Bee...from Page 1A

spelled the word without hesitation.

"I was excited to get to the finals," Tommy said. "I wasn't even expecting to get out of the third round. Yes, I was nervous. I almost misspelled my practice word (today).

"When I walked up to the microphone, I heard the word and I'm like, 'okay, I know how to spell this word. I put it through my head a few times and when I started spelling the word, I knew exactly the moment I spelled it wrong. The second letter came out

wrong." The crowd of fellow students and parents applauded Emi and Tommy once the Bee was decided. The crowd felt as much anguish as Tommy over the misspelling of "goliath."

Director ... from Page 1A

This will be the second time the board has offered the job to a potential candidate since beginning the search following former Director Donna Howell's retirement announcement, and this time, the board and its candidate were able to see eye to eye.

"He had some questions about leave time and date of hire and things like that that we all discussed at the meeting yesterday," said Interim Director Susie Brendle of the meeting. "After discussion, I brought it back and emailed Mr. Stone back with the board's decision about how many vacation days, sick days and things like that.

"He did accept the board's decision, and we are getting the paperwork ready at the moment to send to him all of the human resources paperwork that he'll need, because he will need to submit paperwork to the state in order to get certified in the state of Georgia, and that will determine his salary," said Brendle.

The board and those at each library are excited about finally being able to name a permanent director.

"I'm very relieved to have this process over with," said Brendle, who is the



The thirty-six participants in the 2015 Union County Spelling Bee. Emi Leonard, far right, won the Bee. Photo/Charles Duncan

Union County Spelling Bee. They were equally enamored with Emi's spelling And yes, she was ner-

ability. You see, Emi is the first "It was a bit a challeng-ing," Emi said. "There was a lot sixth grader to ever win the

public happy with their books and materials."

time as interim director as an

week job," said Brendle. "It's

a time consuming position,

and when you're a branch

manager here, running a

branch library on top of doing

that, it's a lot of long hours.

Somewhere down the road, I

might want to do that, but I

doing the two different jobs."

serve as interim director for

But thanks to Brendle's

the month of December.

eye-opening experience.

Brendle referred to her

"It's not a 40-hour a

of people here, and the eighth graders and seventh graders are always better because they're in higher grades."

Going to the district bee

on Emi.

"It's going to be pretty cool, but I'm going to have to

trict champion from Union County are dramatically increasing. Best of luck!

lot of effort into winning the

countywide bee. I asked my

classmates to help me study. And this morning, I forced my

ing words in his head, practicing for the countywide bee.

He's going to keep up the

practice as he prepares to be

the Union County alternate at

it's really nerve-racking to

know that I might have to do

this again," Tommy said. "But it makes me feel like I need to

preparing for the district

bee, the chances of a dis-

keep working on spelling."

the district bee.

Tommy had been spell-

'Being the runner-up,

With Emi and Tommy

brother to help me study."

has placed increased pressure study a lot," Emi said. "I put a

decent job, and that I did Don-

"I'm hoping that I did a

Burglary...from Page 1A

Kowaliuk was indeed trying to burglarize the store."

While interviewing Kowaliuk, he requested the presence of an attorney, Sgt. Osborn said.

"We believe there is a connection," Sgt. Osborn said. "Mr. Kowaliuk is a person of interest in other crimes in the

said.

Meanwhile, Kowaliuk





Susie Brendle has served as interim director of the MRLS since Donna Howell's retirement in December. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

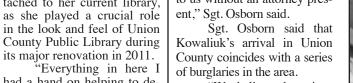
branch manager of Union County Public Library. "It's been a long process as far as all of the interviews and navigating through all of the resumes, interviewing people, being turned down. We went through this process in October, were turned down. We had other candidates that we were interested in, put out feelers with them, they turned us down.

"So, it's a lot of disappointment along the way of being turned down and having to start over and start over and start over. I'm very relieved that finally, hopefully, this process is over so we can get back to what we're here to do – run libraries and keep the am extremely happy and content where I'm at.' Over the years, Brendle has become very much at-

chair.

"He declined to speak to us without an attorney prestached to her current library,

ent," Sgt. Osborn said.



had a hand on helping to decide, so I'm very content here, and I'd like to stay content,"

said Brendle. "I'd like to actually be able to sleep at night area.' and not be up half the night

Those cases remain under investigation, Sgt. Osborn Had plans gone according to schedule, a new direc-

tor would have started at the MRLS Jan. 1, and Brendle remains in custody in the Union would have only needed to

County Jail, Sgt. Osborn said. "He's got a probation

hold in addition to the burglary charge," Sgt. Osborn said.

put in by all of the other employees of the MRLS, Stone nacredit," said Brendle." She's can look forward to a smooth helped behind the scenes gettransition into the director's ting me stuff that I needed to keep everything going. Even though she is retired, she still

