Steve King
Yavapai County Education Service Agency
2970 Centerpointe E Dr., Prescott AZ 86301
928-771-3326
Steve.King@yavapaiaz.gov
www.YavapaiCoESA.gov

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHINO VALLEY 8th GRADER REBECCA CAULKINS WINS 2026 YAVAPAI COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Twenty-four spellers qualified in this year's county competition by winning their local school-based bee. The county bee is effectively a "Tournament of Champions," with students coming from school districts, charter schools, private schools, and from the home school community. Heritage Middle School 8th grader, Rebecca Caulkins, emerged as champion in Round 11 during the 80th annual Yavapai County Spelling Bee, Saturday, February 7th, in the Phillip England Performing Arts Center in Camp Verde.

Three outstanding spellers finished second, third and fourth respectively: 6th grader Sierra Gagnon of Camp Verde Middle School, 7th grader AnnaBelle Gray of Bagdad Middle School, and 6th grader Miles Hall of Granite Mountain Upper Elementary School. Winners receive engraved plaques and checks totaling $750 that ranged from $300 to $100, based on place in the bee. All students received medals for competing.

The Prescott Sunrise Lions Club provided significant financial support for the Yavapai County Spelling Bee. The Prescott Sunrise Lions Club has a long history of supporting educational events in the local communities they serve. They live their motto of "We Serve" every single day.

The Yavapai County School Superintendent's Office sponsored the County Spelling Bee in conjunction with Scripps National Spelling Bee and our community sponsor. The Yavapai County Spelling Bee is the oldest in Arizona.