

Racing season has started at River City Speedway in St. Helens

by Mike Weber, Correspondent

After the first two races in May were cancelled because of rain, River City Speedway finally started its 25th year of action with a total of over 100 drivers competing in the 2011 season opener Saturday, June 4, at the Columbia County Fairgrounds facility in St. Helens.

For 15-year-old Brad Martin, the youngest driver at the track, he had a spectacular debut while competing for the first time ever in a Columbia County Racing Association adult classification. Martin of St. Helens, won the street stock A main and also notched top-three finishes in other events.

Brad Beehler of St. Helens led a one, two, three finish of family members with his mini stock main event win. Tiffany Gee of Scappoose, recorded her first-ever main win to capture the women's division race. Vernonia's Doug Davenport won the modified main, and four-time speedway champion Curt Nusom of Gresham won the sportsman main.

In other events, Cody Smith of Scappoose was a three-time winner in the tracer division for teenagers. Smith won the trophy dash, heat race and was the fastest qualifier (17.15) with his Alliance Automotive sponsored Chevrolet Camaro. Smith was third in the main behind runnerup Baleigh O'Connor and tracer winner Jonathan West. Gresham's Dave Walters won the 15-lap Pacific Mini Sprint main. Steffen Strawn of Deer Island won the street stock B main.

Martin started on the front row of the 16-car street stock main and led all 15-laps to take the checkered flag with his

Reser's Fine Foods Camaro. Gresham's John Nusom was second, followed by John Haagenon of St. Helens and Gerardo Caballero of Portland. It was the first ever street stock race for Martin, who took third in the heat. Martin was also runnerup in the dwarf car main to winner Ryan Martinez of Portland and he won the heat race.

"I'm just so surprised that I was able to win a street stock main, especially since it's the first time I ever entered a race in this class," said Martin, who has also won championships in quads, quarter midgets and the student division. "I still can't believe it and it's really a huge accomplishment"

Martin's dad Jeremy, took fourth in the 17-lap modified main and was the fastest qualifier on the quarter-mile clay oval track at 14.98 seconds. Davenport started on the front row of the 14-car field and led all the way with his Double K Trucking/BSB Manufacturing open wheel style modified racer. Vancouver drivers Don Jenner (second) and Robert Jenner (third) followed. Defending series champion Greg Greer of Rainier was fifth.

"It felt real good to get a win and it's a good way to start the season," said Davenport, 36. "I was fortunate that the race ended when it did, because something broke in the motor immediately after I took the checkered flag. If there was another lap, then one of the Jenner boys would've passed me. I might compete here more often than I have in the past, especially since it's close to home."

Brad Beehler passed Portland's John Adams to get the

lead on lap seven in the 18-car mini stock main. Beehler was followed closely by his brother Adam in second, and nephew

Joel in third for the remainder of the 15-lap event. Brad's Datsun 210 and Adam's Dan Garrison CPA Honda were side-by-side

at the end in a thrilling photo finish, with the Datsun ahead by just inches. Joel Beehler

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Foreground left is Ron Dodge of Vernonia with Rob Williams, also from Vernonia, next to him, as they get ready to race at River City Speedway in St. Helens on June 4.

Council hears water system in okay shape

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for safety shrubbery installed at the Log Cabin Park bus stop, as well as for installation of a future bicycle rack.

The State Water Programs Office has conducted their triennial inspection of the city's system. The system had discrepancies but overall the inspectors were pleased with the management of the system. A report of the city's plan for correcting the discrepancies will be completed within the next two weeks.

Mayor John Kinsky has executed the annual contract amendment for contract deputy services.

Thanks to Debi Wyckoff; the city has had office furniture donated free of charge for the Public Works Building when the build out is completed.

June 15 the city commenced stump grinding on Maplecrest Way and on Ashton Drive.

The Banks Police Services Local Operating Levy will expire on June 30, 2012. In anticipation of the expiration, council is contemplating placing a Local Operation Levy on the November, 2011 election ballot. A motion to approve a Local Option Levy Ballot Measure Draft Statement for the November 2011 General election was made by Councilor Rob Fowler and carried unanimously.

On May 10 and again on May 17 Council voted to renew the intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Washington County for the Community Development Block Grant Program. The council now has the final draft of the new agree-

ment. Council again motioned to approve the agreement and the motion passed.

Council motioned and approved an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget appropriating expenditures in the water fund to cover expenses of additional cost for emergency water line repairs.

Council adopted a resolution for fiscal year 2011-2012 Declaring the City's Election to receive State revenue and elected to receive State-shared revenue.

A resolution providing for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 interfund borrowing for the library fund #03 was adopted as well as an interfund borrowing for police services fund #07.

The Banks Budget Committee received and reviewed the proposed operation Budget and Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal year 2011-2012, which has now been approved after making some adjustments. Council adopted the Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.

The next City Council Meeting will be held in Banks City hall Council Chambers, on July 12, at 7:00 p.m.



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