

Arizona Girls State Independent



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Ironwood Gives Thanks

Erica Wu
Ironwood City Reporter

Bright colored posters, moving nonstop, and constant campaigning, this can only mean one thing: elections. The Ironwood girls have spent all their down time making posters, hanging up signs, and creating cute handouts. The meet and greet was successful for most of the girls, it was nice to mingle with other cities, counties, and parties. We made many new friends, formed new bonds, and campaigned for ourselves.

Although there are many people running for the same positions, not everyone can win. As Mrs. Wieser would say, "I did not fail, I was just not successful." If you didn't win what you ran for, it's okay. The girls here are more than qualified for every position, but not everyone can be number one. Don't give up, be nice, congratulate the other girls, and keep your chin up.

In our city, we have many girls who were selected for county and state positions. Congratulations to Ariel Balthazard

(Superior Court Judge), Julie Macdonough (County Sheriff), Maryam Tanbal (County School Superintendent), Senators: Sarah Patel and Megan Colvin, State Representatives: Maribel Hernandez, Andrea Dame, Madeline Cordray and Flor Flores, Rachel Quatraro (Clerk of Superior Court), Aliah Burrows (Board of Supervisors- District 1), and last but certainly not least, our Girls Nation finalist: Megan Colvin. Congrats to all of you wonderful ladies! You all took the time and effort to campaign and your hard work paid off in the end. You all represent Ironwood very well. Your fellow Woodchucks are all so proud of everyone who ran in the elections.

Girls State is almost over. It's hard to believe all the things that were accomplished in just one week. We've become close to the girls in our city, decorated doors, campaigned, I folded flags, wrote ordinances, created city books, listened to guest speakers, and walked for what seemed like forever. We have all accomplished so much, and we should all be so

proud for just making it here. It's sad to see this week come to an end, although I'm sure we are all ready to get home and get some sleep.

The girls of Ironwood city would like to thank everyone for all of the help and support they've received. We would like to thank Ms. Madrid for being a great adviser, Ms. Wiesel our Paiute County Advisor, Kristen Linzy and Robin Ferguson, our amazingly fun junior counselors, as well as all of the other staff members that have been there for us from the start. Thanks to the store advisors for keeping us hydrated and filling us up with delicious snacks, thank you to the bank manager for keeping our money safe, and of course the wonderful cafeteria helpers that helped nourish our bodies.

We would also love to thank Monique Trejo and Allison Schannep for being a constant role model and inspiration to all of us girls. We really appreciate everything all of you have done for us. We will never forget this experience. Go Woodchucks!

Pinon Talent

Shelby Stringer
Pinon City Reporter

Not all the ladies of Pinon are participating in the Talent Show, but that does not mean that they are without talent. I have seen with my own eyes the interesting and special skills that these wonderful girls possess.

Most people saw Johnae Kenney dance for some bling during dinner Wednesday night, but only the lucky girls of Pinon were able to watch Johnae's Tahitian hula dance; it was quite memorable.

We have athletes such as competitive swimmer for 10 years, India Parsons. Charlie Carlson, cheer captain from Heber. Sylvia Corral is quite the baller and she plays tennis like Andy Roddick. Ranita

Sorensen, American Legion Auxiliary Junior member, is a tri-varsity captain of soccer, volleyball, and basketball. Colleen Sikora is an 8-time hunter jumper champion. Shelby Stringer captained her ice hockey team to nationals and is a professional creeper. Solitaire champ, Alexis Freeman can beat solitaire in 50 seconds on the computer!

We also have artists galore in Pinon. Khadijah Jones dances contemporary as well as hip-hop and can sing beautifully. Stacey Arellano, a poet, is a ballerina, hip-hop dancer and photographer. Shawdeen Mitchell is a flutist and plays the piccolo, in addition to learning K-Pop (Korean Pop) dance. Jessica Gonzalez is the lead guitar in David Meets Goliath, a soft rock band from Tucson.

If you like puppies, adorable Jenny Adams gives them vaccinations. Meghann Mingle builds robots, enough said. Sam Lesar is a professional scrap-booker. Stephanie Hudson won the gold medal for Future Career Community Leaders of America; she represented our state with almost a perfect score at nationals.

If you like pig jokes, Holly Lebda has a ton. Kayla Hutchinson shows steers, that's right, cows, for FFA (Future Farmers of America). Nikitha Ramohalli speaks Hindi and dances crazy. Taylor Peterson, Mayor Tay-Tay, is rifle/colorguard and ROTC at her school. Miranda Guzman's tongue can do the wave, it's kind of amazing. Erin Pryzbylinski just cracks me up, she's hilarious. I love the girls in Pinon; they are all really special.

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- Sarah Fenney - Juniper
- Savannah Campbell - Juniper
- Brenna Leech - Feature Reporter

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Boys, Boys, Boys

Irena Krstic
 Mesquite City Reporter

Now that we are close to ending the week, I'm sure many of you are very sad that this memorable week is about to come to a close, but at the same time I'm sure you are also enthusiastic about seeing your families, friends and mainly...the fellas. Now I'm sure that you are all glad to have this time to bond with the girls, but the majority of you miss the male population. I've noticed the looks and hollers that you ladies have been giving to the passing guys during our walks to the separate buildings, which further demonstrates how boy crazy a week of girl seclusion can make us.

When asked how they feel about the lack of contact with boys this past week, Mesquite lovely ladies Megan Molloy, Victoria Mariscal, and Jasmine Mincey had somewhat different opinions. Victoria said that "Its definitely a different experience because I'm used to being around boys all the time, even at my house because I have two older brothers. However it's definitely eye opening to see how all these girls can come together to meet new friends and make new memories. It's the complete opposite of what I expected a bunch of girls would be like after a week of being together".

Megan Mulloy and Jasmine Mincey represent the girls that have boyfriends waiting for them upon

their return. Megan's opinion on the no boys situation differs slightly from Victoria's. She says "I miss my boyfriend, because we talk every day but its really hard not being able to actually see him. I really enjoy talking to him because I can get a break from all the girl talk by listening to a guy's reaction to some of the stories. Adding some testosterone into the mix is definitely keeping me calm especially because talking to girls is a much different experience. I love the girls here and I'm going to be so sad when its time to leave Girls State, but it will also be great to see my boyfriend". Jazmine Mincey says "There is so much estrogen in one place, I miss my testosterone filled life back home. I really miss my boyfriend, but these girls have created a haven for me to feel comfortable as if I were home".

Though we have all bonded over this past week, and made friends that will last a lifetime, it's a majority vote that the lack of boys has forced our concentration to wander, as displayed by the reactions shown by the girls during the lengthy walks. The "unofficial" Girls State song is another representation of the how we are boy crazy, but please remember, the boys will still be there when you return, but the memories and experiences you have at Girls State can not be relived. So live each moment to the fullest, and embrace every second that we have left of this extraordinary week. Let's make our last two days the best they can be!

Just a Few Words

Shannon Beckham
 Mimosa City Reporter

To all of my Girls Staters out there, I am so proud to serve as your Gov'na (British accent of course). Every one of you that I have had the pleasure of meeting has inspired me to run for this position, and to now lead and represent you!

All of the amazing acts seen at the Talent Show, from stand up comedy to poetry power and Gaga originals, prove just how amazing the 64th session

of Girls State truly is!

Mimosa, I love you guys. Thank you for drawing my sharpie abs, cutting out soccer balls, and making me keel over with laughter every single day! Mama Shields, you have been my number one source of encouragement and I couldn't have replaced you for anyone; thank you so much.

It's been a fabulous-filled week, and I owe it all to all of you.

Love your Gov'na,
 Shannon :)

On Actual Politics

Meghann Mingle
 Pinon City Reporter

I don't know about the rest of the cities, but the Piñon Girls were heated up at lunch-time after the first speaker. After a short period of confusion as to what the speaker was supposed to talk about (only later did we realise that the speakers had switched times) we slowly realised that the first speaker was indeed Sharon Collins, the Southern Arizona Office of the Attorney General, and not Rep. Katie Hobbs, Arizona State Representative. Several of our girls asked hard-hitting questions during Ms. Collins' presentation, voicing their own political opinions on topics such as Senate Bill 1070. At lunch, the

conversation got more in-depth, as members of the Piñon City drew out debate and emotional outcry mostly over what they felt was a brusque and narrow presentation from Ms. Collins.

This week has brought out large amounts of debate on various political issues aside from SB 1070 such as the controversy of the Westboro Baptist Church, Democrat v. Republican ideologies, and such.

We've definitely learned how to relate to one another on a political platform, and despite all of the differences (or lack thereof) between the Federalists and the Nationalists, we've come together and learned more about each other, and expanded our minds in ways we never expected by the spread of ideas and stories.

Arizona Senate takes on a variety of issues.

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

It was the first day of the Senate session on Thursday and the girls buckled down and got right to work. First Savannah Campbell was elected President of the Senate and then the incredibly helpful Mrs. Hamburger helped the girls divide into three committees: Appropriations, Education, and Judiciary.

Appropriations is responsible for collecting money for the state and its

programs, while Education is pretty self-explanatory. Judiciary is taking on the criminal and other assorted aspects of legislation.

The girls were all very driven and enthusiastic and quickly began working on a variety of bills to solve Arizona's issues. On Friday the Senate will debate and vote on their numerous bills. Some of these bills include a bill to help give young students mentors, a bill to help decrease violence in our prisons, and two bills to help stop discrimination in the workplace.

After the Senate makes their final deci-

sions, they will send the bills to the House and the Senate will start looking at the House bills.

All of these girls have shown incredible dedication, even if these bills won't actually become laws in Arizona. They are taking on real issues and hopefully this experience will help them when they go to college and beyond and they will embrace the future opportunities to work together to better Arizona's future. The legislative branch of Arizona Girls State is comprised of the future legislators, doctors, writers, artists, and scientists of Arizona State.

City to City: A Community called Girls State

Brenna Leech
Feature Reporter

"I have met people all around Girls State!" said Emily Webster from Ocotillo. "I love all of the girls!" exclaimed Windsor Smith of Saguaro City.

These chicas optimize all of Girls State. We have met people from all over Arizona, girls from other cities and counties here and in real life. We forged lasting friendships across the county lines. If you have not met anyone outside your city, do not despair! There is still time to meet people from all over this state!

"Getting involved has really helped

getting outside my city to encompass the state." Haylee Johnson of Juniper explained. As a PC, county, or state official, it is easy to get to know girls from other halls. Even if you are not one of these positions, all the ladies here have come sort of responsibility bigger than their own cities (excluding our lovely mayors).

I believe that these past few days we have grown close with those we have been working with. We have left our own small marks on the lives of others. We did it with a smile, a laugh, a hug, or a small act of kindness.

After six days of giggles, campaigns,

speeches, hopes, dreams, and sleep deprivation, the ladies of Girls State can sufficiently say that they have accomplished more in one short week than most teenagers accomplish all summer. This was not something that just sprang into existence. It was the product of hundreds of girls' hard work. It was a group project, an effort that took one and all to complete. Along the way, we met artists, athletes, future soldiers, politicians, debaters, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and all manner of professions. Everyone came together, and truly became a family. I am honored to be a part of the community that we call Girls State.

Saguaros Say an Early Farewell

Dori Singer
& **Lea Shapiro**
Saguaro City Reporters

Each city has an advisor that is a mentor to the citizens. In the city of Saguaro, the city advisor is more of a motherly figure. Miss Cuzzolina, or "Mama" as her girls call her, has embraced her girls as her "daughters" and taken them under her wings.

Unfortunately for the girls, Mama has

prior commitments and has to leave Girls State early. "I don't know how I'm going to survive without her! She was always there to wake us up in the mornings, eat meals with us, and just be there when we needed someone to talk to," says Saguaro City citizen Lindsey Stegemoller.

"She is a role model to me and I look forward to staying in close touch with her after we depart from Girls State." Another citizen, Natalie Branham, was asked how

she felt about her city advisor having to leave early. When asked, she replied with, "devastated. We didn't get long enough with her! I love her and will miss her and will hopefully be seeing her very soon! I love you Mama!"

The Saguaro City girls as well as the rest of Girls State will miss her very much during the last days here! Thank you so much Mama for being such an important part of our Girls State experience!

Happy Birthday Mimosa!

Shannon Beckham
Mimosa City Reporter

Mimosa 2011 is celebrating its 10th year as a city! Mimosa citizens have come a long way since they first began as Mutated Turtles. They have further

mutated into Martians, Millionaires, Magicians, Mariposas, Mystical Creatures, and now - the best of the best - Mamacitas!

We, the proud Mamacitas of Mimosa, love our city. It is our place for laughter, support, and above all else,

family.

Thank you Mrs. Maklary, Girls State Director, for forming our city in 2001! It has been a home away from home for many young women and we hope you are as proud of this city as we are!



Only In A Weeks Time

Lauren Martin
Cholla City Reporter

One week is all it takes. One week to learn about the state electoral process. One week to elect a fictitious governing board. One week to touch a girls heart and to build friendships that will last a lifetime.

Wednesday nights campaign speeches stirred great waves of emotion amongst the girls. Candidates stepped on stage

and spilled their hearts. They delivered speeches that aroused tears from the supportive girls who sat in the audience.

Thursday also brought heaps of emotion. The Governor and Secretary of State delivered farewell speeches and passed their duties on to the new officers. A talent show ended the day on a high note. Gleeful girls exited the State House on their tippy-toes and filled the street with their enthusiasm.

These events show the amount of love that has grown between the girls at Girls State. Six days ago we were strangers. We have made signs, campaigned, and fought for positions in office. Throughout the competition, we learned to help one another. We learned to support our teammates and to show patriotism for our country. Most importantly we learned to be proud American girls and only in a weeks time.