

Lorain County spelling bee champ falls

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The Chronicle-Telegram

LORAIN — Lorain County spelling bee champion Bridget Smith's run at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C., ended Tuesday in the second round.

Representing the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Lorain County, Bridget, 13, is a seventh grade student at Durling Middle School in Lorain. She kicked off her competition in round one by correctly spelling equatoguinean, of or relating to the country of Equatorial Guinea, a country in West Africa.

Bridget advanced to the second round of competition along with 172 other spellers after 59 were eliminated in the first round. For the second round spellers were asked to correctly define words with Smith stumbling on the word 'fracas' defined as a loud brawl or fight.

Bridget's mother, Cheryl Grizzell, said her daughter has taken in the moment.

"She is just happy to be here and is having a great time and has met a lot of kids from

everywhere," Grizzell said. Bridget will be participating in the full week's worth of events in Washington which includes a final dinner reception on Friday evening, and in the meantime is enjoying visiting the nation's capital.

Bridget was selected to represent Lorain County, finishing first of 32 other competitors at Avon Middle School in March in the competition sponsored by the Educational Service Center of Lorain County and The Chronicle-Telegram and was among 15 spellers from Ohio.

In her official Scripps National Spelling Bee biography, Bridget listed math as her favorite subject, admires tennis player Serena Williams as her favorite athlete and enjoys Sour Patch Kids as her candy of choice.

She said she enjoys spending time with her friends and going to summer theater. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, riding her bike, playing the trumpet in band and has recently joined the Lorain County 4-H Band for the summer.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Durling Middle School seventh grade student Bridget Smith, second from right, competes in the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee on Tuesday.

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Bridget also enjoys writing poetry and plays and is also interested in cooking and is a true crime fan.

She is a member of the Junior Honor Society and the 2023 Scripps is her third year competing in spelling bees, beginning with the 2022 ESC spelling bee as a sixth grader and the 2019 ESC elementary bee as a third grader. This year was her first trip to Washington.

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