

## '25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' musical comes to GHS stage Feb. 23-24

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Six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser.

That sums up the "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," according to director Ernie Blecha. The musical will grace the stage of the performing arts center on Feb. 22-23.

Rehearsals have been underway by Gothenburg High School choir students since the beginning of January.

Auditions were in December.

Blecha said the setting is a junior high school gym in which the spelling bee is hosted.

Winners from local elementary and middle schools arrive and check in with the bee's long time hostess and former champion, Rona Lisa Pereti (Carlin Daharsh).

Audience volunteers are also welcomed to the stage.

However speller Olive Ostrovsky (Rachel Rice) does not have her entrance fee and vice principal Douglas Panch (Jon Rehmert) is announced as the day's word pronouncer. Panch is a last-minute substitute for an ailing superintendent.

