

BRAINERD DISPATCH

SERVING THE BRAINERD LAKES AND CROW WING COUNTIES MINNESOTA SINCE 1881



NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Nesika Bellville, a PR-B 8th grader is headed to Washington

By Theresa Bourke
Brainerd Dispatch

Staples

Nesika Bellville is going to Washington. It may be the apex of the charismatic eighth grader's middle school career, a cumbersome process turned into an exciting shindig that could not have been engineered better and is without equivalent.

The Pine River-Backus student from Longville took first place in the 2022 Regional Spelling Bee Wednesday, March 23, at Sourcewell in Staples. Beating out 16 other competitors from the five-county region of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena, Bellville will go on to compete on behalf of Sourcewell and her school at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in May.

"I feel excited," Bellville said when asked her thoughts right after winning. "This is what I was actually hoping would happen, but that's probably what everyone else thought, too, on their behalf."

The regional competition was Bellville's second spelling bee ever. The first was the middle school bee she won in Pine River-Backus last month. But a lack of experience was no match for the eighth grader, who spent much of her time during distance learning over the past couple years studying words with mom Andra Dionne and playing online word games.

"I had my mom read words off of the words of the champions PDF, and we wrote down the ones that I got wrong so that I could practice them using vocabulary.com," Bellville said.

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Nesika Bellville, center, is embraced by sister Sequoia and mom Andra Dionne after winning the 2022 Regional Spelling Bee on Wednesday at Sourcewell in Staples. Bellville will represent Pine River-Backus at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

Senior, community orgs receive city contributions

By Theresa Bourke
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — Brainerd Community Action and The Center will continue receiving funds from the city of Brainerd via its charter after an amendment changed the process of obtaining the money.

The Northland Arboretum has also applied for a portion of the funds allocated to nonprofits, but the City Council has not yet acted on that proposal.

Historically, the city's charter guaranteed a portion of its funds to the Northland Arboretum, Brainerd Community Action and to the establishment and maintenance of a program for the benefit of senior citizens or to subsidize a nonprofit senior citizen organization. For consistency's sake, the council amended the language last year to exclude the names of specific organizations but commit to supporting entities that provide community programs and events and arboretum or greenspace organizations.

The charter previously said one half mill of the mill levy would



Theresa Bourke / Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd City Council members discuss matters during their meeting on Monday.

be allocated to those groups. Because that term, which relates to property taxes, is outdated, the council changed the language last year to instead say 1.5% of the previous year's tax levy would be allocated to those

causes, which, according to staff, is roughly the same amount of money. This year, that amounts to \$240,183, or \$80,061 each for three organizations.

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Yelloh, folks! says Schwan's

Home delivery company has colorful rebranding

By Helmut Schmidt
The Forum

MARSHALL, Minn. — Yelloh, neighbor!

Schwan's Home Delivery is taking a friendly, Midwestern turn with its name, rebranding to Yelloh.

The switchover, announced Friday, March 18, is expected to be fully implemented by the start of 2023.

The new brand name, which plays well with the frozen food home delivery firm's distinctive yellow trucks, is meant to capture the company's "optimistic

spirit," the third-generation family-owned firm announced in a PR Newswire release.

Yelloh will continue to operate under the ownership of the Schwan family and remain headquartered in Minnesota as it has for 70 years.

Schwan's Home Delivery started in 1952 in Marshall with deliveries of ice cream from the family's dairy. In 1953, the firm's truck was painted a creamy yellow and the "Inca gold" shade remained the firm's signature color.

"Bold, courageous change is in our company's DNA, and evolving from Schwan's Home Delivery to Yelloh is another exciting step in our journey," said Joe Kirby, president and chief executive officer of Yelloh. "In addition to evoking our iconic yellow delivery vehicles, Yelloh is a greeting commonly used in place of 'hello' between people who are familiar with one another, and it felt right as we continue to evolve our company to meet the needs of our customers."

Schwan's Home Delivery operations will proceed uninterrupted while the transition to Yelloh is applied to food

packaging, delivery vehicles, uniforms, signage, print materials, digital and social media properties, and more.

Schwan's Home Delivery is a direct-to-consumer frozen food delivery company that provides customers with a variety of frozen products, including ice cream, pizza, meats and seafood, breakfast foods, desserts and more. The family-owned company has almost 4,000 dedicated employees and more than 300 neighborhood centers nationwide.

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County puts more pandemic recovery funds to use

By Chelsey Perkins
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — Another \$2.58 million in federal coronavirus relief funds will go toward addressing some of the lasting impacts of the pandemic in Crow Wing County.

County commissioners agreed to allocate dollars granted from the American Rescue Plan Act for a number of internal uses, including new positions to work on the backlog of court cases, address mental health issues, respond to increases in domestic violence and reduce incarceration.

The board also passed

along funding to the county's three sanitary sewer districts — which did not directly receive allocations as other local governments did — for capital improvements in line with the provision of the rescue plan encouraging investment in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

The money dedicated to the various priorities comes from the county's \$12.6 million pot of funding distributed through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program, one part of

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