

# LHC sixth-grader advances to state bee

By JACKIE LEATHERMAN

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For the first time in 16 years, the top three Mohave County Spelling Bee winners Friday were all from Lake Havasu City.



*Faith Mendoza, left, who is pictured with Mohave County School Superintendent Mike File, won the county spelling bee*

For the second year, the winner was sixth-grader Faith Mendoza who correctly spelled "calypso" and "gauche" for the win in the 22nd round. Mendoza attends the new public charter school, Havasu Preparatory Academy.

In 2011, she won the Starline Elementary School spelling bee, the county spelling bee and made it to the 12th round of the Arizona State Spelling Bee. She misspelled "tenement" in the state competition.

Mitchell (Trey) Kalauli from Starline Elementary School finished second and Shelbie McDonald from Thunderbolt Middle School finished third. Thirty-two contestants from across the county participated.

"It was a clean Havasu sweep," stated county superintendent Mike File in an email to Today's News-Herald.

County records for the last 16 years show that this was the first time all top three places were from Havasu, File said.

The Arizona State Spelling Bee is March