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NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Solano County 2019 Spelling Bee Champions Announced

Top student spellers in fourth through sixth grades, from Solano County elementary and middle schools, competed for the title of Solano County Champion Speller. There were 48 Solano County schools participating in this year's event held at the Nelson Community Center in Suisun City on Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

"Spelling Bees improve a student's comprehension skills; strengthens listening, spelling, and writing abilities while paving the way to an extensive vocabulary," says Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson. "Students participating in the competition gain confidence in public speaking and learn to be gracious winners, while having fun with their peers."

This year, Vallejo City Unified School District and Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District boasts the top two elementary spellers in Solano County.

Ahimsa Stathis, a 5th grader from Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy, correctly spelled "gourmet" besting Makaiden Velando, a 4th grader from Cordelia Hills Elementary School, who stumbled on "maudlin."

Stathis and Velando victories came after a grueling three-and-a-half hour competition in Suisun City, 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 11, 2019, at the San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton.

For more information about the Spelling Bee competition, please call Director of Youth Development Ken Scarberry at 707-646-7601 or email kscarberry@solanocoe.net.



(Photo 1: Spelling Bee winner, Stathis and his family with Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lissette Estrella-Henderson and SCOE Board Member, Teresa Lavell.)



2nd place Spelling Bee winner, Velando, his family, Superintendent of Schools, Lissette Estrella-Henderson and SCOE Board Member, Teresa Lavell.



(1st and 2nd place Spelling Bee winners posing with their trophies)

(Photo credit: Alex Cortez, Solano Youth Coalition Member, and an 11th grader at Benicia High School)

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