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## **NEWS RELEASE – For immediate release**

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## **Solano County 2020 Spelling Bee Champions Announced**

**Fairfield, CA**-Top student spellers in fourth through sixth grades, from Solano County elementary and middle schools, competed for the title of Solano County Champion Speller. Fifty-three Solano County schools participated in this year's event held in McCormack Hall at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

"An event such as this affords students the opportunity to strengthen comprehension, listening, spelling, and writing skills while paving the way to building a broader vocabulary," says Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson. "Students participating in this competition gained confidence in public speaking and learned to be gracious winners, while having fun with their peers."

This year, Vacaville and Vallejo City Unified School Districts boast the top two elementary spellers in Solano County.

Jackson Ady, a fifth grader from Kairos Public School, correctly spelled "flout" moving him to first place. Clair Naing, a fourth grader from Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy Elementary School, finished in second place.

Ady's and Naing's victories came after a grueling one-and-a-half-hour competition in Vallejo, where more than three dozen students were asked to spell words that ranged from "daisy" to "rodomontade" and "panegyric." These top two outstanding spellers will represent Solano County at the California State Spelling Bee Championship on Saturday, May 9, 2020, at the San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton.

For more information about the Spelling Bee competition, please call Ken Scarberry, Director of Youth Development, at 707-646-7603 or email [kscarberry@solanocoe.net](mailto:kscarberry@solanocoe.net).

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(photos attached)



Photo 1: (left to right) Champions Jackson Ady (1<sup>st</sup> Place) and Claire Naing (2<sup>nd</sup> Place) with Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.



Photo 2: (left to right) back: Anthony Volkar (Travis Credit Union), SCOE BEE, Sandra and Chris Ady (parents), Tin and Ni Naing (parents), and Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson; front: Jackson Ady (1<sup>st</sup> Place), Claire Naing (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), and Claire's brother.