

STORY FORMS/Brite

GOOD NEWS

How do you spell two in a row? He knows

BY TRACY SIMMONS
VICTORIA.ADVOCATE

It took six rounds Thursday morning for Albert Chung to be named Victoria County Spelling Bee champion and another eight rounds for Jason Gazzaway to be named the co-champion.

Albert, winner of the 2005 spelling bee, won after spelling "Gestapo" correctly. The seventh-grader from Crown Middle School said it "feels really good" to again advance to the Regional Spelling Bee.

"I learned not to be nervous," he said about his experience at last year's competition.

The Regional Spelling Bee will be on March 21 at the Victoria College Johnson Symposium, 2200 East Red River St. The winner will advance to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Albert went to the national bee last year, but didn't bring home a trophy.

His technique, he said, is to add the pronunciation to the word in a sentence and ask for the definition each time it's his turn to spell.

"It gives me time to think about it and have a chance to get a view of the word," Albert said.

Jason is a sixth-grader at Howell Middle School and said he's been competing in the county bee since he was in the first grade.

"I've never made it past the second round before," he said.

He won after spelling "Jaguar" correctly after about an hour and a half of competition. After Albert won in the sixth round, there was an eight-round co-champion spell-off. Jason successfully spelled words



TRACY SIMMONS/VICTORIA.ADVOCATE

Jason Gazzaway, 12, pauses before spelling a word during the Victoria County Spelling Bee.

The "bonoisege" and "Isautic"

The competition was at the University of Houston-Victoria.

"When I was sitting there my knee would not stop shaking," he said. "I was so nervous and my heart was pounding."

Jason will advance to the regional competition along with Albert and students from seven surrounding counties.

Attorney Julie Boudnight was the county

WORDS THAT GAVE ALBERT THE WIN



GESTAPO: Secret police force of the German Nazi state.

JAGUAR: Largest New World predatory cat

bee pronunciation on Thursday and Bee coordinator Cherie Bosch said it was the first contest in five years that no one disputed the pronunciation's pronunciation.

Albert and Jason went home with the bee as sponsors (by the Region III Education Service Center and the Victoria Advocate).

"I'm adding some words here, do you know I'm on page 7 on Page 9A. The con," he said. "I was so nervous and my heart was pounding."

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Tracy Simmons is a Victoria reporter. Contact her at 362-580-6187, or tsimmons@vadvoc.com, or comment on this story at www.victoriadvocate.com.

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