

# Provido wins 2016 Gila County Spelling Bee



Pictured (l-r) are Gila County School Superintendent Linda O'Dell, Chris Provido (1st place) of Globe, Riley Guthrey (2nd place) of Miami, and Maressa Perez (5th grade) of Globe.

GLOBE – The 2016 Gila County Spelling Bee winner is Chris Provido, an eighth grader at High Desert Middle School in Globe. Riley Guthrey, a seventh grader at Lee Kornegay Intermediate School in Miami, took second place, followed by third place winner Maressa Perez (5<sup>th</sup> grade) also from High Desert Middle School.

Provido will represent Gila County at the Arizona Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 19 at the Eight/Arizona PBS Studio located at 555 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix. The winner of the state spelling bee will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in late May.

This year's Gila County Spelling Bee lasted five rounds before a champion emerged. In all, 28 contestants vied for the chance to represent Gila County at state. They came from Copper Rim Elementary School and High Desert Middle School in Globe, Leonor Hambly K-8 School in Hayden-Winkelman, Lee Kornegay Intermediate School in Miami, Rim Country Middle School in Payson, Pine-Strawberry School, Tonto Basin School, and Young Public School. High Desert Middle School hosted this year's Gila County Spelling Bee.

Gila County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Linda O'Dell, would like to thank all the students, parents, teachers, and administrators for their support of Gila County's spellers. She would also like to extend a special thank you to the volunteer pronouncers and judges. This year's pronouncers were Ms. Debbie Fogle and Mr. Fernando Shipley. Serving as this year's judges were Ms. Debi Savage, Ms. Gail Gorry, and Mr. Marc Marin.

The Gila County Spelling Bee is an annual event sponsored by the Gila County School Superintendent's Office.