

Bee...from Page 1A

plained afterward.

"I studied a little; moving on to the District competition, I'll study a lot."

Alex surprised himself, finishing as the countywide runner-up.

"I got nervous in the final round," Alex said. "I wasn't expecting to get this far, but I made it. I think I could spell ostracism now."

Kylee said she is looking forward to moving on to the District competition.

"I'm excited to be going to District," Kylee said. "It puts a little extra pressure on me. I hope to be able to rise to the occasion."

The District 2 Spelling Bee will be held March 1 at Mabry Middle School in Marietta.

Should Kylee advance, the Georgia Association of Educators' State Spelling Bee will be held March 21 at Georgia State University's Student Center in Atlanta.

Alex will be registered at each event just in case Kylee 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."

The bee, which consisted of 44 students, including



Union County Middle School students who competed in the Countywide Spelling Bee. Photo/Charles Duncan



Union County and Woody Gap elementary school students who competed in the Countywide Spelling Bee. Photo/Charles Duncan

five students from The Woody Gap School, lasted several rounds before reaching the final two spellers, Kylee and Alex.

Last year's Spelling Bee Champion was eighth grader Jordan Frank. Frank

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years ago as a Valentine's Dance, Co-Principal Shelia Tritt Collins said. The fore-runner of the Homecoming Court was the 'Sweetheart Ball.' The event is a family affair from the word 'go,' Collins said.

"The Sweetheart Ball was the same thing as Homecoming," Collins said. "At that time, we had a Queen and a King. Over the years it evolved because the parents wanted to see the Homecoming Court, of course. We do Kindergarten through 12th grade."

The event attracts grandparents, uncles, aunts, and of course, proud parents.

"This is the biggest crowd we've had all year," Collins said. "People come and they see their classmates, their children and some are seeing their grandchildren."

"It's a tradition the whole community looks forward to attending," she said. "Even folks outside the Woody Gap community like to come to Homecoming. We've got folks here tonight



Shelby Tumlin, Lauren Adams, and Stephanie Marlow took center stage in Suches on Saturday. Photo/Charles Duncan

from Dahlonega, Blairsville, and all over.

"It's a lot like church, school and family all rolled into one, big happy reunion," she said.

Murphy agreed, Homecoming is a celebration of the entire community.

"This is when alumni,

students of the present, and the community come together to celebrate Woody Gap," Murphy said. "The celebration focuses on heritage and pride. We are very proud to have this much support. It's always nice when the stands are full rooting for their teams."

Arbor... from Page 1A

site for this year's celebration and planting.

The ceremony was scheduled to be held Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Mock House. That's up in the air now, as Union County is expected to be covered in snow on that day.

This is the 142nd anniversary of Arbor Day and Blairsville's 20th consecutive year designated as a Tree City USA Community.

Commissioner Paris, Mayor Conley and the Blairsville Garden Club extend an invitation to the public to attend the celebration when it is held.

Everyone is encouraged to show their support for a healthier environment by planting a tree this Arbor Day.

Hopefully, the ground won't be frozen.

Storm... from Page 1A

Wednesday, bringing no relief from the snow totals, according to the weather service.

Temperatures are expected to remain in the mid-to-upper 20s into Thursday, the weather service projected.

There could be more snow coming Thursday with a 50 percent chance of a winter storm on Thursday, with a possible accumulation of 2-to-4 inches of snow, according to the weather service.

Council... from Page 1A

the City Charter update next month.

The Council will meet one hour prior to its monthly meetings at City Hall.

The first meeting will be March 6 at 5 p.m. in the City's meeting room at City Hall.

The regular March meeting of the Blairsville City Council will follow that work session at 6 p.m.