

## Stock car racing keeps drivers and supporters happily occupied

Stock car racing, a sport which has long captured the interest of Vernonia participants and spectators, has had its ups and downs as aficionados have come and gone.

At present it is on the upswing with three Vernonia driver/owner/builders actively participating in Columbia County Racing Association's summer race schedule.

Larry Johnson, the veteran of the three, has a room full of trophies attesting to his dedication to the sport - beginning as a youth in Indiana where he raced midget cars. In CCRA competition, Johnson finished second in total points last year and has won the sportsmanship award the past two years.

Jim Hult, who has been associated in racing with Johnson, has now developed

a car of his own, No. 9. Driving assignments will be shared by his son, Joe.

Ray Cota, in his second year, is a promising competitor in the CCRA, finishing fourth in total points last year and winning the Rookie of the Year trophy for his efforts.

Behind the scenes, or beyond the track, there are many dedicated participants. At least 36 sponsors contribute money, parts and services to help pay for the vehicles and their maintenance. Six or more mechanics, in addition to the owners, work many, many hours to keep the wheels turning, and there are a host of supporters who attend to a myriad of details from bookkeeping to painting names of sponsors on the vehicles.

This year's CCRA schedule was hindered by incle-



Joe Hult by #9, Ray Cota #73 and Larry Johnson #37 are primed and ready for a go at a Columbia County Racing Association meet at the Columbia County Fairgrounds.

ment weather but a full calendar is ready for the rest of the summer. The remaining schedule is:

June 30, Regular Races  
July 7, Regular Races

July 21, Midseason Double Points  
August 4, Old Timers  
August 11, Rain Date  
August 18, Regular Races  
Sept. 1-2, Two Day Event  
Sept. 15, Championship

Double Points  
Sept. 22, Run What Ya Brung

CCRA events are held at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in St. Helens.

## No backyard burning allowed after end of month

All domestic burning is banned in Columbia County beginning July 1; anyone violating the ban can be cited and fined.

Domestic burning includes burn barrels, the burning of trimmings, trash, etc.

The ban was established by the Columbia County Fire Defense Board, which is composed of representatives of fire districts throughout the county, and will remain in effect until rains dampen the brush enough to reduce the chance of fast-spreading, un-

controlled fires.

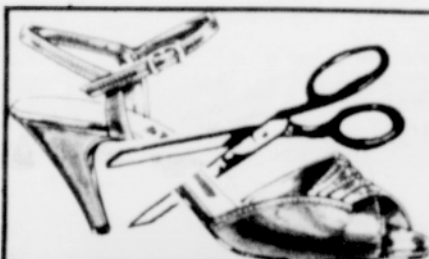
The ban does not include slash burns or agricultural land clearing, where permits are issued by the Forest Management Practices Act or the Department of Environmental Quality.

## Coalition schedules timber crisis meeting

"Oregon's timber crisis and what can we do to prevent it?", are the topics of a meeting on Tuesday, July 10, at 7 p.m. in the Washington

Grade School gymnasium.

The meeting is sponsored by the Nehalem Valley Timber Coalition.



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