

Arizona Girls State Independent



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Everyone's Running for...

**Savannah Dotterman
& Samantha Orwoll**
Sycamore City Reporter

As city officials began their duties, the remaining girls set their eyes on county or state duties. Many seemed content with these positions...until yesterday.

Within the one hour and forty-five minutes that Girls Nation nomination papers were released over fifty girls picked one up. That's one girl every two minutes. Girls Nation truly became a sensation. According to Mrs. Maklary, "thirty girls is a lot," and likely twice that picked one up this year. Furthermore, conversations about Girls Nation continued on Tuesday. The majority of the questions asked even in the County meetings revolved around

Girls Nation. What's caused this stronger than normal interest? All signs point to Aisha Subhan and Elizabeth Bradley's speeches.

Each speech detailed an incredible experience that the two passionate Senators experienced and explained how even after losing several elections they still managed to win on of the ultimate races. They described their trip through the largest map library in the world and how surreal it felt to meet President Barack Obama. With a trip that allows you to meet some of the great "movers and shakers," walk through the Whitehouse, and even visit the library of Congress, the two Senators didn't need to do much convincing. The true great point was their passion and demonstration how an idea you feel strongly about can shape your future and

the rest of the world too. As Elizabeth spoke about her interest in education, the entire room leaned a little closer. It's clear she has a vision and will be doing remarkable things.

So if you're one of the many interested girls, here are some things to keep in mind. After the primary election, the candidates will be narrowed to eight lucky girls. Those eight will have to make a three minute speech. Like Elizabeth demonstrated, the passionate are often the most successful. Finding a topic you can speak easily and excessively on (only getting to two of your ten points for example) will later help with the bill Girls Nation delegates create. With all of the Girls Nation candidates, some wonderful girls are sure to get chosen.

"Ain't Nobody Got Time For That"

Kelli VanNuys
Mesquite City Reporter

Arizona Girls State is an experience of a life-time. The memories everyone makes here will last for the rest of their lives. With so many speakers, activities, jobs and elections taking place everyone always has something to do or something to work for. Yet, even the inspirational speakers and joyous campaigning could never live up to the self-fulfillment that comes with Girls State's greatest activity: walking.

Many claim that the walks are arduous and unnecessary. "This is America. We don't walk" the citizens of Mesquite City passionately pointed out when asked how they felt about walking. Kylie Morris, Mayor of the city, quoted "Ain't nobody got time for that!"

Yet the opinion of some cannot rule over all opinions, and many can see the inspiration and self-fulfillment that comes with walking long distances in the familiar and well-loved Arizona heat.

Not only does one get to feel the burn of leg muscles through this cherished experience of journeying across campus, but also the wonderful feeling of sweat slowly dripping down ones face. That wet perspiration underneath the hot Arizona sun rejuvenates everyone, motivating them and reminding them why they wake up in the morning. Nothing feels better than leaving the stuffy and unappealing air of a cool building and entering into the fresh 105 degree temperature of outside, knowing that the next five to twenty minutes will be spent charting the steaming University of Arizona. Squinting under the blazing light, with sweat trickling

down their backs, and legs about to cave, Girls State members remember what they came here for.

Without walking miles everyday Girls State just would not be an experience worth bragging about. After all, pretty much EVERYONE can say that they were once in charge of a made-up city in a mystical fifty-first state. Even more can stake the claim that they were chosen for one of two possible slots out of their entire high school for a week of leadership, government, and bonding. But NO ONE can say that they sweat in the Arizona heat while walking. That is the one factor that truly makes this experience worth-while.

So the next time you are out walking, take a moment to truly enjoy the hot, sweaty and exhausting experience! After all, it is the most important part of the day.

The story Behind the Turquoise in yesterdays edition was not miss written. There was an editor error and part of the story was left out. Apologies to Emily and Leah for the error!

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Working Hard to the Bone

Stephanie Tupas
 Mimosa City Reporter

Well oh my gosh! Today was just so crazy and fun. It started off really well with yummy breakfast selections, and a wonderful speaker. She was definitely helpful; she clarified for me what the county actually has jurisdiction over.

Congratulations to all the girls that decided to campaign! Special shout out to the fabulous young ladies of Mimosa! As soon as petitions were accepted, the Mimosa girls worked so hard. You can see

the individuality in every one of the girls in this city. Every girls campaigning posters, and slogans really set them apart from each other. Every single one of them unique. There is a lot of talent in Mimosa! It just screams it, in their work, from wall decorations to posters!

What is even more awesome was the fact that all these girls are genuinely nice to each other. They all lent a hand to fellow citizens, while busy with their own stuff. Another shout-out to those helping hands! I'm sure they were really appreciated.

"Meet the Candidate" was a nice opportunity to meet other delegates. The atmosphere for the majority was energetic. It amazes me the passion some of the girls have for what they believe in.

We have fantastic potential officials: Bailey Herbstreit running for Governor, Breanna Wilcox for County Sheriff, Savannah Sutherland for County Superintendent of schools, Beatriz for House of Representative, and much much more.

There are so many girls that are all passionate about something.

Being Social is the Jem Way

Emogene deGrasse
 Juniper City Reporter

Everyone here at GS knows how hectic life has been with all the nomination filing and elections that have been happening in every city. Yet even with the exhausting activities, we girls still have managed to find the energy to keep things interesting.

In Juniper City, the citizens are constantly pondering different cheers and chants to shout as we march from place to place. "I honestly think Juniper City is one of the most chanting cities. From "follow me" songs to songs about moose. Always cheering no matter where and

when!" says Araceli Candelaria.

The Jems do not just chant about themselves, but they chant to their sister city, Ironwood. At the sister city social, the Juniper Jems were allowed to meet and exchange small gifts with their sister city friends.

They proceeded to the open house with the sister city. We had a lot of fun participating in different ice breaker games.

The Mayor of Juniper City, Lexi Olsen, said, "It was so fun just to be with a group of girls as crazy as us, willing to scream and laugh and just have a blast. Also, a huge shout out to the Ironwood City Mayor, Hailey, for being so loud and

awesome and inviting!"

The girls of Juniper City, as you may have guessed, are not shy about who they are. All of us have become a great deal more social within the past few days.

They have become close to their neighboring cities Ocotillo and Manzanita through the county elections. "All of the girls are really warm and welcoming. Its been fun to meet all of the various personalities," says Caylor Hill.

The personalities and characteristics of every girl in Juniper City are extremely unique. This is why the name Juniper Jems is so well suiting for this collection of young ladies.

Interviews with Manzanita's Finest: Candidates for State Office

Katherine Welty
 Manzanita City Reporter

Our fearless reporter journeyed into the vast wilderness that is Manzanita to discover the true intentions of some of the most ferocious state office candidates. I asked some of those running what the most important issue to them is and why.

Listen up kids.

Brooklyn Jenkins, Candidate for Secretary of State says, "Education. The young adults coming after us are here

to replace us. When we're gone, we need to be confident in their ability to continue to strive for American ideals."

Shaleigh Hill, Candidate for Governor states, "The most important thing to me is the treatment of American citizens, most importantly the homeless and mentally ill. A lot of crime occurs simply because our people are not being treated as they should."

Lena Highsmith-Stewart, Candidate for Superintendent of Public Construction says, "Education is definitely the most

important issue to me. The world starts with education. We cannot have innovative thinkers and supporters of America if we don't teach them while they're young. Ignorance is contagious."

Alexandra Turley, Candidate for Senate states, "I'm really interested in foreign policy and how America interacts with the rest of the world. Because we live in such an interconnected world, with so many forms of social media, it is very important to maintain diplomatic relations with other countries."

Fear Factor: Roommates

Emily Gough & Leah Guskjolen
Yucca City Reporters

Going to camp fills people with fears and hopes about what to expect while they're there. Something I think most people can agree on is the fear that our roommates may be weird, or won't talk to us, leaving us all alone. So, when we first arrive at Girls State there is a feeling of trepidation about who might be waiting for us in the room that we will be living in for an entire week of our young lives! With this in mind we went to our girls in the city of Yucca to find out how they now felt about their roommate compared to their feelings before arriving here.

Many of us share the same feelings and thoughts when facing the unknown. We feel frightened, nervous, and even almost angry at the injustice of possibly staying with an unlikable person. Madeline LaMear thought like many that her pos-

sible roommate would be creepy, loud, or even mean; instead her roommate Desiree Sanchez has turned out to be nice, organized and even calls lights out early just like her. Others expected a more chilly welcome, with many bouts of awkward silences like Tatianna Jefferson and Delilah Cassidy who had that same expectation. These doubts even caused Delilah to doubt whether she should even come to Girls State. Instead both were pleasantly surprised to find out that they had many things in common with their roommates.

Some people's expectations seem to surpass most people's normal expectations. Daniela Lizarraga expected her roommate to be, "Somebody blonde or Indian or someone who's like a random culture and a person who would get mad at me for dancing all the time." She says though in reality her roommate, Victoria Sanchez, is someone who she is able to talk to about her problems because they all experience

the same problems in their respective schools. This ability to be able to find similarities between you and your roommate is something that helps everyone create bonds for a lifetime.

In conclusion, our expectations are almost always entirely different from the ultimate reality of the situation. We expect the worst and hope for the best. Luckily, being the amazing people we all are, it isn't hard to find someone who shares many of the same interests as you. What's even more amazing is the fact that we within our city are able to get along on such a personal level. People like Tatianna found that her whole city, from suitmates to across the hall neighbors were in fact "Cool" and could come together in "Unity" through their mutual ambition. So enjoy the time you spend here, and make all the friends you can, because your expectations of a person isn't always who they truly are.

Meet your Soul Sister!

Selena Lugo
Saguaro City Reporter

Hey Sista! Soul Sister! As you all know today is election day (primary elections). There are many girls running but I would like to take this opportunity to introduce this very personable candidate running for Governor. Her name is Mary Terkelsen and she is from the city of Saguaro, Kaibab county.

Mary is not only energetic, fun, outgoing and kind but also a spectacular leader. Back home she is involved in many clubs such as Student Council, National Honors Society and Interact club. She also fosters kittens for the Humane Society which shows her huge heart.

All this shows how passionate she is, she does not just want the label of Governor. She wants to represent you to

the best of her abilities. Mary loves to talk and prove her point but she loves to listen and make your voices be heard. This is what a Governor is supposed to do. "Do for the people," which I am sure Mary can do it for all of you.

If you want your opinions heard and get the job well done be sure and vote at the primary elections. When you do remember Mary Terkelsen and "Twerk for Terkelsen!"

Tired does not even come close

Casey Ellwood & Megan Hoffman
Palo Verde City Reporters

One word to describe this experience: exhausting. I think I can speak for the majority of us and say, WE ARE TIRED. After a horribly insensitive wake up call, we all were inclined to doll ourselves up for pictures at eight. We were then informed of the trek we were to experience that day. Being girls, we were definitely paranoid of flattened curls and dripping makeup. Good news finally arrived when we were told that we would not partake on a cross city adven-

ture, but we were to report directly down stairs for our county meeting.

Exhaustion ran through our blood before our day even really began. Lunch had passed and a false sense of energy ran rapid; we were excited to campaign for our county and state offices. Markers in hand, scissors at the ready, and slogans in mind, we produced master pieces to tell the world who we are. After enduring the wrath of city mayors, and their ridiculous requests, candidates were able to display their corny slogans and bubble letters.

Dinner came and went, and the lasa-

gna hit the spot. It was time to meet the candidates. Exhaustion was shown in the form of forgetfulness. Candidates seemed to have forgotten who they had spoken to, and tended to reintroduced themselves to the same citizens countless times. After an hour of walking and talking, our feet ached and our voices were hoarse. One last head throbbing county rally and then it was off to bed. Hopefully a night of sweet dreams and restful sleeping is in the future for the members of Girls State.

And He said, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:14

The Battle of the Nats and Feds

Adriana Dealba
Pinon City Reporter

The competition between the Nationalist and Federalist party is getting extremely heated here at Girls State! Monday night's rally allowed the precinct committee to keep everyone up to date with elections.

The night began with sister cities, in which the girls' got to meet their "sisters" and the cities had the opportunity to bond amongst each other.

The precinct committee chanted slogans and motivated the crowd to get pumped for elections! Cheering and screaming bounced back and forth from one side of the grassy court yard to the other. It was an exciting experience for everyone and a great way to initiate elections!

Tuesday afternoon consisted of elections

for County and State positions. The Girls' of Pinon County are committed to filling each position in order for their party to win.

The precinct committee has come up with a variety of creative ideas in order to pump up each party's spirit and get their point across to all citizens.

The Nationalist party members of Kaibab's precinct committee stated that they will focus on issues such as prioritizing education, going green, and regulating taxes. Kaibab's Federalist Party members on the precinct committee informed us about how they plan on regulating the three E's: environment, education, and economics. Both parties seem to have a master plan on their hands!

The enthusiasm of the Girls State citizens continued to shine bright on Tuesday

night when the precinct committee gathered counties together to introduce all candidates running for county and state positions. There are a numerous amount of determined girls who are extremely committed and in it to win it! The excitement boils up inside of everyone as voting gets closer and closer... who will our next Secretary of State be? Governor? Who will be flying to Maryland to attend Girls Nation and meet our President?!

There is only one thing we can do to determine those questions; vote and wait to find out! Although there is an intense competition between the Nats and Feds, all citizens remain united as a group of leaders and continue to grow together in this wonderful experience. Good luck to all candidates, and may the best woman win!

Insert Clever Campaign Slogans Here

Kate Coriell
Ocotillo City Reporter

As the upcoming elections for county, state, and Girls Nation positions draws closer, the fight to stand out in the race for candidacy among the 300 plus girls intensifies. The flurry of poster-making and other propaganda material has all but consumed the halls of the floors occupied by Girls State.

So far, I personally haven't seen any

dirty campaigning, perhaps a few sassy response posters for opposing parties, but all seem to be ultimately good-natured in essence. As if coming up with eye-catching graphics and catchy captions wasn't taxing enough, being thrust into a throng of eccentric girls in "campaigning mode" and attempting to solicit yourself adequately for your desired position could even be considered an art form. Colorful fliers being shoved into

your hands, a melee of voices enthusiastically proclaiming their platforms, and busy campaign slogans saturating all of the senses: I think the best word to describing the preliminary political process is "overwhelming".

Props to all of the ambitious young ladies who poured their hearts and souls into their posters and hand-outs. The best of luck to all running for office. Happy Campaigning!

The Soul Sister Experience

Shelby Steele
Saguaro City Reporter

After attending Girls State for three days, I interviewed two girls from my city. We spoke about how they felt before coming to the University and about how they have warmed up to being here. One girl said she was feeling home sick, while the other girl was feeling right at home. These two ladies are the ones I connected with right away. Girls State has impacted all of us, and this is only our third day.

Haley Hansen, of Saguaro City, is 16 years old. Being away from her family has made her home sick. When I asked Haley how she felt before arriving she replied, "I felt excited, yet anxious." I asked her how she was feeling now and she told me, "I am feeling home sick. I have cried a few times." Haley is a sweetheart and is going to stay and give the experience all she has!

Next, I interviewed my suitemate, Carson McKelvey, about her feelings prior to Girls State. Carson was super excited and nervous on her way down to Tucson. I

asked her about how she was feeling now and she replied, "Well, I miss my family, but I am having such an awesome time. I love being involved." Carson is awaiting the memories to be made this week.

These ladies are excited about learning more and meeting new people. Girls State is definitely an experience of a lifetime. It will change the girls attending. Memories will be made and friendships that will last years are in the making. Carson and Haley are looking forward to the days a head.