



# THE INDEPENDENT

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Daisy Girl Scouts pitched in and helped at Vernonia's annual Make Vernonia Shine day, filling bags with bark dust that was later spread around the downtown street trees.

## Another winning spell for Vernonia

Vernonian Noni Andersen won the State of Oregon Senior Spelling Bee on Saturday, April 9, in Aurora. This was Andersen's sixth trip to the Bee. In 2009, she won second place. The Senior Spelling Bee is open to all Oregonians age 50 and older and is sponsored by the Aurora Colony Historical Society. The Oregon bee is one of only three state senior bees, the others are in Kansas and Illinois.

This year's spelling bee included three rounds of 25 written words, followed by the oral round. In the oral round, contestants are disqualified after three incorrect spellings. The only word Andersen missed in the oral round was *nootropic* (a substance that enhances memory). Other difficult words in this year's bee included; *oleaginous*, *epergne*, *langlauf*, *coelacanth*, *baccalaureate* and *autochthonous*.

Vernonians have done very

well in the Oregon Senior Spelling Bee. In 1999, Audeen Wagner won. In 2003, Carol Sawyer was the winner, and Tobbie Finzel took first place in 2004.

But, Andersen will tell you, "I'm almost sorry I won because I've always had so much fun at the competition. The competitors are people who have fun with words, are supportive of each other, and maintain a wonderfully humorous outlook.

"The rules prohibit winners from additional competition," Andersen said, "but I jumped at

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## Vernonia Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday

The annual Vernonia Easter Egg Hunt will start at 10:00 a.m. sharp, this Saturday, April 23. The hunt is for children aged 0-10, and is held at Hawkins Park. It is sponsored by Vernonia Community PTA.

## Safely turn in old, or unwanted drugs this Saturday

Unwanted and expired medications can be turned in to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) on Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The CCSO will hold this event at the Vernonia Police Department, 1001 Bridge St.

All medicines should be left in their original containers, if possible. In addition to expired and unwanted medications, you can also bring drugs no longer used, medicines from deceased family members, and unknown tablets and capsules.

This event is for medications, not other items; do not

bring thermometers, needles or medical waste of any type.

## Enjoy talent show and help Jaden

There will be a Talent Show April 23, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., in the Logger Dome (high school gymnasium). This is a benefit to raise funds for Jaden Krieger, a 9-year-old cancer patient from Banks. Vernonia High School is raising money to send the Krieger family to Great Wolf Lodge in June. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Come enjoy the show and help a family in need.

## Kindergarten Roundup

It's time for the 2011 Vernonia Kindergarten Round-up. The Round-up will be held to enroll children who will be five-years-old on or before September 1, 2011.

Immunization records and birth certificates will be required for each child. The Round-up will be held Friday, May 20, by appointment only. Call the grade school office at 503-429-7941 for an appointment.



Noni Andersen brought another Oregon Senior Spelling Bee trophy back to Vernonia.