

# Westminster Woods available for group rental

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of the East Oregonian

MEACHAM — Westminster Woods, located about two miles from Meacham, is a nonprofit campground and conference center that normally is available from mid-April until mid-September for use by individuals and organizations.

The 66-acre campground is owned by the First Presbyterian Church of Pendleton, and each summer the church transports about 50 children there for Vacation Bible School.

A 500-square-foot meeting room and dining hall with a cathedral window has a full, modern kitchen including a dishwasher, cooking utensils and dishes. Also part of the facility a new dormitory sleeps 20. A stone barbecue, an amphitheater, a Frisbee golf course, 10 miles of hiking trails, swings and playground equipment, two large playing fields, men's and women's restrooms and showers, picnic area and RV accommodations with water, electrical and sewer hookups complete the facilities currently available.

On the grounds, 85 varieties of wildflowers have been identified, 23 varieties of shrubs and 10 wild grasses can be found in the meadows. A portion of the original Oregon Trail crosses the southwest corner of the property. The forest is primar-



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**A stone fireplace is among the amenities at Westminster Woods near Meacham.**

ily red and white fir, western larch, lodgepole, ponderosa and white pine and Englemann spruce.

A self-selecting board of directors comprised of members of the church oversee its operation. Much of the day-use is free. Use of part or all of the facilities at the campground and conference can be coordinated with the First Presbyterian Church.

The land was originally deeded to the church in 1940 by

Rose Olcott and Wesley W. Harrah, Beryl Grilley's parents, because there was a need for a place for young people, Grilley said. Clearing the brush and improving Westminster Woods was slow going for many years with lots of volunteer work and donated materials. It was 1980 before much more was done.

Recent improvements have been possible because Martha Terney willed a 1,600-acre wheat ranch to Westminster

Woods in memory of her daughter, Lillian, who enjoyed the area. The board of directors rents the ranch and uses the income to improve the area and offset the maintenance and operating costs not covered by usage fees.

A kiosk with maps is a planned addition for this year and the board of directors hopes to break ground for a chapel appropriate for weddings by 2005, said David Powell and Shirley Michael.