

Economic impact from rally event would benefit local businesses

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arrangements so a local organization can develop a shuttle bus service from Vernonia to a Saturday spectator location.

Vernonia city officials have been helpful in assisting Oregon Rally Group in its efforts to bring rallying back to Vernonia, and Columbia County, on a yearly basis. The economic impact will be substantial to local businesses, with 80 two-man racing crews and hundreds of support people. Rally events usually draw a large crowd, as well, and could easily attract from two to five-thousand spec-

tators.

Oregon Rally Group also expressed thanks for continued support from Oregon Department of Forestry, and Hancock Forest Management.

"This is the first time in four years to return to Columbia County roads, and we look forward to bringing our exciting sport to the community to enjoy," said Vernonia resident rally organizer, Ken Murphy. "In 1999, Trenholm families held a block party at roadside as rally organizers closed their road for three hours, and cheered the rally cars roaring by on the final

stage of that rally, as they completed the rally at the county fairgrounds in St. Helens.

Details are still being ironed as organizers document the road course and assign crews for security and safety during the event. "It is a very intense operation", said Rich Olmstead, SCCA divisional safety steward. "But we have many years of experience coordinating our ham radio communication network, our EMS response crews and stage crews. We are very grassroots, with many volunteers coming from local amateur radio ranks, volunteer fire

and rescue, and just fans who love the out of doors."

Anyone interested in assisting with the rally may register online at <www.oregontrailrally.com> or <www.oregonrally.com> and use the volunteer sign-up/registration link, or call 503-635-6330.



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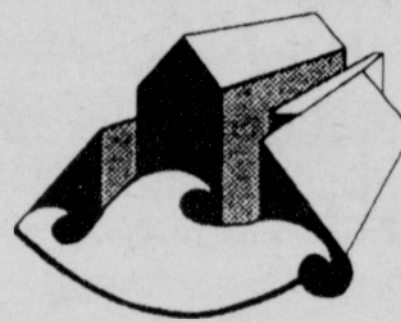
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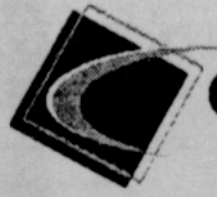
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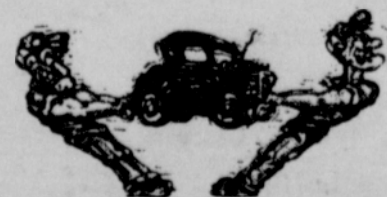
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