

Vernonia women again beat the competition at national spelling bee

Vernonia residents Carol Sawyer and Tobie Finzel placed first and third, respectively at the eighth annual finals of the National Senior Spelling Bee in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Sept. 20.

Sawyer became the second

Vernonian to win first prize in the event, following in the footsteps of Audeen Wagner, who took top honors in 2000.

The second place winner was David Lerner of Wyoming. In fact, the last four contestants were the two Oregon women and two Wyoming men, all of whom enjoyed kidding about an inter-state rivalry.

After placing second in state competition in 1999, Wagner decided to try again, and won the national championship. She was hooked and, in 2001, initiated a spelling bee at the Ver-

nonia Senior Center.

The first year was fun; the second year was more fun,



Audeen Wagner

when Sawyer won after a long tie-breaking session with Finzel, who took first this year.

After the local contests, contestants may go to state competition, if they wish. The selection process is informal because the event is meant to be enjoyable, not stressful. Until contestants place first, they may continue to enter the contests. Once having placed first, they may no longer compete at that level, though they may enter higher level competitions.

The three women have very different backgrounds: Wagner was born and raised in eastern Oregon and studied medical technology in college, then left school to marry and raise a

family. After her children were grown, she worked as a medical transcriptionist.

Sawyer grew up in oil camps in Latin America, was sent to a boarding school in Arizona when she was 14, has traveled extensively and lived in several countries. She is divorced,



Carol Sawyer

teaches adult classes in Spanish and writing, and is a freelance editor.

Finzel, a third generation Oregonian, grew up in Portland, attended Portland State University with a major in Central European Studies and earned a degree in Russian. She has also traveled a lot. She is married and free-lances as a consultant on computer security for financial institutions.

But what makes a speller?

Do these three have anything in common? Oh, yes!

They all read — a lot; their

homes are filled with books, they consider dictionaries a necessity and they all like to play with language.



Tobie Finzel

Crossword puzzles are a common denominator: Sawyer's favorite is the Saturday Stinker, Finzel does them whenever she has time and Wagner says a day "doesn't start without a crossword."

They all play Scrabble — with varying degrees of competency — sometimes playing for points and sometimes playing with the words.

They all love music, too...especially the genre called "jazz," which, like language, has interwoven intricacies.

And they can spell soliloquizer, bourgeois, glossolalia and interdigitation.

**UNLIMITED
56K INTERNET**
For information call
503-429-2701
www.agalis.net

The Spar Tree



**DAILY SPECIALS PLUS...
FRIDAY FISH SPECIAL**

PIES TO GO ON ADVANCE ORDER

Open 6 days a week

9 A.M. - 9 P.M.

Closed Tuesday



62465 Nehalem Hwy. N, Vernonia

503-429-0191

Forest Resources Directory

MIKE PIHL LOGGING CO., INC.

SPECIALIZING IN PRIVATE TIMBER
FREE ESTIMATES

503-429-1470

Mobile: 503-789-1268 • Fax: 503-429-0252

1010 Bridge Street • P.O. Box 321
Vernonia, OR 97064



TVI POWER & SPORTS

34515 SW Tualatin Valley Hwy • Cornelius

503-648-1254 • Fax 503-640-5858

www.tvipowerandsports.com

TVI is your equipment headquarters offering sales,
parts and services for all your power equipment needs.



TRIPLE S SERVICE

JONSERED • HUSQVARNA • TROY-BILT

Sales & Service

Saws • Mowers • Trimmers • Tillers

Accessories & Logger Supplies

503-429-1011

717 Rose Ave., Vernonia

BANKS LUMBER CO.

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

DAN PHILLIPS
LOG BUYER

162 Commerce
P. O. Box 8
Banks, OR 97106

Ofc: (503) 324-2681
Cell: (503) 702-2560
Fax: (503) 324-1782



TURNER LOGGING, INC.

SPECIALIZING IN THINNING OPERATIONS

No job too big
No job too small
We log 'em all



43995 NW Caldwell Ln.
Banks, OR 97106

503-324-0229

FRED BERGERSON LOGGING

OREGON PROFESSIONAL LOGGER

Thinning Specialist

Your Timber Managed to Your Needs

503-429-8180

13794 Clear Creek Road, Vernonia, OR 97064



L. JEPSON & SONS, L.L.C

CONTRACT LOGGING
HAULING • ROAD BUILDING

503-324-2786 Office Chip Yard 503-728-2817
503-324-2787 Fax Fax 503-728-2627
P.O. Box 369 • BANKS, OR 97106



503-429-6783

854 Grant Ave. • P.O. Box 127 • Vernonia, OR 97064

BIGHORN LOGGING CORPORATION

SINCE 1981

ROAD BUILDING • RIGHT OF WAYS
LOGGING IN OREGON & WASHINGTON

WE BUY TIMBER • 503-324-2422

VERNONIA, OREGON

