

# RiverCity Speedway closes for winter with "Run What Ya Brung"

By Mike Weber

Although it was a non-points race since the Columbia County Racing Association regular season ended Sept. 19,

Kelso's Ken Cram was thrilled to get his first win this year as he took the checkered flag in the "Run What Ya Brung" main event Saturday, Sept. 26 at River City Speedway. Wash-

ington drivers posted victories in five of eight main events, including Tim Gosch (B Main), Micki Mears (D Main), Kris French and Paula Timmons (Women's Main). Portland driv-

ers Robert Jenner and Josh Bainbridge also captured feature wins and Candy Brown, Sweet Home, won the Modified Main.

This event at the Columbia County Fairgrounds facility consisted of over 100 cars in one combined class, with Sportsman, Street Stock and Modifieds competing on the quarter-mile clay oval track. The open-competition format for the 1998 season finale included trophy dashes, heat races and qualifying, with many drivers competing for the first time ever, such as 16-year old Lisa Liner, St. Helens. Driving her dad's (Paul Liner) CRMW Chevrolet Monte Carlo, Liner notched a victory in the Women's Dash. Many of the rookie competitors were involved in mishaps in which some cars were badly damaged. There were some tense moments for one particular driver in the Women's Main.

Susan Thomas, St. Helens, was involved in a scary collision when she spun out in turn one and another car crashed into the driver's side window with the front end landing just inches from her head. Thomas, whose husband, Gannin, won the Sportsman Division title with the Hamm's Oldsmobile Cutlass that she was driving, was shaken up but fortunately unhurt in the incident.

Cram started on the pole position of the 16-car main and quickly moved ahead into a big lead over frontrunner Shawn Dorie, Scappoose. Cram held onto the advantage with his Auto Transmission Specialist Pontiac Gran Prix and won by five car lengths over Dorie. By taking the runnerup position, Dorie, in the Superior Building Maintenance/Rocket Empire Machine Chevrolet Lumina,

he tied his career-best finish at the speedway. Portland's Dan Fox maneuvered up from a 14th place start and finished third followed by Rainier's Ron Greer and Shawn's dad, Scott Dorie in fifth.

"It's great to finally get my first victory and it seems like I've been waiting a long time for this," said Cram, who finished 10th in the Sportsman Division. "I was hoping to finish in the top five, but I had seven DNFs (didn't finish) and I still made the top 10, so I had a pretty good season."

"Sometimes it takes awhile to adjust to driving a car for the first time, but I figured it out near the end of the race," said Dorie, who was driving the Lumina for car owner Mike Ostoj, St. Helens. "I finished 16th in the standings which isn't too bad for my first year in the Sportsman Division."

Though the motorsports season in the Northwest has concluded, several drivers will continue racing by entering events in California.

River City Speedway's post-season awards banquet is scheduled for Nov. 14 at the fairgrounds pavilion. For further information on this event call the speedway office at (503) 397-2393.

**SUMMARY—RUN WHAT YA BRUNG**

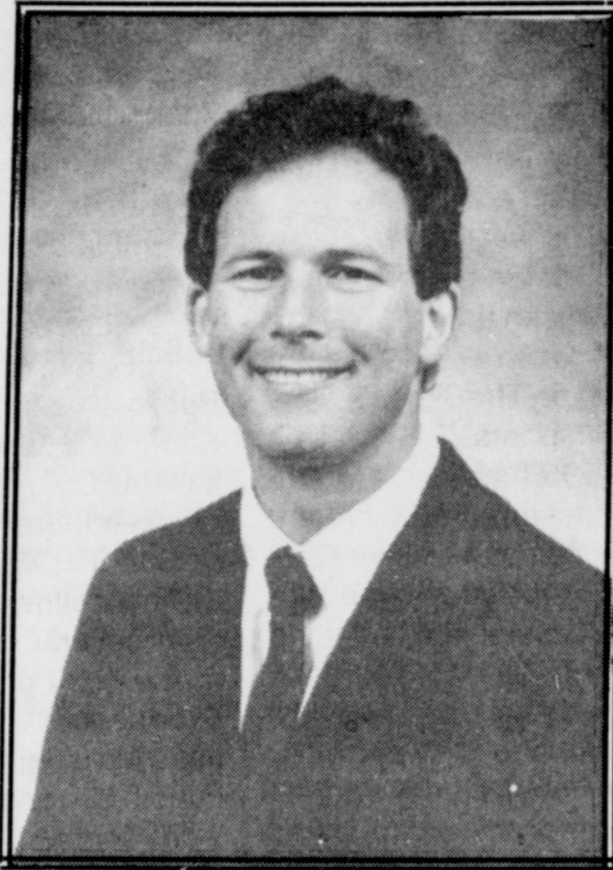
- A Dash-Al Cardwell.
- B Dash-Tim Gosch.
- C Dash-Robert Jenner.
- D Dash-Jim Davis.
- E Dash-Rodney Cook.
- F Dash-Joe Eubanks.
- Heat 1-Tom Fuller, Tim Bein, Ron Bainbridge, Jon Gower.
- Heat 2-Jeff Timmons, Joe Eubanks, Doug Janis, Mike Ostoj.
- Heat 3-Kris French, Brenda Hurley, Jeff Young, Cook.
- Heat 4-Dan Fox, Mike Hagen, Jeff Brookshire, Micki Mears.
- Heat 5-Jess Wrakestraw, Pam Glanville, Tricia Brittain, Ryan Dens.
- Heat 6-Dan Smith, Mike Sayre.

Please see page 20

**Write in...**

# MIKE SYKES

## COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER



- Sykes, as county commissioner, helped obtain and develop Prescott Beach and Scaponia Park for family recreation.
- Sykes was instrumental in helping Vernonia obtain funds to expand the fire hall and pave a path around Vernonia Lake.
- Sykes, as assistant manager at the Port of St. Helens, worked with federal, state and local government to obtain funds for dredging the Clatskanie River, then loaned his own D6 Cat to the City of Clatskanie — without charge — to help with the job.
- Sykes understands how to bring federal and state dollars back into Columbia County and its communities through grants and cooperative projects.

**IF IT'S IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, IT'S IMPORTANT TO MIKE SYKES!**

**WRITE IN MIKE SYKES...EXPERIENCE IS THE DIFFERENCE**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Mike Sykes, 51230 Bankston Road, Scappoose, OR 97056

# Community Calendar

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**VERNONIA**

Alcoholics Anonymous	Sundays	7:00 p.m., St. Mary's Church
Boosters	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Thursdays	7 p.m. Anderson Park Cookhouse
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wed.	Noon, Lew's Place
Cub Scout Parents	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m. WGS Cafeteria
Doll Club	3rd Wednesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Elem. Schools Site Council	1st Tuesday	3:15 p.m., WGS Library
Girl Scouts	Thursdays	6:30-8 p.m., Christian Church
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	429-7193, Call for location
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Lew's Place
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 429-4074
Parent-Teacher Assoc.	3rd Thursday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Preschool Story Hour	Wednesdays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Senior Center Directors	1st Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
VHS Site Council	1st Monday	3:15 p.m., VHS Library
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Cares Directors	1st Friday	10:00 a.m., U.S. Bank
Vernonia City Council	1st Monday	6:30 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Grange	2nd Friday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Wednesday	6:00 p.m., 854 Grant Ave.
Vernonia Preschool Directors	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Pride		For Info Call, 429-1204
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	8:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

**MIST-BIRKENFELD**

M-BRFPD Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Assoc.	1st & 2nd Thurs.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Firefighters Assoc.	1st & 2nd Wed.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Rescue	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Wednesday	10:00 am, 755-2346 for info.
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Grange Hall

**BANKS**

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Brown Derby
Citizen Participation Org.	3rd Monday, odd months	7:15 p.m., City Hall
Friends of the Library	1st Saturday	10:00 a.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
TOPS	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Jr. High Library
Tri-City RFPD Board	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13

**COLUMBIA COUNTY** (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
COLCO Transportation	2nd Friday	10:30 a.m., Courthouse
County Council of Seniors	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Courthouse
County Fair Board	2nd & 4th Mondays	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
County Parks Commission	3rd Thursday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Emergency Comm. Dist. (9-1-1)	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Courthouse
Historical Society	4th Wednesday	Noon, location call 429-3713
Traffic Safety Commission	1st Wednesday	7:00 a.m., Vill... nn

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410, or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.