

Arizona Girls State Independent



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Juniper takes a new perspective on community service.

**Sarah Feeney
& Savannah Campbell**
Juniper City Reporters

As you all know, Arizona Girls State has decided to help serve our troops overseas by sending them small folded flags with messages from the Girls State citizens. We want to show them that we care and help the soldiers fighting for us remember a piece of home.

As it turns out, here in Juniper City one of our very own Jackalopes has a personal connection to the brave men and women fighting overseas. Natalie Nicklin is currently romantically involved with one of our own American soldiers. The Jackalopes knew this must be difficult for her, and together the denizens of Juniper City hatched a plan to use this service project to make a difference for Natalie's boyfriend and his fellow soldiers.

With the approval of the Girls State

staff, whom we all appreciate, Juniper City has decided to send their flags to Natalie's boyfriend's unit, so that he can pass them out to the rest of those brave fighting Americans. We feel that this will bring a more personal touch to the already heartfelt gesture by the American Legion Auxiliary. We have also decided to all sign a get-well card for Natalie's boyfriend who was wounded while serving.

We at Juniper want to remind the troops that we care, that we remember and appreciate their sacrifices every day. Everyone at Girls State is participating in this, of course, but we're glad to be able to make a more personal and emotional connection. We sincerely hope that our small contribution can bring some joy and hope to those who have sacrificed so much for our welfare.

It's important to remember that we Girls State citizens are very lucky to have people who care about us fighting for our country, far away from even the comforts of a Uni-

versity of Arizona dorm room. We have so much here in America and our soldiers in the armed forces give a lot of that up to fight for what they believe in. Even more, those veterans and those who support them have formed the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary to help teach America's youth about how our government works. This is an incredible experience and it is even more incredible when you imagine what many of these people have already been through. They don't get paid to provide this unique opportunity for us; they do it out of the kindness and willingness to serve that lies within their hearts.

Girls State is not an experience we will have again, and it was made possible by those who serve and have served in the United States Armed Forces. We must all remember as we send off our little flags that somewhere, someone will be brought some small measure of joy in return for the peace and security we enjoy here in Arizona.

City to City: The Community called Girls State

Brenna Leech
Independent's Feature Reporter

Last night, the girls of all the cities got together to celebrate one another for the annual Sister Cities event! Cities were paired up with girls from different counties, and they all went out to the courtyards to have a little fun. It was the responsibility of each city to present a gift to their sisters. The gift could be individual or group, but it had to be from the heart. Most cities spent the afternoon creating their gifts for their ladies.

Mimosa City gave Manzanita a chain made up of over a hundred paper links with origami swans attached. The swans

had the names of the roommates on them. It took twenty six girls to get it down two flights of stairs. Others, such as Juniper and Cholla, wrote homemade cards to girls corresponding to their list number. Still others gave out candy tidbits or glow sticks, such as the chicas from Ocotillo and Manzanita. Yucca City felt horrible that they didn't have any gifts for Piñon, so they wrote messages to their sisters on their lunch table today and played "Gigalo" in front of the entire Girls State. Safe to say, Piñon forgave Yucca City.

"Gigalo" was one of the many dancing name games that the sisters played last night. The sounds of "Little Sally Walker",

"Big Bootay", and "Human Pretzel" could be heard all around the dorms. Delegates who had never seen one another before became fast friends, and some even reconnected with fellow girls they knew from back in middle school.

Sister Cities was a complete success, and it opened the delegates' eyes to the sheer number of girls here at Girls State. It is easy to make friends with girls here, because everybody can share this special experience with you, and you cannot say that about anyone back home. Keep up the good work, ladies, and let's make it a goal to meet as many amazing chicas as possible before we leave!

Community Service & City to Citypage 1

Quirkypage 2

Tired & Intentionspage 3

Capital City & Campaigningpage 4

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Penny Maklary, Director
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2011 Girls State Reporters

- Meghann Mingle - Pinon
- Shelby Stringer - Pinon
- Lea Shapiro - Saguario
- Doris Singer - Saguario
- Christine Kweon - Sycamore
- Bethany Ward - Sycamore
- Irena Krstic - Mesquite
- Jazmine Mincey - Mesquite
- Ana Licona - Ironwood
- Erica Wu - Ironwood
- Tessa Adnrascik - Mimosa
- Shannon Beckham - Mimosa
- Alexa Curran - Cholla
- Lauren Martin - Cholla
- Roxanna Pitones - Yucca
- Cassandra Wessel - Yucca
- Tianna Cann - Palo Verde
- Celine Doyle - Palo Verde
- Arielle Leal - Ocotillo
- Sarah Nikkari - Ocotillo
- Margaret Aller - Manzanita
- Nicole Fisher - Manzanita
- Sarah Fenney - Juniper
- Savannah Campbell - Juniper
- Brenna Leech - Feature Reporter

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Quirky Mesquite

Irena Krstic
Mesquite City Reporters

Mesquite city is not only a family of gorgeous, brilliant and diversified women; it is also the center of quirkiness. The Mesquite ladies add an interesting aspect to Girls State with their random abilities and characteristics.

Mesquite Mayor Raissa Mutuyimana starts off the group with her ability to make a variety of obnoxious disgusting faces which she has demonstrated to the shock of the other girls. Jazmine Mincey is a skilled master of the nose horn which can range in volume but never fails to impress. Christina Apalategui can invert her arm due to her double jointed limbs, to an almost 360 degree angle in an extremely unnatural way. The incredibly witty Emma Harman, potential Girls State lobbyist can wiggle her ears in a manner that always attracts audiences. You probably wouldn't think that Jeanette Hopper has played football with boys for four years, but this fact not only shows that she is a team player, but that she represents that women can do anything that men can do (and better!). Kristen Martin adds to the group with her crazy amounts of sarcasm and wit. Marissa Fullford, the Mesquite potential "Govenator" can crack her nose, and has also disclosed that she used to poop behind the couch until she finally overcame this disability at five years old, to the disgust of her roommate Kelsey. Potential "Son-ator" Kelsey Larson has a condition where her hands turn purple when she's cold. If you see that her hands are purple, please offer her mittens or a sweater. Mesquite sweetheart Symone Stephens has a terrifying fear of bees and an even bigger hatred of honey. The big personality of Mesquite and hands on PC, Victoria Mariscal was the most legitimately realistic frog for Halloween. We are still waiting for pictures from said Hal-

loween. Megan Molloy, our future Broadway star can do the wave with her eyebrows. It is an incredible sight to witness. Amy Allen, queen of alliteration, learned to cope with hardship at a young age when she overcame her inability to tie shoes. She was the last one to learn how to do this very difficult act in kindergarten, a fact that she will never forget, but which has made her stronger. Zoe Spaulding is the resident movie buff of the hall, knowing every single line of the incredibly enlightening movie, Finding Nemo. Xochitl Monge, our wild and outgoing personality in the city, has a maniac laugh that is contagious to say the least. Potential Girls Nation candidate Jessica "Disney" Ament owns over 50 snow globes which she keeps dangerously above her bed. She further explains that she is afraid that they might fall and kill her, although she is yet to move them to a safer location. Tayler Jondall thankfully overcame her "nude baby" phase when she was younger, sparing the other girls a streak down hall in her birthday suit as she did when she was five years old. Leslie "Gonzo" Gonzalez, our artistic soul sister, has previously had 17 piercings which have since closed, to her dismay. Shelbi has a bald spot in the back of her head that she covers up very well. You probably wouldn't notice it unless you were told, but it is a quirk that doesn't affect her sweet personality. Ashley has prematurely grey hair which simply add to her maturity and grace. Finishing off our fabulous bunch is our incredible city advisor, "Mama Bear" Collins who is a scooter speeder. Ferraris and Mustangs beware, Mama Bear will beat you in any drag race.

So the next time you see a Mesquite girl, know that they are full of quirky randomness. Each and every girl's differences make Mesquite City an interesting metropolis. Whether it's streaking or uncontrollably pooping, our randomness makes us unique. Embrace your inner quirkiness and let it shine.



Are You Tired Yet?

JazmineMincey
Mesquite City Reporter

It's just barely the middle of the week ladies and we are feeling the effects of the rigorous activity already. If the campaigning hasn't worn you out yet the long walks around the campus must have! With the hot Tucson sun blazing on us while we walk and the distance in itself, it is almost a guarantee that you will feel the tiring effects.

From the late nights, to the early mornings I know for a fact that this schedule is very different than our daily routine. It is

imperative that we don't burn out though ladies, we have to make sure that we are getting an efficient amount of sleep as well as staying hydrated.

I don't know about the Nationalists, but the federalists have a reason to be tired! We have been working so hard to make sure that our party is well represented in the Girls State Government. For the federalists the Monday nights party rally was, let's just say, "Pretty Legit"! The PC's have been working very hard to make the Federalist Party the dominating party but without the hard work of the spirit

committee to liven up the crowd Monday night, some key elements of our rally may have been missing.

Many cities have lost a member due to elements such as heat exhaustion, dehydration, or another one of the many various health issues out there, but just a head's up, the nurses are here to help you. If you feel like you are sick or may be coming down with something, let a nurse know. Don't be afraid that you are automatically going to be sent home, get the help you need; we want the best for our Girls State.



Good Intentions?

MargaretAller
Manzanita City Reporter

Listen up Ladies! Last night we joined in a frenzy of madness for meet and greet, and at first impression, I thought it was going to be a schmooze party. Boy was I wrong. Like many of you, the citizens that were introduced graduated from acquaintances to friends. The contacts and people at Girls State are lovely ladies that I'm honored to know.

The evening was cool and somewhat breezy, creating an atmosphere of comfort for the girls who were anxious to get their campaign rolling. For many of us, it was more of a wait and watch than meet and greet. The individuality from each girl's campaign was expected, but amazing nonetheless. As the pressure increases, friendships grow stronger. In Manzanita, it

was a party to campaign! Like many other cities, we gathered in a common goal to conquer our campaign trail. Worries from home were forgotten. Miraculously, it was a drama free zone.

As the tension decreased, there was a nearly tangible feeling of ease at the party. Meeting new faces from outside developed into weighty conversations. Megan Mingle explained her intentions for going to Girls Nation. Not only does she want to represent the great state of Arizona, but she explained her desire to go and see Arlington Cemetery to pay a red rose tribute to her veteran grandfather. The ambition from candidates to run for Girls Nation and another weighty positions is inspiring, but expected from girls of this caliber. Being able to put enough time in for each speech and campaign is a struggle,

but we wish you the best.

One of the most amazing things about the meet and greet is revealing the connections from intelligent and amazing girls around the state. Nerves were set at ease and it felt like we've known each other for years. For some of us, remembering names is a feat, but that doesn't make any girl less important! As the night grew older, I found myself struggling. Name association failed me and I wanted to call everyone either Catelyn or Angela. Please, no judgment.

If I could take anything from this whole Girls State experience, it's honestly not going to be just winning an election or the food. Like you, I'm going to remember the wonderful young women. While you should stay true to your passions, don't forget that it's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.

And the Capital City is...

Christine Kweon
& **Bethany Ward**
Sycamore City Reporters

This is the moment each and every city dreams of. Our hearts will throb in anxiousness, our hands clammy and grasped tight in hope. How exactly do you reach this goal? We all know that we are judged by the staff members, in particular during the meal times, flag advance and retreat.

They base the evaluation a lot on "what they see", according to Kaibab Junior Councilors Ellen Hill and Brooke Mar-maro. In other words, winning the title

Capital City depends on the staff mem-bers' prerogative.

For example, though pride for your city is a positive quality, over rowdiness is det-rimental to the city's cause. By all means chants and cheers are great, but they are inappropriate before grace and during flag. However, there are several alternatives to win brownie points in this race towards the title of Capital City.

"Salute properly, with all bags and belongings laid aside, left arm behind your back, right hand over your heart with your arms at right angles," said Brooke. These small details are surprisingly just what the

staff may "notice."

Other actions, such as walking on the path (a surprisingly hard thing to do), removing the trays of staff members after meals, and even simply dressing appro-priately will earn their high regards and attention.

Of course, there are still taboos that are major pet peeves of those that you want to impress. Common sense things, such as not texting at dinner and wearing badges are a must do.

Over all, respectability is vital to your city's chance of winning the Capital City title.

Posters and Unicorns

Roxanna Pitones
& **Cassandra Wessel**
Yucca City Reporters

After a long night creat-ing campaigning goods, the Yucca Unicorns pulled them-selves out of their barns to join in listening to the Pinal County Attorney. As they progressed through the day their spirits rose and their personalities began to shine through with elections near. The intensity of campaign-ing took over their rooms and minds. Yucca's hall was

filled with posters once out-side cities were able to gallop down the hall shouting praise for the Yucca Unicorns.

Later in the evening, mem-bers were able to meet the candidates allowing them to see the friendly competition and campaign even more for their desired position in the government. It all ended with a city meeting to dis-cuss important matters in their city. Yucca wishes all nominees luck in the 2011 Girls State Elections! Go Unicorns!

Jungle Fever

Celine Doyle
& **Tianna Cann**
Palo Verde City Reporters

The girls of Palo Verde have created a swinging tropical atmosphere through-out their dorm. Their inspired décor was a direct result of their wild personalities and competitive natures. The atmosphere adds to the excitement of the Girls State experience. Once you walk into their city you can hear a roar of enthusiasm. "It was a good team effort. We worked hard to make our city beauti-ful," says Maria Austin.

Everyone participates, from decorations to cam-

paigning, we are a single unit working as a team. "Although we might run against each other, we assisted one another in the creation of slogans and other campaign materials," Caitlynn Grijalva expresses to Anajanessa Luna.

China Rae Newman has done an EXCEPTIONAL job drawing our mascot and other art. "I would never be this active in my school. I am grateful for this experience and will take this confidence back wherever I go," shouts Anajanessa Luna.

To end on a positive note, it's safe to say the rest of the week will be an unforgettable experience.

Rituals for Posters In Ocotillo

Arielle Leal
& **Sarah Nikkari**
Ocotillo City Reporters

Campaigning is underway and in full force. Girls are going from floor to floor in search of places to place their campaign articles and get themselves known. Being a candidate is a task all its own and obsta-cles are everywhere. One obstacle many candidates have to jump is posting materi-als in foreign halls.

In the city of Ocotillo there are many

steps and rituals you must undergo in order to even be considered to campaign. First, you must ask the permission of the mayor. Once you receive her blessing the city conjures a task you must complete. One of the tasks that many have to do is "shuffling."

"A modern dance craze sweeping the nation, as an amateur expert I enjoy teach-ing the candidates," said Ocotillo shuffling expert Emily Versen. She is also the room-mate of the Ocotillo spirit, Esmeralda, the mysterious delegate who was unable to

attend. If shuffling is overdone you will be asked to summon her spirit. Girls in search of campaigning space will run up and down the halls exclaiming, "Esmeralda do your worst."

Girls should not be alarmed. Ocotillo is very accepting of all candidates who abide to the customs. The city feels that letting go of your insecurities will only prove you make a good candidate, and it seems so far that the 2011 Arizona Girls State has nothing but very qualified young ladies.