

Arizona Girls State Independent



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Girls Staters Give Back To Veterans

MissMurphy

Here at Arizona Girls State our girls have been collecting socks to give to the VA Medical Center. That's right SOCKS!

This project makes a great community service. These ladies collected 899 pairs of new socks for the VA.

The VA will use these socks for many of

the homeless veterans as well as the blind centers and many other wonderful places.

It is so wonderful to see this many girls performing community service. It truly is magical.

So congratulations to all of you ladies for such a wonderful job well done. The staff here at Girls State are very, very proud.



Manzy Parties

LainieVinikoor

Manzanita City Reporter

Now that Manzanita has been settled in, the girls are beginning to show their party pride. Manzanita's very own, Crystal Trejo was elected chairman of the Song and Slogan Committee for the nationalists has helped come up with several songs for the Nationalists. "Those songs and slogans seemed insignificant at first but I have come to believe it is a key factor for raising publicity and pride for the Nationalist Party." Said Crystal Trejo.

The Federalists have been just as busy. Rajeanne Robinson was elected for the Song and Slogan Committee and feels the same way about coming up with songs and slogans. "The songs and slogans really help pump up the energy in the party and make it fun." said Rajeanne Robinson. The songs are definitely the fun part including all the members of the party not just the leaders.

County and State elections are coming up and the whole city of Manzanita is backing up their two main officers, Lainie Vinikoor for Governor, and Crystal Trejo for Secretary of State. Manzanita wishes everyone the best of luck! Go Senioritas!

Yuccans are Pretty Funny!

HannaJones

Yucca City Reporter

The Yucca girls sure are full of that Yoshi spirit! While walking through these spirit filled halls laughter fills the air as Girls State brings out the best in each of them.

Mrs. Patterson, the Yucca Advisor, has been a great supporter of all the young ladies while always having her sweet personality.

We would also like to give a shout out to the Saguaro girls who we met last night. They sure will help us keep the good times rolling! We are really thrilled to see what comes ahead for the rest of the week.

Rah, Rah, Rah!

MicaelaEncinas

Saguaro City Reporter

The anticipation and anxiety are mounting! The butterflies are fluttering around furiously in our stomachs. Our slogans and signs are made and our attitudes are open to meeting new people to get our names out there.

On Tuesday, you knew it was elections. The girls in Saguaro were everywhere campaigning, meeting new girls and putting signs anywhere possible. Everyone was talking about elections! Getting ideas, clarifying what they should do or how to set themselves apart from the rest. The brain juices were flowing and the creativity was at an all time high!

The enthusiasm is climbing too. When I walk down our halls I hear our chants or the "Unofficial Girls State Song". Christen Brown excites everyone with her eagerness in the government and rallies everyone up in the Nats precinct meeting.

This spirit is what makes Girls State unforgettable, a life time achievement and Saguaro is stuffed to the brim with exhilaration and support for one another.



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2008 Girls State Reporters

Jessica Duran – Ironwood
Ashley Lara – Palo Verde
April Fischer – Juniper
Morgan Carstensen – Juniper
Lindsay Forry – Pinon
Morgan Ostwinkle – Ocotillo
Cassie Brucci – Mimosa
Danielle Torres – Cholla
Cassandra Bell – Cholla
Lainie Vinikoor – Manzanita
Hanna Jones – Yucca
Micaela Encinas – Saguaro
Alexis Easlick – Mesquite
Victoria Yerkovich – Sycamore

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Your Arizona Girls State Reporters

Ashley Lara of Palo Verde

My name is Ashley Lara. I attend Aenya High School in Vale. I am a Palo Verde citizen and currently the city clerk as well as the county clerk.

I have written in the local school newspapers since about the eighth grade. I am a total drama and music nerd and one day I hope to become a journalist/war correspondent with a little political dabbling. Good work ladies and I hear you are enjoying your Girls State.

Cassandra Bell of Cholla

I was born in New York but I live in Tucson. I attend Rincon High School where I am involved in National Honors Society and the Unity Club.

Here at Girls State I am running for the position of Governor with the slogan of “Ding Dong Bell”!

Jessica Duran of Ironwood

When my counselor first approached me about applying to Arizona Girls State I had no idea what the program involved. She told me that it is a prestigious program and that I should put in for it. I filled out an application that read, “My name is Jessica Duran. I am a 17-year old student in the class of 2009 at Cactus Shadows high School. I would love to attend Arizona Girls State because...”

What my application did not relate is that I am super excited to embrace my senior year and graduate from high school! I plan on attending ASU although I have not yet decided on a major.

Great passions of mine are dance, art, and writing. Painting and drawing are relaxing ways to express my mood and I appreciate all pieces for what they are.

Performance dance is exhilarating! I participate in a dance company through school. My outgoing personality allows me to feel extremely collected on stage and off.

My writing ability sparked my interest in journalism, which led me to volunteer for the reporter position and write for the Girls State Independent. Arizona Girls State truly is “the best state in the land.”

Victoria Yerkovich of Sycamore

Hello, my name is Victoria Yerkovich (Torrie). I am 17 years of age and attend Globe High School. I live with my parents Chris and Michelle and twin brothers Tony and Tyler.

In my spare time I enjoy photography, journalism and hanging with my friends. During school I like to be involved in many extra curricular activities such as Student Government and photojournalism classes.

I am really easy going and I love to have a good time. I like meeting new people which makes Girls State really enjoyable.

Morgan Ostwinkle of Ocotillo

I am from Millennium High School in Goodyear, Arizona where I am in Varsity Cheer, student council executive council, National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. I work in a fishing and mountain shop at Sport Chalet and I love the outdoors! I am currently part of Ocotillo City and having a great experience!

Danielle Torres of Cholla

My name is Danielle Torres, I am a representative of Cholla but I am originally from Chandler. I attend Hamilton High School. Some of the activities that I really enjoy doing include hanging with my friends, speech and debate, as well as reading.

As a delegate at Girls State I am trying to involve myself in as many activities as possible without running myself down and still having a fun time.

I am the chairman of the platform committee for the Nationalists, and I am running for the position of Supreme Court Judge, along with my running buddy Lindsey Forry. I am also throwing my hat in for Girls Nation Senator.

I am sure you’ve seen me around with my neon green tie, so don’t be afraid to come and talk with me about my running stance! I promise I will not bite!



Hanna Jones of Yucca

Hanna the 17 year old varsity cheerleader from Millennium High School is very pleased and excited for the week ahead at Girls State. She participates in Millennium’s student council and is a member of the executive council. Hanna is one of six and enjoys working out, laughing, and hanging out with her best friends.

Cassie Brucci of Mimosa

Cassie Brucci is the writer for the city of Mimosa, but in reality she is from Scottsdale, AZ and is very excited to be a Senior! She loves to write and plans to major in journalism in college. Her other love is dance and has been enrolled in dance classes and companies since the age of three.

Alexis Easlick of Mesquite

I am the proud Mayor of the City of Mesquite. I live in Sierra Vista Arizona and go to Buena High School. I have a younger brother named Kyle. I have dogs Coco, Cody and Chloe (the C’s was my moms idea) we have a cat named Gaby and a fish named Fabio. I really enjoy writing and will be the Editor-In-Chief of my yearbook next year. I love to joke around and have fun, that is why I love my job as a recreation aid with five and six year old.

Micaela Encinas of Saguaro

Greetings to my fellow Girls State sisters!

My name is Micaela Encinas and I represent the great city of Saguaro in Kaibab. For those of you that I haven’t yet met, my name is pronounced Me-ki-el-aw. I enjoy watching the Travel Channel, E!, and the Food Network.

The beaches are so soothing and I hope to one day move to Hawaii and marry a nice island boy. I cannot stand being cold or being awoken because I get super moody.

Maroon 5 is the GREATEST band ever and Adam Levine will forever be in my heart.

I shop at Forever 21 and bargain shop for fun. I work at Baskin Robbins. One of my achievements has been becoming an editor for my school newspaper.

I hope that everyone has a great time here and makes lifelong friends. Be Sage!



Pirates take back Pinon!

LindseyForry
Pinon City Reporter

Saying that Pinon's history is unconventional would be more than just an understatement. Pinon, a city included in Kaibab County, suffered from an earthquake during the 2007 Girls State session resulting in the explosion of Mount St. Helen's and the emigration of the flamingoes that once resided in this city. Princesses soon invaded the town establishing etiquette schools and trying to ward off the Pirates – both groups were struggling to grasp power of Pinon. Although in 2007 the Princesses prevailed and regulated the happenings within the city, Pirates returned with a vengeance during the 2008 session of Girls State. They are now presiding over the etiquette school (which they eventually changed into a surf shop). California and all states preventing Arizona from having a coast were erased from the United States map (the details about what really happened to these states is still unclear but the Pirates are investigating further), so that Pinon could finally realize the dreams of the now victorious Pirates. We are now running a successful city that no longer is just land, but land and sea. The Mayor of Pinon and all of the other Pirate residents are working diligently to build a better city for all of its citizens.

Cholla benefits from natural disaster

CassandraBell & DanielleTorres
Cholla City Reporters

BREAKING NEWS- Chollans have learned to benefit from the recent earthquake that tragically separated the State of California from

The rest of the U.S., causing Arizona to lose one of its bordering states. But not all is lost. The western border of Supai county now features Supai Bay: the large body of water created from the separation of California. The Captains, instead of mourning the loss of its neighbor, have used the bay-side area to form new businesses, entertainment for the citizens of Cholla, and branch out in its areas of trade, allowing for more oceanic based industries.

Memories that last a lifetime!

CassieBrucci
Mimosa City Reporter

As campaigning became more intense for county and state, cities became weary of exactly who hung up their signs in their territory. So in order to brave loyalty to the cities in Piute County, each city made up their own unique ways for candidates to prove themselves worthy of wall space. While some were relatively mild like Mimosa City, who made candidates gallop through the halls, others required a little more work. In the city of Ironwood potential candidates were asked to sing the Sound of Music and do an interpretive dance. Candidates looking to claim wall space in Mesquite had a choice of doing the worm or a dance. However, no one seemed to mind. When asked about the dancing, Mimosa citizen Breana Fisher says, "It was a new experience that was embarrassing but uplifting at the same time because it was a big joke between the girls." Thanks to Mesquite, Mimosa citizen Rebecca Morris says she now has a passion for break dancing.

It sure was an interesting day that will be remembered forever.

Ironwood Gets Involved

JessicaDuran
Ironwood City Reporter

The city of Ironwood experienced way more than a taste of what running for office truly means. Yesterday Ironwood along with the rest of Piute County reported to its County Courthouse in order to establish nomination petitions for county and state offices. The Ironwood Maidens were pleased to discover that every office was being pursued by at least one Ironwood citizen.

Paiute County's party caucuses were a wonderful way for both Federalists and Nationalists to become familiar

with their party's candidates. Campaigning proved to be a hasty and passionate process. The Ironwood Maidens met opposition as they sped through the dorms, completing their nomination petitions and hanging up campaign signs.

Several cities demanded that an act of sheer idiocy be completed before any outside signs should hope to grace their walls. For instance, Kely Lin-genfelter of Ironwood was so passionate about her campaign that she agreed to run through another city's hallways belting out a childish tune in order to display her campaign poster.

By 7:30 p.m. the girls of

Ironwood had fully succumb to the campaigning spirit and were eagerly preparing themselves for a "Meet the Candidates" gathering at Placita de Sol. It was there that each candidate introduced herself to her constituents and used creative methods such as buttons, fliers and costumes to grab their attention.

The gathering was no the only source of enjoyment and impressions. The Ironwood Maidens had been eagerly anticipating the auditions for the Talent Show. The auditions took place in room S106 from 9:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. The auditions ranged from Irish dancing pieces to singing acts. When asked how she felt

going into the audition, Natalia Kapsa of Ironwood replied that she loves to perform and did not feel the least bit nervous regarding her singing and playing guitar.

Silliness and unity radiated from Ironwood's Maidens as they submitted a fly group dance number to the song "Crank that Batman" that choreographer Lysandra Whitlow taught everyone earlier that night. The audition went exactly as Ironwood had expected and they are very excited to find out whether or not they would have the privilege of performing for their peers in Thursday's Show.

Juniper Jumping for Joy!

April Fisher
& **Morgan Carstensen**
Juniper City Reporters

Mark the date for the big date when the future will be decided for the state.

With elections taking place all day today, the city of Juniper spent hours diligently campaigning for their positions yesterday.

“Campaigning is like spilled milk because it just keeps spreading with meeting new people,” said Samantha Juda.

The Juniper Jellyfish have names across the ballot including candidates for county, state and even the national level.

Throughout the hall of Juniper City, vibrant ads and phrases plaster the walls. However, foreign cities must pay a price for these prime poster positions. For those wishing to display anything within the realm of the city, they first must “crab walk” down the halls and then break it down with a fishy interpretation dance.

The political action throughout the streets has brought on a tsunami of sassy slogans and the creation of beautiful bonds between girls.

“I love how everyone is so enthusiastic about Girls State and their offices,” said Miranda Mazanek. “My favorite part is having girls come up to me and share their values with me.”

So whatever you do, don’t forget! For surely it will be something you’ll regret, and if in doubt, vote for Juniper. They really make you want to shout!

You can hang signs, but you have to do the worm!

Alexis Easlick
Mesquite City Reporter

The day was crazy and hot for the girls of Mesquite. They had county meetings, rallies and posters. Since the change from city to county and state elections the girls are hard at work making signs, and doing wild things to get their signs into other halls. Mesquite became famous for their “Worms”. Girls were asked to do their best worm dance to be able to hang posters in Mesquite. A teacher was on standby if a young candidate needed assistance. Mesquite was impressed by the willingness and integrity.

As well as fun, the girls had trouble. The city police made their first arrest after a warrant was issued by the Mayor.

Trading old rituals for hugs!

Ashley Lara
Palo Verde City Reporter

We’ve unloaded our face wash, Skintamates™, and toothbrushes, the shower schedules have been set and the early lookout for breakfast assessed. Even the untouchable freshmen boys made their impact resulting in giggly passers by with hurried journeys across the balconies.

Now there is a crisp edge to the breeze at Girls State. An edge that swooped in with the recognition of county and state offices, campaign competition.

Fortunately the Mayor of Palo Verde City Rachel Young (F) and her fellow Palo Verde “Peppers” have taken note of an effective and rare advertising tactic. Instead of enforcing various embarrassing methods on June 10th an ordinance was passed to prohibit campaigning torture and initiate Mayor approval with specified spots.

This kind of camaraderie is also noted within Palo Verde’s opposing candidates with encouragement beaming from the citizens. You have to have a positive attitude for yourself because there’s always a possibility to WIN. However, even winning can come just from the experience according to Courtney Voss.

Even though the competition is definitely prevalent, it is also crystal clear that support and encouragement are the top qualities that Palo Verde City is displaying to set an example for the rest of Girls State.

Sycamore is more than just a Circus!

Victoria Yerkovich
Sycamore City Reporter

Monkey cages, games, bearded ladies and even the strongest man in the world are among many of the businesses found in Sycamore City here at Girls State. It is evident that not only are girls at Sycamore creative with their “Circus” theme, they are ultimately making great memories under the big top.

After learning from peers and a helping and from Sycamore advisor, Mrs. Vietri, the long awaited elections drew

near. The voting process came to life as girls of Sycamore City elected city officials. The Sycamore City election board was efficient as well as creative at the polls. Sycamore Marshall Delia Ziccarelli quoted, “whenever Sycamore started voting, girls as a joke, asked for an ‘I Voted’ sticker. Next thing I know I am writing ‘I Voted’ on all the girls hands.” Ziccarelli also adds, “It was a great way to get patriotic.

Yesterday both parties came together as a county for a county rally. Sycamore’s

County includes Pinon and Saguaro which make up the Kaibab County.

Emily De Panla said, “I enjoy my positions as Sycamore Federalist Precinct Committeeman because we are awesome and focus on the ‘3 E’s’, education, economics and environment.”

From rallies to elections and city to state the big question on every city’s mind is which city will win Capital City.

Newly elected Mayor Amanda Hazing says, “Everyone here is amazing to be around

and we are having a great time. It is truly a privilege being Mayor of such a great city.”

Confident in city ability, Sycamore stands united in setting a good example.

As the colorful hallways of Sycamore City set the mood for a successful week, Marcea Decker states, “Sycamore city is really goal orientated but also able to have fun and bond instead of being serious all the time and make the best of any situation.”

The city of Sycamore is well on their way to having a successful time here at Girls State.