Upstate, if not one of the top courses in the state."

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, sports worldwide

Seneca's new disc golf course to host pro tournament

BY ALEX MAMINAKIS
THE JOURNAL

This weekend, Oconee County will play host to a professionally sanctioned golf tournament — only this type of golf uses discs and baskets rather than clubs and balls.

The Oconee County Classic disc golf tournament is scheduled for today and Sunday in the Golden Corner — a Professional Disc Golf Association event that will be the first of its kind on Oconee's newest championship-level course in Seneca.

For years, local disc golf players have been able to enjoy the sport at Seneca's original disc golf course behind the Shaver Recreation Complex. But about three years

ago, a group of local players and enthusiasts moved forward with an idea of building a brand-new championship-level course on additional available land behind Shaver. After years of hard work, logging hundreds of volunteer hours, the new course is now open and ready to play.

Oconee County resident Sam Medders — a disc golf player himself — was one of the many people who had a hand in volunteering to build the new course, and he's very proud of the job that's been done.

"We're just volunteers — we just love to play disc golf. So all these guys are fans and players who are just enthusiasts — we enjoy it," Medders said. "The city had



The 18th hole at Seneca's new disc golf course is pictured on Thursday.

the equipment. The city already had the baskets. They were just sitting in storage, and there was all this space, all this land, and it was like, 'Hey, let's do this. Let's make a really good course.' And so, that's what we set out to do."

Medders added that the volunteers, along with community busi-

nesses, have raised and given \$3,400 to the Seneca rec department toward installation of concrete tee pads at the new course, as it continues to add finishing touches.

"We welcome the new course, it's long," said Seneca recre-

SEE DISC GOLF, PAGE C4