



Bill Hawkins

Many attend meeting on recreation interests

A total of fifty six persons attended a meeting at Washington Grade School gym on January 15, in response to an ad placed in the December issue of The INDEPENDENT by Vernonia Auto Parts' Bill Hawkins.

Hawkins arranged the meeting to provide a forum and basis for developing recreational activities and programs in the community. The first step, he said, is to assess the extent of the in-

terest and to evaluate the community's resources.

A community wide program could be developed, he believes, utilizing Vernonia's parks, Park Department, volunteer labor, donated materials, user fees and securing available grants hitherto ignored.

All persons attending the January meeting signed cards indicating their interest, preferences and support. There was not one negative comment in this response, according to Hawkins. A door-to-door survey is being planned to obtain a broader and more detailed picture of needs and means.

This information will serve



An enthusiastic audience gathered at Washington Grade School to discuss recreational opportunities in Vernonia.

as the basis for further planning and discussion at a meeting scheduled at Washington Grade School on February 26, at 7 p.m.

In the meantime, Hawkins asks people to call or contact him to discuss any ideas they may have.

There will be no regular scheduled plant tours from September through April. However, organizations and schools may request a special tour by contacting Boise Cascade.

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Commissioners set 1987 assignments

Michael Sykes was selected by his fellow commissioners as chairman of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners for 1987, at the year's first meeting on January 5. Commissioner Max "Sandy" Dillard will fill the position of county Budget Officer.

Other areas of responsibility for each commissioner are as follows: Sykes - Solid Waste, Economic Development Commission, Land Development Services, Public Transportation and Public Lands; Peterson - Oil &

Gas Royalties, Traffic Safety Commission, Housing, Board of Equalization, Personnel, Senior Citizen Council and the Area Agency on Aging; Dillard - Road Department, Parks, Docks and Museums, Fairgrounds, C-Com, Emergency Services and the Civil Service Commission.

All commissioners are also

members of the Dog Control Board, Welfare Commission, Mental Health Authority, and the county Road System Planning Committee. Other duties for which the commissioners are responsible are Risk Management, Predatory Animal Trapping, Sale of Foreclosed Lands, and Port of St. Helens Liaison.

Assessor's office open

The Columbia County Assessor's office is now open to the public all day. Assessor Tom Linhares announced recently. The office had been closed in the mornings due to staff reductions.

Linhares, who took over the office on January 5, 1987, said the decision to close the office by the previous Assessor, Henry T. Hudson, was appropriate at the time. "Staff reductions made closing the office an alternative to falling further behind in the workload," Linhares said.

However, since taking office, Linhares said he became convinced that the work

could get done even if the office was opened all day. He indicated some changes will have to be made in the services that are provided.

"The general public probably won't notice a difference. The changes will primarily affect real estate people and title companies," Linhares said.

"Basically, we want to cut down on the interruptions that occur while still providing the information that people need," Linhares continued. The office is now open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Fridays.

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