

Arizona Girls State Independent



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Cats, Nagging Mothers, and a Greyhound Bus: Speeches for State Office

Katherine Welty
Manzanita City Reporter

This Wednesday night, the brave women of Girls State put on their best turquoise shirts, secured their name tags to their upper right torso, and presented their thoughts and ideals to their state. The speeches ranged from the ridiculous and funny to the serious. With Russian cat breeders to a heartfelt story of the inequality in Afghanistan comes to mind. The candidates were incredibly courageous, keeping themselves together as 300 plus girls stared them down, wondering where

they bought their shorts and how they managed to do their hair in the tiny dorm mirror.

It is not appearance that made the difference election night. It truly was the speeches that touched hearts and minds, that brought laughter and tears, and inspired girls to fill in certain numbered bubbles on a scantron sheet.

A question comes to mind here: Which is better, a funny speech or a serious one? Now that the election results are in, it seems that there is no better choice. The hilarious British girl secured a spot, along with the girl with the stereotypical Asian

parents. Yet, the girl who took a greyhound bus just to attend the campus was also a winner. Along with a Secretary of State who is as passionate about education as one can be.

These speeches were different in approach. Yet they had something incredibly important in common, they all were a genuine reflection of the young ladies running. Yes, it's true, this does mean we have a cat lady for our Chief Justice. It also proves that age-old theory about achieving your dreams. Be yourself and you will succeed.

Inspiration in a speaker

Shelby Steele
Saguaro City Reporter

When we had Mrs. Kathleen Winn, Community Outreach Director, join us I feel some girls took her presentation personally. Mrs. Kathleen Winn was only sharing what was going on currently in the Attorney Generals office. She was not pushing anything on us. It

is like she was just the messenger. What she was doing was a favor to us.

The thing is Mrs. Kathleen Winn is not the sole person working on the proposition of providing identification for voting. Conveying the proposition to Girls State was her job. She was not the one who came up with the entire idea. There is no telling if she supports this proposition, she was simply an advocate.

I enjoyed listening to her presentation because when she spoke, it was apparent that she was passionate. She was also very respectful and tried to answer everyone's questions. Listening to her speak was very inspirational. The quote she chose to share was very touching. I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to hear her speak.

Bouncing Back: Learning the Hard Way

Emily Gough & Leah Guskjolen
Yucca City Reporters

In the past few days all the elections have brought some of us joy by allowing us to achieve the short term goals we set here at Girls State. Others have been filled with disappointment, finding out that they have lost the race. These contrasting emo-

tions that we all feel seem to always come in extremes. Due to the intensity of these feelings, it can be hard to not remain discouraged after loosing.

What we all need to remember though, just like our Veteran visitors said, is that we must BOUNCE BACK. We need to pick ourselves up off the ground, cry a bit then grow from it, and lastly try again. We

are all going to take a spill but what sets us apart from everyone else is our ability to step up to the plate and continue to fight on.

Always continue on, something we have all learned fairly well this past week, is a lesson we should all carry with us through the rest of our lives.

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How to achieve Capital City status

Dorie Reiter
 Ocotillo City Reporter

Anyone who has been at Girls State the past week has discovered that there are many rigid rules that one needs to follow. Why are these rules so important to follow? The answer to that question can be answered with two words: "Capital City"

Every city wants to be the Capital City. Each city wants to have the opportunity to represent Girls State 2013 as the Capital City which means they were the most honorable and well-behaved cohesive unit. Based on the rules broken by several girls throughout the past week, here is a list of guidelines that will help you and your city down the road to Capital City.

Number one: When walking to and from the dormitories, one must stay on the so-called "Girls State Highway" which is another term for the sidewalk. If someone from your city is seen with one step off the designated sidewalk, that is one step away from the honor of Capital City.

Number two: Do not chant in the dormitories or the University classrooms. Everyone at Girls State seems to be bubbling with spirit, however chanting indoors will surely result in a lecture by one of the

junior counselors or Girls State advisors.

Number three: Do not exit the dormitories without the supervision of a junior counselor or advisor. Going outside unattended will surely be noticed by an adult and devastate your city's chances for Capital City status.

Number four: Do not bang on the table before lunch or dinner. Trust me; it does not make the food come any faster. Even though it is extremely unfortunate to be stationed at tables ten, eleven, or twelve, chanting and table-banging will make you and your city at the receiving end of some disapproving glares from the staff table.

Number five: Texting while walking around the university campus will never end well. Either you will be reprimanded by a junior counselor, or you will walk straight into a pole or fire hydrant which could cause injury.

Number six: Only six people are allowed in the elevator at a time, even if you are confident that you are not the 2,500 pound maximum. It is almost guaranteed that you will be caught, so it is not worth the try.

In conclusion, there are many rules that must be followed in order to secure the desired Capital City status. Good luck!

Words from the wise

Adriana DeAlba
 Pinon City Reporter

It is now the sixth day we have spent here at Girls State! Although the newly elected candidates are all highly qualified for winning their elections, they have yet to experience the impact that holding an office for Arizona Girls State will have on their lives. So why not have ourselves a little look into how rewarding Girls State is for alumni?

I had a chat with our very own Governor Lillian Korinek and Secretary of State Kristen Bolte. When I asked her how it felt to return to Girls State as our Governor this year, Lillian said: "It's surreal because I feel like we are different people than we were last year and it's so evident". She went on to describe her experience as Governor with words such as "amazing" and "great".

Our Secretary of State said, "I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to meet all of these girls and make these connections because I feel like I'm going to get twice the experience."

The Girls are certainly thrilled to be back this year! Wondering how Girls State has shaped them as leaders, I asked them how it has impacted their lives. Lillian explained to me about when she decided to run, saying, "I told myself I was gonna run for Governor, and if I can do this, then I can do

other things." She said Girls State allowed her to be more confident and led her to believe she can go on to do greater things with her life.

Kristen said "Girls State gave me that community and the second family of people that have as crazy and ambitious dreams as I do". She described to me that this program allowed her to realize she had the support from many girls which later in life will motivate her to reach her goals.

So what advice did the Girls have for us? Lillian's words to us all were "Just have fun, be crazy, get as crazy as you possibly can!" Wow, that's a great way to make the best of this week! It has been a pleasure spending our week with Lillian and Kristen as our leaders. The girls are intelligent, funny, charismatic and entertaining! They never fail to make us laugh during lunch and dinner. Yesterday afternoon the Governor and Secretary of State shared their college admission stories with us and taught us all a valuable lesson; that we will all succeed no matter what different routes life decides to take us on.

I couldn't have said it better myself, everyone attending Girls State this year is already on the road to success! Good luck to Lillian as she travels to school in Taiwan, and Kristen who will be attending a Baylor University in Texas. They will thrive and become all the more successful as they continue reaching for the stars!

The Eighth Deadly Sin

KelliVanNuys & SyndiNnorom
Mesquite City Reporters

Sleep: an addictive process so evil it can be ranked as eighth on the deadly sins list. Arizona Girls State understands that the clutches of sleep have gripped too many teenage girls for too long, and they fight violently to defeat sleep. How you may ask? By keeping the hours allotted for rest at the bare minimum for survival, Girls State has begun the process of detoxification for the drug sleep, which has become and enforced new habit of 'awakeness' in all its members, begging the foundation for healthier lives.

The long cherished tradition of the teenage girl has been maximum amounts of sleep especially when the school districts lose their power to a much dreaded "Summer Break." The same way that the American Legion Auxiliary have inspired patriotism and fought for the veterans. They also encourage the citizens of Girls State to join them in their campaign against the malicious addictions of sleep.

Many wonder: what could possibly

be so wrong with sleep to cause such an opposition? The answer: everything. Though sleep is considered a "natural process," it limits the amount of productivity in a person. Almost half of the average person's life is spent sleeping! That kind of sloth is exactly the reason our youth today is plagued and misled.

Also, sleep supports dreams, a process that occurs during REM sleep and inspires many to go out and do something. How many life-changing people have been caught 'making a difference' due to a dream or sub-conscious thoughts that occur while falling asleep. The amount is just too high.

And finally, the dreams we have at night give us a false sense of accomplishment, making it easier to lay off the dreams of our awake lives. After all everyone strives to go to school in their underwear, hardly anyone these days works towards being an artist, a politician, and doctor.

The bottom line is: Nobody lands among the stars while sleeping and Girls State knows this. They know and understand that sleep is wicked and that exhaus-

tion is just the demon attempting to reel a person back in. The next time sleep deprivation has turned a friend into a mellow and forgetful being, or into a bouncy and off-the-walls person breaking out of their shell, remember to thank Girls State and their constant fight against sleep. Without them, the insanity that comes from breaking free of sleep's cruel grip would not have helped shatter the wall to the shyness and create lasting friendships.

Sleep deprivation really does have its perks. In the past couple of days I've heard so much honesty, and honesty itself is the key to integrity. As days get longer and nights get shorter, girls begin to transition from the overall smiley goodness to blunt sarcastic answers. I mean what could make this stay better? Of course, I have suffered just as much and my fuse begins to run short. I don't mean to be sassy I just am.

Hang in there ladies, we just have one more full day! And word for the wise, if you end up campaigning for girls to come to Girls State next year. Suggest for them to bring lots of caffeine.

Paiute Spotlight

SyndiNnorom
Mesquite City Reporter

Just a little spotlight about county rallies from Paiute County!

- ~Thank you Heidi Larson
- ~ Definitely know what I've been told!
- ~ Top county is what we'll hold
- ~ I've been told through all the town
- ~ Paiute is the best around!
- ~ County? Paiute
- ~ County? Paiute
- Both Now!! Paiute x2!
- Let's Go Paiute!

Goodbye Souls Sisters!

SelenaLugo
Saguaro City Reporter

Girls State has been an amazing experience. We all made new friends and have learned so much about government. I hope that you all made memories that you will cherish forever.

I wish you all the best because I know you have the qualities to achieve all your goals.

She is clothed in strength and dignity and she laughs without fear of the future...

Proverbs 31:25

Friday at Girls State

CaseyEllwood
Palo Verde City Reporter

Going into this Friday, there will be relief, joy, accomplishments, and a little bit of sadness. In all reality, this will be our last hurrah. Our last chance to bond with our cities, our last chance to bond with our roomies. We will share our one last silence applause. We will wear our

one last dirty T-shirt. We will join in our one last prayer. But this WILL NOT be the last time we will be together.

Leaving this hectic, cramped, and emotional week, we leave as stronger people, with strong knowledge of government, and with great new friends by our sides. The experiences that we have endured will not be able to be put into words when we are expected to explain

the adventure that has taken place at Girls State.

We will be forever grateful for this amazing, once in a lifetime opportunity. On behalf of Palo Verde City, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time and efforts to making this past week the best Girls State we girls could have ever hoped for.

Girls State is Best Week

Stephanie Tupas
Mimosa City Reporter

Girl State welcomed a guest speaker, Paula Aboud, and I'm sure she inspired many of the girls here. She shared her beliefs on her WANT for equality, among every American because that is our right as a citizen, but most importantly as a person. She also discussed girl power. Just because we are girls does not mean we can't do it, but because we are girls we sure CAN.

She is such a lovely lady, she took the time to mingle with the House and Senators. I got the chance to talk to her and take a picture, and before I had to depart,

she left with these words, "You are it, you are our future" and you have probably all heard that before but it's true. We ARE it. We have thousands of opportunities, that other girls in the world do not have, and we should never take it for granted. Especially with all the potential.

On a different note, do you wanna know who has talent? Well Mimosa does! Here in the City of Mimosa, three really talented ladies performed in the 2013 Girl State talent show along with twenty-two other girls. From Mimosa there was Haley Pugh singing amazingly with her uke, Jeri Franklin with an awesome a-capella, and Alondra Torres, with skilled moves did a

color guard presentation.

I kid you not, they blew my mind. Everyone of them. I did not expect that Girls State would contain a plethora of talent, but who am I kidding? Why wouldn't there be talent along with the rest of the traits each girl here posses? What an entertaining event.

So its sad but true this is my last article for the Newsletter because Girls State is quickly coming to an end. It is crazy that these girls that were all strangers almost a week ago, are now people I call friends. It is going to be a bittersweet goodbye. I will miss this city. Forever a Mimosian.

Would you rather...

Samantha Orwoll & Savannah Dotterman
Sycamore City Reporters

In the world of Girls State, we knew opinions were strong so we decided to play a game of "would you rather" Girls State style. We polled ten girls on what they would do if they had to pick one.

So, would you rather...

- Become President or the Queen of England?
~Queen of England received 60% of the votes
- Get 2 hours of sleep or skip a meal?
~Skip a meal won with 70% of the votes

- Be Governor or Mayor?
~ Mayor won with 70% of the votes
- Not take a shower for 3 days or not brush teeth for 3 days?
~ Not take a shower for 3 days won with 60% of the votes
- Have forgotten to pack walking shoes or forgotten to pack and outfit for the Magical Evening?
~ The Magical Evening outfit being forgotten won with 60% of the votes
- Speak in front of everyone or have to do "lost and found" at lunch?
~ It was a TIE!

Where we go from Here

Araceli Islas
Pinon City Reporter

Lilly Korinek, our 2013 Governor's ending words made me realize just how fast life is. Time has gone by so quickly, both at Girls State and in high school; it has passed in the blink of an eye. It made me reflect on how I've spent, this past week, my last three years, about college admissions and most importantly my friends. This past week, we have had opportunities that are priceless.

At the beginning of the week, we all had goals to accomplish, whether it was running for an office or getting to know most of the citizens, we came here with a vision. This week began slowly as we got to know each other, but now as we approach

the end of this week, life beyond Girls State and away from all of these wonderful individuals almost seems unimaginable. We have campaigned for a political office, made long lasting friendships, learned about government and, most importantly, ourselves.

Lilly's words made us think about where we go from here. So take time to reflect on what you will take away from Girls State and what this has inspired you to do. Also take time to reflect on your high school experience, fast forward to the end of senior year and ask yourself, what will you regret, what will you take away from your decisions and what are the moments you will remember forever?

At least for me, Lilly's words of advice brought up these questions and caused me

to really think about where I want to go, what I want to accomplish and who I want to be. Lilly mentioned the song called This by Darius Rucker, this is a verse from that song, "Maybe it didn't turn out how I planned/ maybe that's why I'm such, such a lucky man."

It goes to show that even though the path we may take to our goals may not be exactly be how we imagined it; those "detours" in our lives will inevitably shape us. In the whirlwind of life, the most important things to remember are the moments that make us who we are. So take a moment, before Girls State is over, reflect on where you are, where you want to be and be open to whatever life may throw your way.

Shining is What Jems Do!

EmogenedeGrasse
Juniper City Reporter

All of us enjoyed the speeches given on Wednesday. All of the candidates described why they are the right choice beautifully. Juniper City was especially excited to see their fellow citizens up on stage. It is Juniper's hope that Jo Ann Nam was elected Justice of the Supreme Court, Jaylia Yan secures the position of State Treasurer, Sadaf Aayar is selected as Attorney General/ Girls Nation Senator, and, of course, Abby Sellers wins the honor of being the Girls State Governor. However, the opposition was fierce and everyone here is suffering from a lack of sleep. Even with this lack of sleep, the candidates from Juniper definitely brought their best for those speeches.

Our candidates from Juniper have been able to keep going because of three things. The first caffeine. They all have been sure to get a morning coffee to get the day started, and for the rest of the day



its soda pop. The second thing is desire. It is so obvious that each of the young ladies from Juniper are very motivated and they have chosen a position they truly feel they will excel at. They have chosen offices that they believe can help them in the future. The third thing is the support of friends. Throughout the whole campaign, all of the girls in our city have supported one

another. They have been a constant source of encouragement!! This is one of the greatest sources of motivation!

Congratulations to all the girls who secured positions in the State and County level! A special congratulations to Abigail Sellers, our new governor and to everyone in Juniper City who was elected!! Everyone in Juniper City did an amazing job!!

Farewell to Arizona Girls State

SaminaRoshetko
Juniper City Reporter

As this week closes and I am writing my last article I am very saddened. We all got so close over only a couple of

days. Never have I seen such a group of young women leaders in one place. I can only hope to keep in contact with my entire city and the girls I have gotten to know outside my city. This was truly the experience of a lifetime and I feel I have

changed. Whether it is the 10 pounds I lost from walking and taking the stairs or my raised confidence I have no idea (hahaha). But I love these girls and will miss them all dearly.

The Everlasting Effects of Girls State

MeganWieser & **Naomi**Worob
Cholla City Reporters

In addition to the patriotism that Girls State has implemented this week, the experiences we have gained have taught us much more. Today the delegates of Girls State were excitedly chattering about their future dreams and aspirations. They talked about going to Yale and becoming impressive world-class leaders. Everyone has incredible goals and no obstacles to stand in their way with the incredible values they have developed here at Girls State 2013.

For a moment, we paused to admire the people we are here with. They are all girls from around the state, equally motivated, and equally accomplished as we all thought we were. Each and every girl at Girls State possesses several outstanding and exceptional qualifications. As Rachel Price from the City of Cholla puts it, Girls

State is "a humbling experience. It gives you a sense of community, since people are so intense and driven. That's not something you see much of at school. Here we fit in because we are all equally driven and have a passion for learning." Price's words ring true, as each girl expresses her abilities to lead, perform, and collaborate effectively with her peers. This experience has taught us all to apply our extensive educational skills while staying humble about our tremendous achievements.

Though some girls may have arrived this year's session of Girls State as shy and reserved individuals, many of these inspirational girls have transformed into leaders who can now speak their minds in front of hundreds of people. "Yeah, speaking isn't really my thing", Catrina Letterman of Cholla City casually states. However, most people would not peg Let-

terman as the stage fright type after listening to her humorous speech about the game of Monopoly in comparison to the job of county assessor and her powerful speech about the unfair underestimations of women, minors, and adolescents. She mustered up the courage to address a crowd of over 300 teenagers about something that came from the bottom of her heart. After overcoming the fear of shyness, she and many additional Girls State delegates, are now on the rise to becoming influential leaders in our community and government.

Humbleness and self-confidence go hand in hand when forming a highly-functioning government. As the delegates of the 66th session of Girls State develop these everlasting skills and apply them towards their amazing dreams and aspirations, it is incredible to imagine what the future will bring and how they will impact our world.

