

# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## Change in leadership

**Ericka Amaya**  
Manzanita City Reporter

Thursday morning was filled with excitement, nerves and some nauseous feelings from the nominees for County and State positions.

We are all beautiful souls, we are all filled with so many qualifications that make us more than what is needed to run the 51st state, Girls State. We clapped, we cheered and the best candidates were chosen to rep-

resent every soul at county and state levels.

It was also a bittersweet meeting, unfortunately the term for Madam Governor, Maricella Garcia, and Secretary of State Whitney Mason came to an end. We began with a feeling of melancholia, even though it's just been 5 days, saying good-bye to such wonderful and beautiful souls who have encouraged us every step of the way, through heat and tiredness, during the latest hours and all with a smile.

We began standing up, the feeling took

over some girls bodies some even shed tears, a big blue sea of girls arising with head color ranges from ashy blondes to ginger red even some rainbow color bowed to the ladies.

We gave the Pledge of Allegiance, we read the Girls State Creed, and gave a heart warming round of applause as the two ladies stepped back and passed forward their positions to the newly elected Governor and Secretary of State Yakira Flanagan and Shannon Watson.



## Talented and Co.: Thursday Night Show

**Martha Dallman**  
Saguaro City Reporter

The talent show for Girls State took place on Thursday night, after dinner. Many girls, including myself, walked over after eating not expecting anything great. We weren't negative, but neither were we positive. We weren't until the first performer, McKinzi Godfrey, graced us with her harp solo. From there on out

up until the final performance by Kayla Galbraith titled, "I Miss You Daddy", we were astonished and enchanted.

Each performance brought something different, even if they we're performing similar acts. No one is the same and these girls really showcase all the different talents that can be represented here at Girls State. The different performances such as different individual dances by Meena Venkataraman, Terry McDonald, Annie

Nicole, Hannah Green, Geraldine Gomez, Maggie West, Paloma Maschino and the final and emotional last dance by Kayla Galbraith, to different girls signing songs in ASL, to the Cup Song, everything made us exceptionally proud to be there as a single entity of Girls State, watching our peers give us amazing emotional performances. I only hope that we all remember how talented we truly are and never stop growing.

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# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## 2016 Girls State Reporters

Kelly Malloy - Ironwood  
Anna Hostal - Ironwood  
Ana Deckey - Palo Verde  
Taylor De Young - Palo Verde  
Brielle Hansen - Juniper  
Victoria Marbois - Juniper  
Kimberly Bittinger - Pinon  
Riley Goldsmith - Pinon  
Giselle Enriquez - Ocotillo  
Bridget McLawns - Ocotillo  
Hannah Ngo - Mimosa  
Meena Venkataraman - Mimosa  
Madison Hamilton - Cholla  
Brittney Fulop - Cholla  
Ericka Amaya - Manzanita  
Cecilia Vargas - Manzanita  
Shelby Ben-Shalom - Yucca  
Hannah Holder - Yucca  
Anya Forma - Saguaro  
Martha Dallman - Saguaro  
Sierra Garcia - Mesquite  
Seren Riggs-Davis - Mesquite  
Olivia Austin - Sycamore  
Lydia Kellerhals - Sycamore

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# Blast From the Past

## Brittney Fulop & Madison Hamilton

Cholla City Reporters

Looking back on the week, we can all remember some funny and inspiring quotes. We decided to make a collection of quotes from a few different cities. So we are now presenting quotable quotes:

“You ain’t chill unless you in cholla” - Cholla cheer

“Oh are you from Piñon”. “No, I’m Donja” - Donya Schaefer

“I feel like a blueberry today”- Madison Hamilton

“This. Experience. MATTERS.”- Shannon Watson

“Sleep deprivation, that’s what’s happening” - Madison Hamilton

“Oh dear!” - Amy Olson

“The only liquor you can have is licorice”- Iridiana Ibarra, a JC

“I’m an awkward potato with a side salad” - Yakira Flagan

“The cholla history... Well at one point we worshipped majestic cheetahs and then the frogs came carrying the zombie disease and fairy Godmother had to save us all by turning the citizens into fairies” “Ya... Your history is weird...” - On cholla’s

history

“This fanny pack holds justice” - Alexandra Mooney

“Your nose moves like a bunny” - Emily Nasiff

“I’m the Bernie Sanders of girls state and she’s the Hillary Clinton”- Emily Nasiff

“I was going to call it triple A but that’s a car company”- Ritika

“That’s a weird way to spell Hazel” “it’s Itzcel” - MaryAlice, and Itzcel

“I just tell people that my name rhymes with ‘Izanya’” - Danya Shaefer

“Then Brad Pitt came and the female population rose” - Piñon

“You Yucced up” - Yucca

“I’m running unopposed so you could be electing a dictator for all you know”- Brittney Fulop

“I’m running unopposed...so let’s make America great again and build a wall!” - Skyelyn Riggs-Davis

“We’re Juni-proud of you!” - Juniper

“....And we can all dab collectively”- Shannon Watson

“You’re half coyote?” - Kelcy Johnson

“Sup dude” mrs. White, mimosa

Those are just a few from this week. Thank you guys for an amazing and memorable girls state!

## Parting Words

### Hannah Holder

Yucca City

After a long, tiring, educational, and inspiring week Girls State is coming to a close. Friendships have been formed and strengthened; ideals have been created and shared; hard work has payed off; and accomplishments have been made.

We’ve heard several “words of wisdom” such as “BU”, “Ask yourself, am I a person of integrity”, and “Don’t be afraid to ask questions”. It has been such a lovely experience meeting so many different girls from around the state with big dreams and ferocious ambitions.

I wish each and everyone of you the best in everything that our future holds. Whether this is a career in politics or note, I challenge each and every one of you to chase your dreams and passions without fear.

We are holding the future in our hands and we have an opportunity to write our own stories and create your own paths. Make a promise to yourself to choose a life that inspires positive change.

It has been a pleasure to meet the greatest girls in ARizona nd I’m proud to call you m y sisters. Congratulation to Yakira Flanagan and Shannon Watson of the being elected as our new Governor and Secretary of State!! I know that you will make Arizona proud!

## It's Good Mood Food

### Bridget McLawns

Yucca City

Before you came to Girls State, what did you think it was going to be like? Full of friends, learning, stress, fun, etc...

Did you consider food too? Well in Ocotillo city it’s important to keep your friends close and your snacks even closer! We have all loved our food so dang much, almost a little too much!!

But as Sierra Reitmeyer (the store’s cashier) says, “Calories don’t count at girls’s”

“I’m sure you all agree because when you add up all the walking and climbing, Stairs, those members are wavy light er than the Community You’ve consumed that day. So always

Stair, those numbers are way higher than the calories you’ve consumed that day. So always remember ask not what you can do for your city, county book, ask what’s for dinner tonight!!

# Dorm Norms

**Hannah Ngo**  
Mimosa City Reporter

Girls State has been full of new experiences, one of which is experiencing life in a dorm. The experience of living with a bunch of other girls and having to share bathrooms is new to many. It comes with its convenient moments, and with some disadvantages also.

One of the worries of the citizens of Mimosa was the issue of available showers, and as a quick survey of hands revealed, that majority of Mimosans prefer to take their showers at night. This complication turned out to be less of a problem than expected, however. With six showers to share between twenty-four girls, as long as no girls were taking an extensive amount of time to shower, it would be totally possible for all the girls to shower at their preferred times.

Another worry was the beds. The beds in most of the dorm rooms were unexpectedly high off the ground, creating problems for those going up to their bed and those trying to get down. This wasn't an unwarranted worry. Several citizens have banged their knees and legs simply trying to get to bed, and a few have fallen off the bed, which is approximately a four foot drop. To deal with these height issues, desks are often used as steps to the bed, and various other items such as suitcases or even the chairs facilitate the path to a

snooze.

Despite these drawbacks, the dorm experience has provided quite a few happy moments.

Door decorating and coordinating to a specific, recognizable theme is much simpler with consecutive doors in a dorm as opposed to living in separate houses or apartment buildings. The proximity allows citizens to tie in their efforts to show spirit in their city together.

Projects such as the city book are much simpler to complete in a dorm. Those who work best in more social and noisy areas can find a place for them in the common rooms or the city hall, where an abundance of girls who share similar favorite working atmospheres can spend time with each other. If the preferred atmosphere is solitude to provide better focus, there are their own rooms, which provide essential privacy critical for the productiveness of some citizens. Dorms accommodate those differences, while also letting others be a hop, skip, and a jump away when assistance or collaboration is necessary.

Randomized dorm assignments resulted in a melting pot of backgrounds and people, each who have experiences that differ and ideas that are unique to their own selves. Though it may have been intimidating to not know any other person in the dorms at first, girls often had similar motivations and interests,

something to be expected of participants in a opportunity like Girls State, and these similarities helped girls bond. People were outside of their comfort zone and broadened their horizons.

Dorms are different from homes, but the dorms we live in has grown on us. They've become a new home to a new family, a location where our cities started, grew, achieved, and loved each other. Though they may not come with the comforts of home, a personal bathroom, soft mattresses, or a fridge, these dorms hold a special attachment for the girls attending Girls State. Though we may leave and never come back, we will never forget our city dorms as the home away from home.

## Darby's VeggieTale Part 2

**Victoria Marbois**  
Juniper City

Tragically, Darby Johnson has not lessened in her hatred for vegetables. In fact, it seemed to be increased as the week continued and there was SO. MUCH. SALAD.

Darby prefers her meats and fruits, which is not a bad thing! Darby has a lovely personality that seems to thrive when not dampened by the presence of vegetables.

It seems as if this week will teach Darby many things, but perhaps not to turn to greens as a tasty appetizer.

It's okay Darby, we still love you. Always #juniproud.



## Whistle Stop Questions Around the Counties

**Giselle Enriquez**  
Ocotillo City Reporter

Many of the ladies at Girls State enjoyed the whistle stop question portion at Wednesday's general elections. The answers given by the candidates for governor and Secretary of State really helped the civilians decide on which candidate was more like them in what they favored and brought to the table.

The whistle stop questions sparked such an interest throughout the counties that I decided to go around and ask my fellow girls their opinions and answers.

How do you think the broader remaking of the nations paper currency with Harriet Tubman replacing Andrew Jack-

son will uplift minorities and women?

It integrates them on our study of history and shows that women and minorities have really played a role in the building of our nation. - Sanjana Pesari

What president do you look up to most for their leadership skills?

Theodore Roosevelt because he carries around a big stick. - Brittany Franke

FDR because he was a really strong leader who implemented large scale well being programs for the good of the people. Also he was battling with polio and was able to lead a country simultaneously. - Nicole Duby

Who is your idol and why?

My sister is my idol because she's fighting for our country now. - Cyrria Erwin

# “What’s in a School?”: An Educational Showcase

**Meena Venkataraman**  
Mimosa City Reporter

Here at Girls State, education is a virtue. It's a part of both the Nationalist and Federalist Party platforms and has been discussed by almost every Governor and Girls Nation Senator candidate in some form or fashion. Education is prized because Girls State girls believe learning and school are keys to success. That being said, girls here hail from a variety of different schools and have various educational backgrounds. As I bonded with my fellow Girls State denizens, I took the time to ask them about their schools. Though many of our girls, like myself, attend comprehensive public, urban or suburban high schools, there are a handful who attend private preparatory schools, charter schools, and liberal arts academies. Nicole Gehret attends Seton Catholic Preparatory. She learns theology, and says that the class has helped her “probe Catholicism, ask questions, and learn the reasons behind certain core values and beliefs.” Still, she does not blindly embrace her faith, and sometimes struggles to come to terms with some of its ideas. But nevertheless, she appreciates the opportunity to learn about reli-

gion at her school and embrace certain aspects of it.

Mariela Montaño attends Grand Canyon High School, a tiny school with no more than 300 students total. Her graduating class has roughly 19 students, but despite its small size, Mariela maintains a close bond with her friends and teachers. She takes two science classes because she loves science, and finds that her teachers teach with a passion, which is important. Anna Hostal, upon hearing this, concurred that passionate teachers are indeed important, citing her mother as one of those passionate teachers she knows and looks up to.

Seren Riggs-Davis attends Westwood High School and is part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. When I asked her what exactly that was and what it involves, she explained one of her IB projects- using calculus and normal distribution curves to measure the correlation between physical attractiveness (measured by the Golden Ratio) and winning presidential elections. She found a strong post-1950 televised presidential election correlation between physical attractiveness and likelihood of winning the election. Her project is just one example of the many unique opportuni-

ties available through IB.

Karen Madlock goes to Chino Valley High School located in the relatively rural town of Chino Valley. Future Farmers of America (FFA) is one of the largest organizations at her school, which boasts a greenhouse, an aquaculture center, and two ponds with ducks. It is a normal occurrence for the ducks to escape from the pond and for the students to leave class to chase the ducks back into the pond. Sometimes, families bring their piglets to school, and across the street from CVHS lays a 48-acre farm with cows and sheep. “There are lots of cowboys and ranchhands at our school,” said Karen, who loves agriculture (with good reason!).

Hearing about these different high schools made me appreciate the diversity here at Girls State. But despite the differences between our educational backgrounds, our similarities bring us together more than these differences drive us apart. Our joint love of learning has culminated in a passion for education which has transferred to both Girls State party platforms and will continue to shape our future goals as women leaders of America and the world.

## Farewells | Americanism

**Cecilia Vargas**  
Manzanita City Reporter

Farewells between friends are always extremely difficult. It is a time where friends must admit and accept that they are going in different directions. Fortunately, there is technology! There are various means of communication that enable us to keep in contact with friends living in far off locations.

This alleviates a little bit of the sadness from goodbyes but not all. The thought of departing from a good friend can often lead to a display of waterworks which is exactly what happened at today's gathering in the main auditorium.

Throughout the parting

remarks of Governor Mari and Secretary of State Whitney, their great personalities, that we have become very fond of, were easily conveyed. Each one maintained their incredible sense of humor, confidence, leadership, and kindness.

I think our entire GS community can agree that these 2 young women are exemplary role models that have bright futures. Therefore, it has been a privilege to have them.

Luckily, our new Governor and Secretary of State have demonstrated through their speeches and their behavior that they hold the same values as our previous leaders. They will continue creating the beautiful state known as Girls State.

**Ericka Amaya**  
Manzanita City Reporter

During the week, men that have served our country took some time off their valuable schedule to come over to Social Sciences 100 to teach us on the correct way of folding an American Flag.

All steps have a message behind them, The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second is a symbol of our belief in eternal life, the third is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans who gave their life for defense of our country.

The fourth represents our weaker mature; that we turn to god in times of peace and for his divine guidance.

The fifth fold is in tribute

for our country that whether things go right or wrong it is still our country.

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie, the pledge of allegiance, the seventh is a tribute to our armed forces and the eighth is a tribute to those mother's out there.

The ninth is for womanhood, because thanks to their love and loyalty and faith as well as devotion a great country and its character was molded.

The tenth is a tribute to the father for giving sons and daughters to our nation.

The eleventh is the representation of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the twelfth is in the name of the father, god and holy spirit.

The flag is folded neatly and very tight stars folding up.