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Feb. 23rd.

Chastain will also make the trip as the alternate.

The alternate speller will be registered at each event in case the winner can't participate for whatever reason.

"It's kind of like the Miss America Pageant where the First Runner-up would take over the crown if need be," Judge Denise Driskell said. "If the winner becomes sick then the alternate would spell in their place."

Driskell also encouraged not only the alternate, but each of the spellers to attend the District 2 Spelling Bee, in Marietta.

"That will give them experience to see it first hand,



District Spelling Bee Champion Jordan Frank, left, and runner up Jake Chastain. Frank will compete in the regional spelling bee on Feb. 23rd in Marietta. Photo/Todd Forrest

in case they didn't win it this year," she said. "Especially for some of the younger kids who will have a chance to be back next year."

Fourth graders competing in Union County's System

Spelling Bee were Evelyn Trussel, Hannah Todd, Seth Tanner, Reid Baumeister, and Brianna Fugate.

Fifth graders were John Mancuso, Leigha Whittle, Alexander Zaleski, Brianna

Kirby, Emma Grace Collins, and Hannah Van Hof.

Kanon Hemphill, Emily Burrell, Leilani Schroeder, Olivia Jones, Alec Youngblood, and Britt Waller represented Union County's sixth grade.

Seventh graders were Megan Byrd, Cole Davis, Chastain, Cole Wright, and Madison Glattli.

The eighth graders were Hannah Patterson, Angel Epperson, Dylan Harris, Caleb Metcalf, Frank, and Fletcher Moon. Woody Gap's competitors were Ernest Pruitt, Chayil Aponte, and Eliza Wilkins.

Also serving as judges along with Driskell were Jim Clark and caller Kathy Mancuso.

The Georgia Association of Educators State Spelling Bee will be on Mar. 15th at Georgia State University with the National Spelling Bee to be held later in the spring.

Best of luck to Jordan Frank as he travels to Cobb County to bring home a District 2 Spelling Bee Championship.



A giddy group of Union County students get ready to take part in the District Spelling Bee in the conference room at the Board of Education. Photo/Todd Forrest

Goat ...continued from Page 1A

Ewan McGregor that explores the paranormal, psychic and psychological experiments on a herd of goats and some captured locals.

The secret U.S. Military program included staring at goats and making them explode.

After the conclusion of the movie, authorities say the three stole a goat from the Allen's residence.

Dyer and Skinner told sheriff's investigators that they urged Johnson to return the goat.

Instead, Dyer and Skinner told authorities that Johnson tossed the goat off the porch at 32 Bucks Way.

The goat, Jo Anne Allen's pet named *Mercy*, was injured after being tossed off the porch, sheriff's reports show.

Dyer and Skinner told investigators that Johnson then shot the goat several times after he tossed *Mercy* off the porch, sheriff's reports show.

Dyer and Skinner also told investigators that Johnson then tied the goat to the back

of his pick up and dragged a now deceased *Mercy* around at a high rate of speed, sheriff's reports show.

The following day, one of the Allen's neighbors came to their home and told them that they had found *Mercy* and that she was dead, a somber and heartbroken Jo Anne Allen said.

"*Mercy* was my sweetest goat," she said. "She was my pet and just like one of our family."

"She did not know a stranger. She would come up to anyone. Families bring their children and grandchildren to see our goats and *Mercy* was a favorite," she said.

"I guess that is why they

got her and not one of the others," Allen said. "I do not understand why anyone – even evil people – would do this to a helpless, lovable creature."

"She was 15 years old and was living out the rest of her goat life in her two pastures, eating hay and pasture grass and treats from the kitchen," Allen said. "Evil does exist in this world, even in Blairsville. Please watch after your animals and families. I pray that this does not happen to any other goat – or any animal – ever."

Johnson is free on \$16,000 bail, jail records show. Bail for Dyer and Skinner has been set at \$14,000 each, jail records show.

Aponte...

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"Don't be afraid to ask your teachers for help, if you don't understand something, ask the person who knows the answers," she said. "When you run across a hard bump in the road, work until you get across that bump in the road."

Butler said he's humbled to have been chosen by Haley. "I'm a non-traditional choice for STAR Teacher," Butler said. "I'm proud to be held in such high esteem by Haley. She's an outstanding student and she's going to go far in life."

The Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program honors Georgia's outstanding high school seniors and the teachers who have been most instrumental in their academic development. During the past 55 years, the STAR Program has honored more than 23,500 high school seniors who have in turn chosen their STAR Teachers to share in this recognition.

Romano...

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us," Donahue said. "The student has to have a specific score or higher in one sitting on the SAT and be in the top 10 in the class in G.P.A." "I could always tell that Nic was very bright," Chatham added. "I was really impressed with him. Not just because he was very bright, but he is very mature as well. He asked me to write him a recommendation for the program that he is in (at West Georgia) and I knew he would be a perfect fit."