

2-24-2025
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

Twenty-nine students from 25 school districts gathered at the Redwood Area Community Center for the SWWC Service Cooperative's Regional Spelling Bee—a contest marked by rigorous challenges and spirited competition.

The Bee commenced with a 25-word written round, followed by three oral rounds. Judges combined scores from both phases to determine which spellers would advance to the traditional spelldown. While typically 15 students move on, tie scores resulted in 17 Spelling Bee competitors entering the showdown. After six intense rounds of the spelldown, the field narrowed to three finalists:

Charles Mueller-Thompson, an 8th grader from Marshall Middle School

Vera Prouty, a 7th grader from Edgerton Christian School

Ethan Dieken, a 7th grader from MACCRAY

In the following rounds, Ethan Dieken secured third place in round eight after two additional rounds. Four further challenging rounds saw Vera Prouty claim second place, and with one more correctly spelled word, Charles Mueller-Thompson was declared the champion.

This victory comes at a historic time as the Scripps National Spelling Bee celebrates its 100th anniversary. Charles Mueller-Thompson and his family will represent the region at the national competition on May 25 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

The success of the Regional Spelling Bee is made possible by the dedication of our students and the generous support of our sponsors: Southwest West Central Service Cooperative, Minnesota Service Cooperative, Lathrop GPM, Medica, Wex, Merriam-Webster (prize donor), and Encyclopedia Britannica. Their contributions continue to enhance educational opportunities and student programs across the region.

NOTE: Add your own photo if you would like.