

**2-8-2024****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****REGIONAL SPELLING BEE**

The SWWC Service Cooperative's Regional Spelling Bee was held on Tuesday, February 6 at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. Twenty-nine students from 23 school districts participated in the Regional Bee. A big change this year came as all nine Minnesota Service Cooperatives in Minnesota have collaborated as one regional Spelling Bee partner. This allows the whole state of Minnesota the opportunity to send NINE Regional Bee Champions to the Scripps National Spelling Bee compared to the five in previous years. We are excited to give more students from Minnesota the opportunity to represent our state and compete against other kids around the United States.

Eighteen students battled it out in 12 rounds during the afternoon spelldown. To determine third place, Vera Prouty from Edgerton Christian, Roman Gaul and Urban Jacobson from Marshall Middle, Riley Stattelmann from LQPV and Anthony Lerma from Worthington Middle had to go four rounds before Urban Jacobson claimed the third place trophy. The bee went another five rounds between Caitlyn Buss and Holland Vogel before declaring Holland Vogel the Regional Champion.

Holland Vogel, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Murray County Central will be heading to the Scripps National Spelling Bee on May 26 at Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

Here are the 2024 Regional Spelling Bee winners.

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Holland	Vogel	8	Murray County Central Public School
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Caitlyn	Buss	8	Central MN Christian School
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Urban	Jacobson	6	Marshall Middle School

SWWC Student Enrichment Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, says "I love seeing and feeling the energy students bring to the Bee. Some come in nervous, yet excited and some come in calm, cool and collected. A couple of students mentioned to me how crazy it is that one word can be so easy and the next one so difficult. This is so true. They all did such a great job. I am very proud of all the students who attended."

NOTE: Add your own photo if you would like.