

Arizona Girls State Independent



June 8, 2015 • Volume 9, Issue 1 • Tucson, Arizona

Welcome to the 68th Session of Arizona Girls State at UofA

Welcome to the 68th Annual Arizona Girls State. Congratulations on being chosen as a delegate. Your leadership and academic skills have given you the opportunity to represent your school, community and local American Legion Auxiliary Unit at this amazing program.

We as staff are proud to have you here and hope that your learning experience is one that you will take with you.

Girls State Sponsorship

Girls State is sponsored by the world's largest women's patriotic organization... The American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is dedicated to helping veterans as well as our future leaders, such as you.

The Auxiliary sponsors this program each year to give you and other outstanding young women from all over the state the experience in citizenship and government.

The wonderful and numerous members of the American Legion Auxiliary in Arizona regard this program as a very promising and worthwhile investment in our Nation's future as we give you a hand in preparing for tomorrow.

New Experiences

As our wonderful Governor explained last night each day here will be filled with new and exciting experiences. Your first day brought you to a dorm floor filled with new and exciting young women who were just as nervous as you. Yet, each of you took that first step and said hello or maybe just hey nice shirt, looks like you got the purple memo too.

Each day here will bring more fun and more learning with all that excitement of something new. Did we mention lack of sleep? The sleep thing never really gets better with all those exciting emotions and all the new stories, hang in there though there is always Saturday on the drive home for naps!

Things To Come

During the week you will learn about city, county and state government with emphasis being placed on political parties, campaigns and elections. You will be challenged to use your initiative and imagination. You'll make the most of your week by 'getting involved'.

Within your city you will be able to run for offices, set laws and create your very own city. Creations from businesses to parks and recreational facilities. Remember to be creative when decorating your doors and hallways to show just how much you enjoy your city. Show pride in what you have created. *These will also be judged for awards!!!*

Within the county you will be running for offices and helping to create the best county in Girls State. There will be a talent show, a court trial and many more wonderful events. Did we mention the Magical Evening? There is so much going on this week and yet it will fly by so fast.

Show Your Spirit

Here at Girls State we love to show SPIRIT in everything we do. Be creative with your cities and your campaigns. Take pride in everything you do as a group and as an individual.

Your parties will have rallies as well as chants and songs. *PLEASE remember that these are for Girls State and that we do have students in session during the summer. That means that when you are in a meeting hall other than your dorms please be mindful of classes and no chanting.*

That does not however mean that you are not allowed to have fun. We want you to have fun filled memories, from decorating and creating those posters as well as the songs and cheers. After all what is Girls State without fun and memories.

BE CREATIVE and show us that AWESOME Girls State Spirit.

A Few Things To Remember

Please be respectful of the staff and other citizens as we are all here to learn and have fun.

Do not forget to bring your Girls State handbook with you to ALL GS events, including meals as we may not return to the dorms after some meals.

Be mindful of your things in your rooms. If you have valuables that you would like to have secured please see your City Advisor.

Never leave your city without first signing out or letting your advisor know where you are going and why.

If you are feeling ill or become injured remember to see the nurse. Don't wait if you feel sick. The nurses are located on the 6th floor in rooms 633 and 635.

Togs and Treats

Togs and Treats is the official Arizona Girls State Store. They have so much to offer, from t-shirts, shorts, stuffed animals, snacks, roses, and SO MUCH MORE!! Stop by the store and see what wonders they have to offer. They also have a small drawing for all those that make a purchase each evening at dinner.

WELCOME TO GIRLS STATE!!



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is published daily by
 American Legion Auxiliary
 Arizona Girls State
 Penny Maklary, Director
 Shannon Mead, Editor

2015 Girls State Reporters
 Angela Bell - Ironwood
 Madison Mazaheri - Ironwood
 Lanae Wilson - Palo Verde
 Brittany Schmertmann - Palo Verde
 Kaley Scott - Juniper
 Hannah Grothe - Juniper
 Ariana Reynoso - Pinon
 Veronica Boyd - Pinon
 Megan Ewy - Ocotillo
 Kathleen Watz - Ocotillo
 Hannah Horner - Mimosa
 Imma Ngugi - Mimosa
 Emma Wallace - Cholla
 Paulina Lianoz - Cholla
 Nicole Clasen - Manzanita
 Jealynn Uong - Manzanita
 Hannah Orrahood - Yucca
 Marissa Rottnek - Yucca
 Lauren Olson - Saguaro
 Kristen Orrahood - Saguaro
 Reina Pile - Mesquite
 Aadithee Kudrimoti - Mesquite
 Alyssa Rosetta - Sycamore
 Natalie Ezeugwu - Sycamore

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Meet Your Arizona Girls State Reporters



Say hello to your Girls State Independent reporters. These lovely ladies will be writing articles regarding your cities.

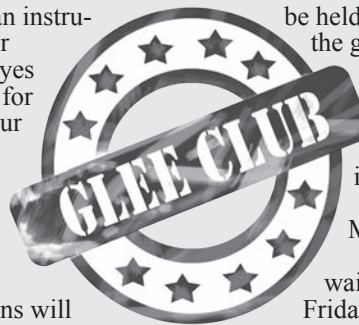
- From Ironwood:**
Angela Bell & Madison Mazaheri
- From Palo Verde:**
Lanae Wilson & Brittany Schmertmann
- From Juniper:**
Kaley Scott & Hannah Grothe
- From Pinon:**
Ariana Reynoso & Veronica Boyd
- From Ocotillo:**
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- From Cholla:**
Emma Wallace & Paulina Lianoz
- From Manzanita:**
Nicole Clasen & Jealynn Uong
- From Yucca:**
Hannah Orrahood & Marissa Rottnek
- From Saguaro:**
Lauren Olson & Kristen Orrahood
- From Mesquite:**
Reina Pile & Aadithee Kudrimoti
- From Sycamore:**
Alyssa Rosetta & Natalie Ezeugwu

Do you sing or play music? If so then GS Glee Club wants you!

Do you love to sing or play an instrument? How about lead the choir during a big show? If you said yes to either then we have the club for you! Come on down and join our Glee Club.

We are looking for talented young ladies to perform at our Magical Evening dinner. After all, what is dinner without a little music?

The first meeting and auditions will



be held on Monday starting at 4:15pm in the great room #140. Please be sure to bring your instruments with you if you have them. Also perhaps a few song ideas as well. Please note you must be present at the first meeting in order to participate.

If you have questions please see Mrs. Gaines, Room 419, Cholla City..

Good luck ladies and we cannot wait to hear those wonderful chords on Friday.

Prepare to be entertained at the Annual Girls State Talent Show!

Do you have that one special talent that sets you a part from the rest? Do you love to sing, dance or act on stage? If you answered yes to either of these questions then we want you for our Annual Talent Night!

Thursday has been set aside just for you to show all of us here your very own talent. Strut your stuff or rock the rafters with that amazing voice.

Of course no talent show is complete without the auditions. All talented citizens are encouraged and must attend the auditions in order to participate. Keep an eye out for the audition sign up near Mrs. Maklary's office.

Remember to bring all of your needed materials for your talent with you at the time of auditions as we need to see exactly what it is you will be doing for the show.

For all questions and comments concerning the event, please see Mrs. Tincher in room 457.



68th Annual Girls State begins with registration

Yesterday each of you began your journey to Girls State by packing up the car and heading to Tucson with your parents and family. Some of you traveled all the way from the Grand Canyon while others came from Yuma and all over in between.

Once you arrived it was time to stand in line and wait. Always the hurry up and wait right. Once the door opened it was all moving from there.

First you started with a warm greeting from the UofA staff giving you your handbook and room assignments. The wonderful staff was so gracious to lend us a hand checking you in today.

Next it was off to see the nurses where you dropped off those wonderful yellow cards and the parents could chat with our team of nurses that you will see off and on all week. They are awesome and very caring!

Now you turn and off to the Store/Bank where you meet our lovely store staff

and have the opportunity to bank your money so that you do not lose it this week. Remember you will have plenty of opportunity this week to stop in to the store and pick up some great items, like shirts, lanyards, snacks and of course WATER!!!

Hopefully you turned in your Samsung Scholarship application on your way through that door before getting your room keys and pictures.

Here you met our Assistant Directory Mrs. Matteson who guided you through the patio and off to get your room key from the UofA team and then into the portrait mode for your new ID badge. Be sure to wear these at all times. Here you were asked to stand on the blue tape and smile big!! All those beautiful smiles, we love it!

Then it was off to get those new purple shirts that will tell everyone on campus that WE ARE GIRLS STATE in a sea of beautiful purple. Don't worry about only getting two, there will be laundry days, we

promise.

Finally it was off to the elevator where the advisors told your parents that it was time to leave you to adventure Girls State on your own. Don't worry they will see you again on Saturday!!

Once you stepped out of the elevator you were greeted by your JCs and of course your City Advisor. I even bet you got to see some of your new city members. Remember that you will be with these girls for the next week so make the best of each situation.

Now that you are in your rooms and beginning the program take a quick moment to thank those that helped get you here today. Each of the Girls State staff members have volunteered their time to help make this a wonderful experience for each one of you. If you see them wondering the cities or during session give them a quick thanks for everything. They are sure to enjoy it.



Opening Session At Girls State

Last night was an amazing first night. There were many wonderful speakers and lots of fun. To open the evening our girls posted our very patriotic colors. We were introduced to our wonderful Governor Annie Mazarella and Secretary of State Mea Valli-Doherty. Each welcomed you and wished you the best time here at Girls State as well as to reach for your goals and make the best of the week you have here.

Next we heard from the U of A Conference Manager. She gave us a great welcome and let us know that the University is here to help us have a wonderful and safe Girls State session.

We had a wonderful flag ceremony present by Post 36's Copper Knight Color Guard and Mrs. Matteson. During this presentation the 13 folds of the flag

were explained so that you will be able to understand why these ceremonies are so important and such a treasure. It gives true meaning and respect to all those who have fought bravely for this country.

Mrs. Maklary explained the purpose of Girls State and how important it is to be yourself. Each one of you is special and has potential. Stand out and be yourself. Don't let others make your decisions for you. Just B U.

Let's not forget our wonderful and talented JC's, who modeled for us just before dinner. These lovely ladies were kind enough to show you all the store has to offer. Remember "Togs and Treats" has all that you are looking for while you are here at Girls State.

We also owe a special thank you to the

staff for the wonderful power point presentation that was not only informative but fun. Thank you ladies for all that you do for us and our veterans.

Our second part of the evening was saved for our special guest speakers. Theresa Martines the Voting Rights Ambassador gave a wonderful and creative speech on the function of political parties. What an amazing speaker, so informative.

We were also joined by Shasta McManus and her associate. They both were very informative in explaining the role of the Precinct Committeeman and their motivation to do the job.

Ladies a great job on all the wonderful and interesting questions. Way to stay on topic and keep our speakers thinking. Keep it up this week with all of the wonderful guest speakers to come.



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“We All Bleed Red”

Nicole Clasen & Jealynn Uong
Manzanita City Reporters

Why are you running for Girls Nation?

“I’m really interested in politics, I think it’s the easiest way to bring about change, and it’s a great way to meet other leaders and get insight on how to improve my community. The program is giving you exposure, putting you in a mock city, and allowing you to move up is going to give more knowledge than a textbook can. As a minority, and a female, I have a voice and a perspective that isn’t heard.”

Why do you think you’ll win a Senator position? :

“I feel like I have had a lot of leadership experience. I have always been an advocate, and stand for the things I believe in. You’ll find me dead before I stop pursuing what I want to change.”

What change are you going to propose in your Bill? :

“I’m leaning towards immigration amnesty for students. There are people who have been here since they were very young. They know the pledge, they know who George Washington is. Minorities are blamed for so many things whether it be crime rates or unemployment rates. How are we supposed to break that stigma if we can’t receive equal education. We are no different than anyone else, we are bright, we are patriotic, we bleed red...and white...and blue.”

If you were to meet the President, what would be the first thing you ask? :

“Will you go to prom with me?”

Do you have a campaign slogan? :

“I’ll bring you a whole new world. Vote for Jasmine Betancourt.”



Delegate Jasmine Betancourt

Meet the Cholla Mayor



Paulina Lianoz & Emma Wallace
Cholla City Reporters

On the city level at Girls State becoming Mayor is about guiding the tight-knit community while also being able to represent them. In Cholla, the girls work together. Some of the girls take temporary leadership positions while others work as a team to get the work done. Now that everyone has seen each others leadership skills, electing the Mayor of Cholla was easy. Madeleine Lyman, 17, was the elected Mayor of Cholla at the 2015 Girls State Session.

Check out some questions she answered to get to know her a little bit better!

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

A: I was born in Arizona but throughout the course of my life I have lived across Singapore, China and Asia for about 5 years. I’m about 75% proficient in the language! I also started playing violin when

I was 2, picked up the cello when I was 4, and have been playing ever since.

Q: What are you most excited about as Mayor for the upcoming week?

A: I like that I have time to hear every single one of my city’s opinions because I appreciate intimacy within relationships.

Q: What was your first impression of Girls State and has it changed so far?

A: To be completely honest, I was a little but worried because being in the same place as 320 other girls can get a little dramatic, and, well, who wouldn’t be? But all of us mesh so well together, we’re very unique but also very polite and level headed.

Q: What is the most important quality of a leader in your opinion?

A: The most important thing for a leader to do is remember that they are not superior and to maintain a strict moral compass.

Madeleine will be running for Girls Nation this week as well!

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What is Flanders Fields

AngieBell
 Ironwood City Reporter

As girl's state attendees marched lethargically out to Flag yesterday morning with their respective cities, sleep deprived but ready to take on the day, many girls may reserve questions in regard to the recited poem.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below

We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.

Lt. Col. John McCrae wrote "In Flanders Fields" on the 3rd of May, 1915, in the midst of World War I. As a doctor and Surgeon on the battle field, Lt. Col. McCrae had witnessed more blood, carnage, and death than one man should endure in a life time. When Alexis Helmer, close friend and fellow soldier, fell victim to a shell burst in the Second Battle of Ypres, McCrae gazed out upon his grave, peppered with wild poppies, and simply began to jot down his thoughts. Result?

The renowned poem, "In Flanders Fields".

Though McCrae wrote the ode with his friend, Helmer, exclusively in mind, "In Flanders Fields" has evolved into something much larger. The poem now serves as an anthem for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. It represents the men and women who lie now and forever in Arlington Cemetery. And it calls to service patriots who

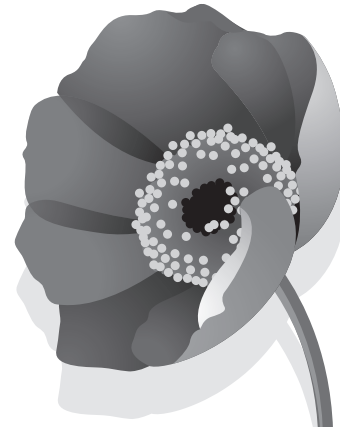
wish to defend their freedoms and honor the fallen.

The American Legion Auxiliary serves as a primary example of such patriots inspired by McCrae's piece. Moina Michael saw the poppy as a symbol of those fallen soldiers whose sacrifices and legacies would live on vicariously through the blood red flowers. She even wrote a stanza in response to "In Flanders Fields":

. . . the blood of heroes never dies
 But lends a luster to the red
 Of the flower that blooms above the dead
 In Flanders' Fields.

This campaign resulted in "Poppy Days", a tradition that recognizes veterans as well as assists those who return from deployment in dysphoria. Additionally, the poppy was adopted as the national symbol of sacrifice.

Ultimately, "In Flanders Fields" has created a state of patriotism that McCrae could never have imagined. Charles F. Browne once said, "We can't all be Washingtons, but we can all be patriots." In other words: One needs not to be a hero to earn respect. Humbly honoring those that laid down their lives for the freedom of others is equally dignifying. Throughout the entirety of this week, keep in mind the men and women who selflessly served to protect the very democratic process Girl's State harbors as its core.



Order of the Ocotillo

MeganEwy
 Ocotillo City Reporter

The Order of the Ocotillos has begun! Hogmeade, Diagon Alley, and Hogwarts have invaded the city of Ocotillo and all wizards have been summoned; Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Slytherin alike. From broomsticks to butterbeer to cauldrons to wands, the doors of the Ocotillo hallway transport every Girls' State representative into a world of magic, imagination, and of course Harry Potter. And this is all thanks J.K Rowling, an extraordinary muggle!

The citizens of Ocotillo imme-

diately bonded on the opening day of the 68th session of Arizona Girls' State over their shared love of the world of Harry Potter--even if some were unaware of this world until the first official Ocotillo meeting-- and their shared love of government and, thus, friendships quickly ignited.

Through several energetic and involved discussions, the citizens of Ocotillo decided that each door was to be decorated after a Harry Potter themed store, room, or place. In accordance to their theme, each bathroom was dubbed to be one of the four Hogwarts Houses (Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Raven-

claw, and Slytherin). It was decided that along each side of the hallway, decorative torches would enlighten and enhance the magic that a little friendship and work could create.

Currently, every citizen of Ocotillo is hard at work decorating their city with all the magically inspired items required to create a hallway worthy of the Harry Potter Kingdom. If anyone would like to transport themselves into this magical world of wonders and imagination, please feel free to come down to Ocotillo and meet all the lovely Ocotillo lady owls on your way. Ocotillo! Hoot! Hoot! Ocotillo welcomes you!

Some helpful hints for being a successful campaigner

Veronica Boyd
Pinon City Reporter

What a successful first full day of Girl's State! The program is starting to go into full swing and I know that all of the attendees here are more than prepared and beyond excited. But no need to fret, if you feel as if you don't understand what is going on or are still unsure of what to run for, you are not alone. Many girls in each of the counties are still debating on which duties suit them best so they can make the most out of their experience.

There are so many positions to choose from, so it is important to try and get involved, even if you take a small position. By doing so, you are guaranteed to make new friends, learn responsibility, and most importantly, have the best week here at the University of Arizona.

I know that many of you may be beyond nervous, so I have some helpful hints to help you throughout your election. First, get acquainted with everyone in your city and make sure you know their names. From there, you can advance on to meeting everyone in your county and so on. By doing this, people will recognize you and

if you make a connection, they may even help you campaign.

Starting small talk with new people could also prove to be successful, just remember to be positive and have thoughtful and intellectual conversations in order to keep the conversation engaged and leave a lasting impression.

I also recommend having your speech prepared before hand, or at least have some key points when talking. Try to minimize saying, "um," and try to put something in your speech that people will remember you by such as a powerful quote or an appropriate personal story.

Also, familiarize yourself with what you are going to speak about so you are prepared for any questions. This may be stressful, but try to not read your speech word for word. It is easier for an audience to listen and stay engaged if your speech is formal and interesting, but the audience will feel like you are speaking directly to them by using eye contact and if your speech is conversational like. It may help to look straight back at a wall or at the audience's foreheads if eye contact seems infuriating.

This next tip may be difficult, but the slower your pace, the better. It would be of

no benefit to you if your audience cannot understand you. It may seem like you are speaking forever, as if the whole world is slowing down, but it is not; so take your time. Pace yourself as well so you do not forget to breathe. Try saying a practice speech in front of your roommate or some new friends from your city on loudness and clearness. Then ask politely for constructive criticism.

From there, try your best to create and construct eye catching posters, or try making a slogan with your name as a pun. I know you are not supposed to make promises in a campaign, but promise yourself to be the best you can be and always try your hardest as you will only every have this experience once as a delegate! Also promise yourself to try new things and become more flexible with your plans and schedule.

And finally, know that you are more than qualified for any position possible, even if you are a quieter one in your city. Ambition is key and all of you have the ability to achieve any desire you may have. You have already proved yourself worthy by being here to begin with.

I wish you all an amazing and beautiful week full of learning, fun, and friends! Good luck with all of you campaigning ladies!

Girls State vs Boys State

Lauren Olson
Saguaro City Reporter

It is hard to imagine a life where the value of a woman is less than that of a man. It seems incomprehensible that for centuries women were denied opportunities because of something they had no control over-their gender. For most of American history, a cult of domesticity has remained static and dominant in social culture.

This theme became dynamic with the first wave of feminism, which embodied the push for women's suffrage. The act of granting rights to women was a direct effect of women getting more involved politically in local government. Unfortunately, this uphill battle did not stop with the 19th Amendment.

The second wave of feminism began in the 1960's during the radical movements brought on by the widening credibility gap of the Vietnam War. The

feminist movements splintered over the supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment and those who strongly opposed it. These opposing women made claims that granting women political equality would infringe upon traditional family values. They argued that women should appreciate their domestic sphere and stay confined within it.

Unfathomably, many of our mothers were not born with equal rights to men. Women did not actually have equal rights to men until 1972, a mere 43 years ago. My mother born in 1966, did not have equal rights for 6 years of her life.

These feminists changed the course of history for women in America and allowed each and every girl here at Girls State to be rendered the privilege the rights, opportunities and respect-the future-we have today.

The third wave of feminism has been shrouded with more ambiguity. What

do women want now? Do we want what is considered "feminine" culture to be celebrated or do we want full equality and an elimination of supposed gender roles? At Girls State, this question is deep within the roots.

There are many differences between Girls State and Boys State, most notably the activities we are expected to contribute in. At Girls State, we have Glee Club and a Talent Show. At Boys State, they have sports. Should girls feel offended that we are presumed to dislike sports and instead invest our interests in more theatrical and musical talents or should we feel proud to showcase our talents in the arts because we are girls? One thing is certain: every girl from Girls State will undoubtedly move on to an incredible future, and both the qualities that make them stand out from the traditional "girl" as well as their feminine characteristics will aid them to creating a better world.

Girls State The Sea Of Purple

ImmaNgugi & HannahHorner
Mimosa City Reporters

In the sea of purple, or as we call it Girls State, there have been some outstanding citizens. Their style and poise have set them a part from the crowd. Jasmine, a Mimosa citizen, incorporates her sassy grunge look into these simple, violet T's. She believes, like many others, that fashion is a way to express ones self. The way you present yourself has a lasting affect. Another way we can look at it is that first impressions make or break

relationships.

Next we have Amelia, a girl who does not limit herself to any fashion fad. She can summarize what we have here at Girls State as "a mixture of everything." Her styles range from glamor, punk to professional. She is a bold girl with great style.

Last we have Linga, who encourages picking out the clothes that make you think "what if people don't like it?" Her inspiration in her choice can somewhat stem from the character Olivia Pope from Scandal. Her bold and brilliant outfits are

a bright light in the dark dungeon that can be thought of as U.S. Government.

In reference to government, all three women aspire to incorporate their style into their future campaigning. These fashionistas have drive and creativity. Jasmine plans to run for County Attorney, while Amelia hopes to be elected Justice of the Peace. Linga will be working towards a Girls State Senator. They are taking advantage of this situation so you should too. As Linga said, "Girl Represent" because you can never be over-dressed or over educated.

Mesquite City's Agricultural Archives Stay green. Save green.

AaditeeKudrimoti & ReinaPile
Mesquite City Reporters

"Hey, what's that stuff falling out of the sky? It's a bird! It's a plane! No! IT'S RAIN!"

We, Arizonans know what it's like to wither away in the blistering heat, without even the remotest sight or sense of water. This, "rain", as they call it is somewhat of an alien subject. It comes glittering down only to remind us of its value. Thus, today's editorial is on environmental conservatism and water conservation (also a part of the Federalist Party platform). Yeah, we know. You've heard about it about it about a billion times. But have you ever thought about it like this?...

... We don't inherit our water from our ancestors, we borrow from our children....

Water levels are at an all-time low here in Arizona Girls

State, as everyday, we use more and more water that our aquifer cannot supply nor sustain. Bioremediation strategies are being implemented, but are slow to work. By 2050 about 2/3 of the Girls State aquifer and its consequent systems will be exhausted or "dried up" if more effective action isn't taken SOON. This issue is especially pertinent in Southwest Girls State, where the state has spent most on the developing the housing industry, parks and recreation. Though development is beneficial towards our infrastructure, it can be detrimental for our posterity and their water supply. If any citizens of *OUR* Girls State have **ideas for Girls State water conservation policies, come to reporters Reina Pile (Mesquite City), and Aaditee Kudrimoti (Mesquite City).**

Save water for you, save water for your grandchildren and their grandchildren.

First impressions at GS

KathleenWatz
Ocotillo City Reporter

Girls State is a unique experience for everyone involved, especially the incoming girls. Standing in the hot sun waiting in line frustrates some, including the parents, but once inside the building with the air conditioning girls tend to change their minds. First impressions of Girls State range from it was exactly as I expected to it is completely different.

Some describe their first impression as very overwhelming with all the check-in

things needed before you can actually go up to the dorm rooms. Kiara Conley describes her first impression as overwhelming and more welcoming than she first expected. On the other hand Aundrea Romero states Girls State has lived up to all the expectations she originally had for this event.

Other people used different words to describe their time. Everyone has their own individual experience but most girls agree on how their view has changed. Susana Puga says even though this week has already proved to be a challenge she

looks forward to rising to the occasion. The first day was tough on many girls because of fear of the unknown and the fact that girls were still getting to know each other. Even though this may have presented a challenge for some, it has shown that the girls have embraced this and are driven to get the most out of this experience.

As everyone knows "First Impressions can be tough," (Quote from Hairspray). Being a delegate at Girls State means inviting the change and learning to work through everything as a city, county, and nation.

Glee Club shows major potential

Hannah Orrahood
Yucca City Reporter

Yesterday afternoon at 4:45 dozens of eager, cheerful Girls State delegates made their way over to room 140 for the first glee club rehearsal of the week. The excitement in the air was practically tangible. Indeed it was easy to hear the enthusiasm of the spirited songstresses in the chatter that filled the room as the girls discussed potential songs to perform.

Often the excitement got a little out of hand and music Directory Mrs. Gaines has to remind the girls to quiet down so that everyone's ideas could be heard. The glee club experimented with several different songs in an attempt to find one that worked the best. If needed to be a song that everybody knew and was easy to harmonize with. Additionally, the song needed to be a comfortable length, a short song would be over to soon and along song may bore than audience if it drags on. Most importantly the song could not have any long pauses.

Girls State glee club performs aca-

PELLA. This means that there is no musical accompaniment, the music is purely made up of human voices.

Any music breaks or guitar solos in the songs would turn into long awkward silences in a glee club performance. Needless to say, choosing the perfect song proved to be a tricky task indeed. With each new suggestion, members would sing their own rendition of the song as a group. The room was separated into altos and sopranos, so delegates were surrounded by girls who sang similar parts. One of the best parts about glee club was the free nature and flexibility of it. Girls were free to sing whatever harmonies they wanted. The result was a potpourri of different harmonies that blended together to form songs that were quite beautiful and moving. With so many great choices, they were able to narrow it down to two songs. The final decision will be made tomorrow.

It was easy to tell from the moment of entering room 104 that this was going to be a good group. With top leaders from all around the state, there is no doubt that

this years Girls State glee club has major potential. Yucca City glee club singers are especially passionate about choir. In fact, three of the em are choir council presidents at three high schools and one even had the honor of being selected to sing in regional choir this past year. With this much talent and leadership there is no doubt that this years glee club performance will be a show stopper!



The Four Seasons: A Deeper Meaning

Alyssa Rosetta
Sycamore City Reporter

With the creation of Arizona Girls State many years ago, came the idea for each city to form its own theme, and now, 68 years later, the tradition of city created themes is still going strong.

Construction paper, poster board, markers, scissors, and more supplies are in full use here in Sycamore City. With the theme decided, "Seasons of Sycamore," the doors are being decorated with depictions of beach scenes, snowmen, and falling leaves.

That's just the start. The theme of the seasons was not easily decided upon, and the citizens have developed a deeper meaning behind the Sycamore City theme: "as the seasons progress, so do we."

The thing is: we all change. Even throughout the short week of Girls State, we will change as people. We will become better leaders, better speakers, better team members, and overall better young women.

We are just like the seasons: we change quite a bit, however we still manage to work together as members of society. The same could be said about the seasons: they change drastically 4 times a year, and yet they still manage to work as a greater whole to make up Mother Nature.

So we are the Seasons of Sycamore. We are the ever changing, and ever beneficial members of our communities.

Election Time in Saguaro

Kristen Orrahood
Saguaro City Reporter

As the ballots were turned in today everyone waited with a still breath as the winners were announced. There was much rejoicing. Afterwards, the new council members and the Mayor of Saguaro City were sworn into office. After being sworn in officials remarked at how authentic the ceremony felt, with all city members present and the city clerk swearing in all of the new board members.

The board, however, wasted no time and immediately set out to work on the task at hand. The most pressing matter on the mayors mind seemed to be the positions and the infamous city book. As the mayor tirelessly ran about the area gathering knowledge on the book she has come back with one answer: Simplicity. She has learned that it does not pay to stress yourself out about minor details, rather let everything fall into place. Armed with this priceless information, she is striving to make one of the best city books Arizona Girls State has ever seen.

A flag ceremony between sisters

HannahGrothe & KaleyScott
Juniper City Reporters

Today, the city of Juniper and its sister city of Ironwood had the distinct honor of presenting the flags at the first full day of Arizona Girls State. The girls began the process the night before with their junior counselors during their “vesper” activities wherein the importance and meaning behind the flag ceremony was revealed.

The girls had an early morning eating breakfast and assuming their normal morning rituals. The cities convened at the top of their floors and waited patiently to assume their positions on the stairs in front of the rest of Arizona Girls State. As the ladies entered the stairwell they realized they were too early in their movement. The girls were asked to restart their filing to prevent a fire hazard.

Minutes that felt like hours later, the extraordinarily excited young women put down anything in their hands as a sign of deference to the flag in their spots on the stairs. A reverent silence blanketed the awed audience as the ceremony took place. One girl read the John McCrae’s poem, “In Flanders Fields” to commensurate lost veterans. All in all, the experience was an unexpected honor and pleasure for all the girls involved.

Strong start to Sycamore City

NatalieEzeugwu
Yucca City Reporter

Girls State is in full swing with girls taking on new positions within their cities. Already, Precinct Committeemen, 4 councilwomen and a Mayor have been elected. Presiding over these first city hall meetings, complete with teddy bear grahams, chocolate chip cookies, and other treats, is Sycamore City’s advisors, and Queen Bee, Mrs. Queen

Mrs. Queen has been a representative of Girls State and has participated in orientations. However, this is her very first year at Girls State as advisor of Sycamore City.

In her words, this program is a powerful experience for all girls. Mrs. Queen is positive that we will all go home with increased knowledge on the wonders of the government. Already this seems to be true, as we have been immersed in nominations, elections and informational talks about the various positions.

Mrs. Queen ‘s favorite part of Girls State so far has been “meeting 23 fabulous, dedicated Girls State citizens,” referring to those in Sycamore City. However, in many ways Mrs. Queen seems to be the most fabulous of them all, as she continually helps Sycamore citizens to become the most fantastic citizens they can be, Mrs. Queen looks forward to returning to Girls State next year and it is assured that her city will continue to benefit greatly from her guidance.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS CAN CHANGE

MarissaRottnek
Yucca City Reporter

When I first walked up to register for Girls State I was ready to turn and run before even getting my handbook. I was terrified. However, between the wonderful staff and the awesome girls in my group, I quickly began to calm down and started enjoying what would hopefully be an experience of a life time.

“I felt like everyone was still nervous and quite even during our first meeting. I already feel a lot more comfortable around everyone and it’s only the first day so I think it will get even better as the days go.”

- Paola Uzarraga, Yucca

“I was extremely nervous and super intimidated. There were a bunch of beautiful human beings and that are all extremely intelligent.”

- Serena Cullen, Yucca

“ There were a lot more (girls) than I expected and I was confused and didn’t know what to expect or where to go but all the girls were really nice and friendly.”

- Sara Johantobers, Yucca

Pizza!

KristenOrahood
Saguaro City Reporter

AS all of us at Girls State come to realize that we are soon going to be college students, we learn that what we eat will also be effected. One word that is notoriously known as being a college delicacy and necessity is pizza. As time to prepare meals switches to time to study students need a fast and easy way to carb up. All the Girls State delegates today got to experience the pizza a college produces. AS the delegates done into their pizza a chorus of answers could be heard.

A series of yum’s echoed throughout the lunch hall. There were also some delegates who remarked that the pizza they had just ingested reminded them of the simpler days of middle school. The taste and quality of these pizzas also made some delegates think of their favorite pizza parlor. Some were Papa Johns, Dominos and a place local tot he city. Either way, we should all be ready to embrace the pizza life, for it does not appear to be going away any time soon.

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Honoring Veterans with City Theme

BrittanySchmertmann
Palo Verde City Reporter

The 68th Annual Girls State is now under way, and cities all throughout Girls State are beginning to establish themselves by the election of their city governments and the construction of their cities. The city of Palo Verde in Supai Country is very enthusiastic about their city and recently selected theme. As patriotic young women, the citizens of Palo Verde have decided to pay their respects to the service men and women in the American armed

forces. The Palo Verde Veterans, as they have come to be known, desire to express their gratitude to the veterans in their beloved country.

Claire Skinner, the Palo Verde citizen who contributed the theme idea said that she thought of the Palo Verde Veterans because she has a lot of veterans in her family. She said, "I want to pay tribute to the veterans who are with us this week, because I think honoring a veteran is the most heroic thing we citizens can do."

Citizens are well into the constructions of their shops and businesses in Palo

Verde. Natasha Villalta, co-owner of Special Ops Subs, says that she hopes to make a lot of profit as a restaurant in the city. Elizabeth McDonough, co-owner of the Air Force Commissary, says that the commissary will provide citizens with food from its location on the Air Force Base.

The city is also equipped with a Palo Verde Police Department, Fire Station, Coast Guard Gymnasium, and even a Poppy Store. Palo Verde is very eager to contribute to the state under their new mayor, Anika Bowman, councilwomen, and city officials.

CORRECTIONS

In yesterday's issue there was an error in regards to one of our reporters. Natalie Ezeugwu is a reporter from the City of Sycamore and NOT Yucca. This error was made by the editor during publishing! Also there was a misspelling for Kirsten Orahood on her bylines. Apologies for the errors.

Utilizing Your Voting Right

AngelaBell
Ironwood City Reporter

"The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter." Dwight D. Eisenhower, army general during WWII and 34th president of the United States, spoke these wise words in an effort to emphasize to each citizen the importance of voting. Whether it be on social media, news outlets, or imbedded in a casual conversation, people love to rant over issues they are passionate about. While discussing and analyzing contrary view points is invaluable to shaping a well-informed culture, let it be known: The best way to ensure one's voice be heard over every other cry in a society is to utilize our right as an American to vote.

Good news, the candidates are off to the races! Walls are plastered with posters, girls are swarming to gain support, and the political tree here at Girls State is beginning to take shape. However, just because your name is not printed on the ballot, does not mean you don't have the opportunity to make a difference. Mythical government or not, the process is relevant to the real world and will provide each girl with a priceless experience they may treasure forever. With that being said, the election and voting is as equally relevant here and now as it was in Eisenhower's speech. We have the power to guarantee our voices are heard and represented; let us take on this task with neither a closed mind, nor a lighthearted attitude.

John Quincy Adams once said, "Always

vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost." Whether it be here or back in the real world- come election time of course- never conform to the opinions and social highway of the culture. We live in a world where "fitting in" is more important than standing up for the issues we fervently believe in. Like Adams said, though you may stand alone in the beginning, the once soft voice advocating your cause will undoubtedly draw support from like-minded people, morphing into a loud cry for reform. Bottom line: never lose sight of the goal and never blindly adapt to the "societal norm".

Good luck to each and every candidate and happy voting!

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Arizona Girls State Independent



Things are Getting Real

MeganEwy
Ocotillo City Reporter

As the minutes turn into hours turn into days, the carefree babble amongst newly acquired acquaintances has morphed into friendly, energetic, slightly nervous conversations. After, merely, the first couple of days, all of the Girls State representatives have learned-- and are learning-- what it takes to be part of this active organization. Many representatives have already learned a multitude of new things about their government such as what a P.C. is and what the role of a Whip is in a political party. The variety and abundance of lectures and lessons have been an extraordinary element in the building of this, the 68th session of Arizona Girls State, and I

know they are an essential part of understanding how all of the levels of government operate.

On only the second full day of Girls State, all of the ambitious young ladies that comprise this mock state are already skilled enough to know what position they want to campaign for and what belief they want to promote. Now that is some fast learning! Even after all those long hours of sitting in lecture after lecture after lecture, these girls were able to retain any and all information given to them, even the date that Cocopah County was established! It was in 1948 if anyone is interested to know. As a whole, this 68th session of Arizona Girls State is comprised of smart cookies-- pardon my cliché-- who are the future leaders of this fine country.



The Campaigning Room

KathleenWatz
Ocotillo City Reporter

Tensions are high and girls are being to come out of their shells. It's campaigning time! It is all about the posters. Markers and the smell of competition are coming out. What poster making would be complete without a room for the girls to go.

Two of the girls in Ocotillo have graciously opened up their dorm room to their city. The door has been propped open and all the girls are encouraged to join the room. This is not only a good way to help each other out but also a bonding experience. The citizens of Ocotillo have taken this week seriously but also want to make friendships that last forever.

Every inch of the floor of the dorm room is covered with posters, markers, sharpies, and many more items girls brought to Girls State. This dorm

room was the campaigning room for some girls. This room also had a good location near the border of Ocotillo and Mesquite. Many girls from other cities and counties came by. The girls of Ocotillo then had a great opportunity to make their name known with other delegates.

This room was not only for poster making but also bonding. The citizens of Ocotillo not only focus on all the government the girls are participating in but also making friendships. This room brought girls running for the same positions, Nationalist, Federalists, and all diversities to come together and become closer. For the Ocotillo girls a huge part of this week is becoming a city that will talk years from now and stay connected.

The Campaign Room was a great experience for the girls of Ocotillo. The girls worked hard on the posters and bonded more as a city.

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2015 Girls State Reporters
 Angela Bell - Ironwood
 Madison Mazaheri - Ironwood
 Lanae Wilson - Palo Verde
 Brittany Schmertmann - Palo Verde
 Kaley Scott - Juniper
 Hannah Grothe - Juniper
 Ariana Reynoso - Pinon
 Veronica Boyd - Pinon
 Megan Ewy - Ocotillo
 Kathleen Watz - Ocotillo
 Hannah Horner - Mimososa
 Imma Nguji - Mimososa
 Emma Wallace - Cholla
 Paulina Lianoz - Cholla
 Nicole Clasen - Manzanita
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 Lauren Olson - Saguaro
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 Reina Pile - Mesquite
 Aaditee Kudrimoti - Mesquite
 Alyssa Rosetta - Sycamore
 Natalie Ezeugwu - Sycamore
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Meet the candidate: Katy Lynne Cunningham

HannahOrrahood
Yucca City Reporter

With her can-do attitude and compromising nature it's no surprise yucca City Nationalist Katy Lynne Cunningham is running for Arizona Girls State Governor. She has been a natural leader amongst her peers since the ripe age of 5 when she first joined Girl Scouts. Over the years she proved to be a model leader and is now in charge of her very own Girl Scout troupe. This has helped her acquire the necessary skills for working with others and making compromises so that everyone is satisfied.

Cunningham spends quite a bit of time working with kids, in fact, three of her

jobs involve interacting with young children. She nannies for two different families and work at a child daycare center. On top of it all, she has a job in retail. Needless to say, Cunningham is well versed in the art of time management.

Cunningham is not only a leader among the children she works with, she is also a leader among her peers. She is the current Choir Council President of the Dobson High School Choir. She has also served on Prom Committee and even has time to dedicate to French Honor Society.

Girls State has given her the opportunity to rise as a political leader among her fellow Girls State Delegates. Cunningham is no stranger to politics. In fact, her father

is a politician. She has been able to stay in the loop with Arizona politics for quite some time. She has had the opportunity to meet several of our state leaders and has even got to meet the Mayor of Phoenix at a family Christmas party. Her father's political prestige has done much to inspire her to aim high and push herself in Girls State.

"I believe it gives me a certain edge because I've been around politics my whole life," says Cunningham.

It certainly sounds like Yucca City Nationalist candidate Katy Lynne Cunningham has all the necessary credentials for a first rate Governor. Her experience in leadership, conflict resolution, and politics definitely make her a top contender for Girls State Governor.

Campaigning and planning are now under way

NatalieEzeugwu
Sycamore City Reporter

It's the day before the primaries, and the girls are beginning to buckle down and create campaign materials. After several long walks in the humid heat to various meeting

regarding county positions, the nomination papers have finally been handed out. An afternoon fill of securing signatures and creating posters ensued. The Girls State citizens are definitely taking on the spirit of candidacy in our increasing knowledge about

government.

Meanwhile zoning and budget committees continue to work with their Mayors in the design of their cities. Here in Sycamore City, our committees are in the process of renaming roads, and adding new attractions.

Efforts are being made to improve the city's design and efficiency. All changes must be consistent with the budget however, as well as the city's added history. Overall it has been an extraordinarily productive day at Girls State.

The Magical Mimosas

HannahHorner & **Imma**Ngugi
Mimosa City Reporters

Mimosa is a hurricane, at the moment girls are rushing to finish doors and others are trying to create more campaign materials. Girls run rampant, and all are working to achieve high goals. Yet, we must first discuss the beginning.

On Sunday no one knew what to expect. Everyone arrived with clueless expressions, yet after Sunday's question "who's actively interested in government," the tension died down. Bonds immediately began to form. The minds and hearts opened to one another and the trust in one another made

working together so much easier. As night began to fall so did the exhausted eyelids of the Mimosa citizens.

On Monday morning, 24 runners down yet determined girls met in city hall. Kennedy Prock was elected Mayor because of her intelligence and charisma that inspired girls to reach for more. While the incredibly long day dragged on girls created an atmosphere full of respect, patience and confidence. These three ideals initiated a sense of security amongst the girls which enabled them to run a successful city. All in all the ladies of Mimosa rose to the challenge considered to be Girls State.

In the dawn of Tuesday everyone was

frantic. County and state elections were at their fingertips and all the girls wanted to do was grab on tight. In the busy of the day, new strengths and weaknesses arose that only made the girls work harder toward their dreams. In the many divisions of the day several people took the unexpected route while others stayed true to their path like Maricella Garcia who is running for Governor.

The hustle and bustle of the nights events included running for office, competing in the talent show and completing door fronts. Overall Mimosa has been an exciting roller coaster ride filled with witty sarcasm and bad puns.

Make new memories but keep the old

Kaley Scott & Hannah Grothe
Juniper City Reporters

Forging new friendships is the core purpose of Girls State for many young women. We should also keep in mind the knowledge and wisdom our Junior counsellors choose to impart upon us. By understanding their past experiences we may just plan our own exciting futures.

Juniper's JC's Carmen and Taylor sat with our city at lunch today and truly created an air of experience about them. The girls spoke with the delegates about everything

from senior pranks to traveling abroad in college.

The college students also spoke of their own experiences at Girls State the year prior. Taylor explained the fun and experiences earned at the legislative branch. She also imparted the idea of running for the House of Representatives to many of the ladies at the table that took her advice very seriously.

It is through these experiences we really learn about ourselves. Girls State is about more than just the current delegates it also incorporates the alumni to keep it alive.

Poppies pay tribute to our Veterans

Lanae Wilson & Brittany Schmettmann
Palo Verde City Reporters

The Palo Verde Veterans pay tribute to our United States veterans by devoting an entire "store" to be covered by hand-made poppies. The Poppy Program educates Auxiliary members on the poppy symbol, which originated from a poem written during World War I and encourages pride for veterans.

Citizens of Palo Verde are paying their respects to personal veterans by writing their veteran's name and placing it on the door of the store. Names

of grandfathers, fathers, mothers, and many others who served our nation are written in honor and/or remembrance. Poppy creator Claryssa Borta said, "We wanted to give tribute to our veterans by making the nationwide symbol for them." The hand-made poppies can be viewed on door 440 in Palo Verde city.



CAMPAIGN STRESS

Marissa Rottnek
Yucca City Reporter

Waking around the campus everyone is seeing campaign paraphernalia. From the Federalists "Get Fed, Vote Red" to the posters for all the girls running for state positions and Girls Nation, it is clear Likins Hall is in for something big.

While running for anything is a lot of work and incredibly stressful it still should be fun. Most of those running have met more people in 24 hours than they ever thought possible.

Though all this stress, everyone needs to remember that we are still here to have fun. So, take a deep breath and give yourself a minute or two to remember

why you came here. It most likely was not because you specifically wanted to be governor, justice of the peace, or a lobbyist. Remember why you're here and whether you got that position or not, you worked hard and very soon you can relax because all voting will be over with and you can enjoy what time we have left of Girls State without any stress.

Secretary of State

Kirsten Orrahood
Saguaro City Reporter

While most people remember the Governor and what it holds and means to be a Governor not many clearly know what it means to be Secretary of State. As I have walked about Girls State I have heard whispers as to what it truly

means to be the Secretary of State.

Simple explanation, a Secretary of State must be there to support and help the Governor in all that they do. There is a perfect metaphor that fits the Secretary of State, behind every great Governor, is a great Secretary of State!

Mac & Cheese

Kirsten Orrahood
Saguaro City Reporter

Mac and cheese is a delicacy in any household. Whether it is caked in cheese or ketchup (yes you read correctly, some people eat mac and cheese with ketchup) it is still a pleasure to eat. With its creamy sauce and stringy cheese who could resist? So today, as the

lunch was served one could clearly observe a mac attack! with every plate containing this little golden treat. Thanks to Americans and their palate for this unique entree, once can find the widest variety of mac and cheese sold at the store. From Spongebob to swirly shaped noodles, anyone can have a fun time eating their mac and cheese!

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A Nearly Presidential Luncheon

Kaley Scott & Hannah Grothe
Juniper City Reporters

Another visitor graced the juniper lunch table today. None other than our past girls state governor and Secretary of State sat with us today. It was a real treat for all of us, especially Sedona who is running for this session's girls state governor.

It was strange to see just how small the

state of Arizona really is. After committing some light Instagram stalking of our great governor this reporter discovered a mutual friend between Annie and herself. It was none other than Desert Vista student body president and AASC state president Mackenzie Saunders. Another great leader amongst two girls state delegates.

Later in the lunch our presiding governor taught our delegates the girls state

song. Complete with cute hand gestures and old fashioned slang, the song really woke the girls up. After the girls performed the song together they all felt ready for the oncoming lectures.

Being able to connect with these young women who were in our shoes once before have really opened up the opportunity for us to look to the alumni for guidance and advice about the elections or speeches.

Band Geeks Unite

Lanae Wilson
Palo Verde City Reporter

You may have seen strange-looking instruments near the courtyard before six in the morning, but this is no mistake. You are just seeing dedicated musicians attempting to make things perfect.

The glee club provides an excellent opportunity for musicians from all over the state to come together in harmony. This year, several instrumentalists have joined to "accompany" singers at the "Magical Evening"

performance. Kait Ellico on piccolo, Kristen D'Angelo on flute, Delaney Kranz on oboe, Amanda Forrest on alto saxophone, Lanae Wilson on trumpet, and Christina Bottenfield on piano have all joined forces this year to make the performance the best it can be. The unusual instrumentation may make finding music difficult, but these talented players are determined to make beautiful music together for girls enjoyment.

In addition to joining forces for music, the glee club also provides the instrumentalists the chance to meet like-minded people. These

mutual music lovers have almost all been in some kind of marching, jazz, concert, and regional band and Delaney has even been in the state honor band. A few, however, are used to solo work, so playing in a group is an exciting challenge. But no matter what background, all players are excited to come together for the show on Friday.

Although the songs are a surprise the fact that such diverse individuals can come together to create beautiful music promises to provide a great show on Friday for all girls to enjoy.

Mesquite City's Agricultural Archives Stay green. Save green.

Aaditee Kudrimoti & Reina Pile
Mesquite City Reporters

What if I told you that the Earth changed her life? McKenna Mellon, the Mayor of the City of Mesquite grew up in Yuma, Arizona, a farming city and the lettuce capitol of the WORLD, where she found a passion in the literal FIELD of agriculture.

The transition from middle school to high school, was made easier for Mellon

by the support of an organization called FFA, or "Future Farmers of America", where she met people just as passionate, driven, and ready to change the face of farming as she was. She says that, "Middle School was tough, but joining FFA was the easiest decision of my life".

FFA isn't just any other kind of school club, it's a PLAN, a blueprint, if you will, for how to feed and clothe generations ahead of us. It focuses on premier leadership, personal growth, career success, and

building up the future leaders of agriculture to help feed and clothe America.

FFA, agriculture and all they encompass have changed Mellon's life, and have allowed her to pursue her passion for the Earth and its future. Today, she is the Yuma District President, and Vice President of FFA for the Gila Ridge Chapter. We wish her the best in her earthy endeavors. She and her fellow FFA members WILL be the ones to change the world, and feed our future.

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 Aaditee Kudrimoti - Mesquite
 Alyssa Rosetta - Sycamore
 Natalie Ezeugwu - Sycamore
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Shout Out to the Hannahs!

HannahOrrahood
 Yucca City Reporter

Arizona Girls State has given us the opportunity to meet dozens of new people and form life long friendships. Chances are you've probably met someone named Hannah, whether it be in your city, county or even at "Meet the Candidate" last night. Their catchy Hannah Montana and Hannah Banana campaign slogans have certainly made them memorable candidates. The 2015 Girls State roster is simply inundated with Hannahs. Of the roughly 285 delegates, 10 of them are named Hannah (one of which who's last name is Hannah!) That's almost 4% of the Girls State population.

While this may seem like a small statistic, it's

quite noteworthy considering the diverse group of young ladies here at Girls State. Hannah May very well be the most common name here! Of the 12 cities, 8 of them include someone named Hannah, and some even have two! Think about that; 2/3 if the cities have someone named Hannah and they are in every single county!

Hannah is a biblical name that means "God has favored me". Our Girls State Hannahs certainly have been favored; three of them are Mayors of their respective cities. Three are also reporters for the Arizona Girls State Independent (including yours truly). 3 of them are also running for county, state and even Girls Nation. I wish you Hannahs the best of luck in your campaigning. May you be well favored.

Girls State Talent Show 2015

Emcees:

Chaunci Hood & McKenna Mellon - Mesquite

Not In Performance Order

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Whitney Mason (Sycamore)
Monologue from <i>Macbeth</i> | 15. Delaney Kranz (Mimosa)
Slam Poetry "Politics" |
| 2. Lanae Wilson (Palo Verde)
Trumpet "Disney Mashup" | 16. Amanda Ruiz (Sycamore)
Singing "Kadonnut" |
| 3. Jasmine Perez (Mimosa)
Singing "Landslide" | 17. Kaley Scott (Juniper)
Contemporary Dance "Out of My Mind" |
| 4. Natalie Ezeugwu (Sycamore)
Juggling | 18. Onica Rice (Manzanita)
Singing "Gangman Style" |
| 5. Karen McCleve (Ironwood)
Singing "Titanium" | 19. Hannah Orrahood (Yucca)
Spoken Word Poem "Today Means Amen" |
| 6. Jennie Lovorn (Juniper)
Irish Hard Shoe River Dance "Victory" | 20. Amanda Forrest (Manzanita)
Chinese Yoyo |
| 7. Alex Case (Manzanita)
Singing "Stay" | 21. Chayley Blaydes (Palo Verde)
Singing "Like I am Going to Lose You" |
| 8. Cristaly Betancourt (Ocotillo)
Monologue from "Finding Nemo" | 22. Kennedy Prock (Mimosa)
Piano "River Flows in You" |
| 9. Alexandra Fernandez (Manzanita)
Piano "Let the Flames Begin" | 23. Klarissa Arreola (Cholla)
Singing "Valerie" |
| 10. Kathleen Watz (Ocotillo)
Ukelele Song "La Vie en Rose" | 24. Lauren Remy (Mimosa)
Slam Poetry "Generation Y" |
| 11. Ivana Rodriguez (Ocotillo)
Singing "I am Yours" | 25. Theresa Ruiz (Cholla)
Sing and Violin "set Fire to the Rain" |
| 12. Wintana Yohannes (Sycamore)
Spoke Word "Epitaph" | 26. Caitlyn Kramer (Palo Verde)
Tap Dance "anything Goes" |
| 13. Amelia Jimenez (Pinon)
Dance "Boom Clap" | 27. Kristen D'Angelo (Juniper)
& Qianhe "Kelly" Liu (Saguaro)
Flute and Piano Duet "Baroque and Blues" |
| 14. Emily Chou (Ocotillo)
Piano "Fantasie Impromptu" | 28. Special Presentation from Girls State |

“Goodbye Girls State”

Nicole Clasen
Manzanita City Reporter

Annie Mazzarella and Mea Valli-Doherty give advice to the 2015 Girls State delegates

When you were nominated for Girls State what were your first thoughts?

Annie: “I was confused. I wasn’t sure what the program was and I had research I needed to do. I didn’t know anyone going, I was actually the first delegate my school ever sent. I was nervous but I was very excited to learn, to make friends, and to have a good experience.”

Mea: “Four girls from my school were selected to go. We had a pretty intense election process. We had to be nominated by a teacher first and then we were interviewed by Legion Auxiliary members. I was overwhelmed when I was selected, I remember leaving the interview and screaming and telling all of my teachers”.

Why did you run and what skills do you think allowed you to win?

Annie: “I love leadership. I am a genuine person who values kindness and outreach. My focused on that, I didn’t

want anyone to feel alone. I wanted to make sure everyone’s ideas felt valued and appreciated. I think I was just a very passionate, extroverted, outgoing person who was able to make friends, who was a people person with a strong inclination towards other people. I think the combination of those is what made me want to run, and what allowed me to win.”

Mea: “I ran because I have experience with leadership positions. I really wanted to represent Girls State, I wanted to come back this year and really inspire the girls that were coming in. I think what made me win was my passion. I was really outgoing, I dressed up in weird costumes and I think that just really stuck out and people remembered me.”

What are your plans for the future, has Girls State contributed to your aspirations?

Annie: “I will be studying political science at Barrett Honors in the fall, after which I would like to attend law school. I think Girls State only further-emphasized that want.”

Mea: “In the future I plan to be a pediatric surgeon, so I think Girls State has really helped me with that because, as a

doctor, you have to be able to communicate with people and one of the biggest things you learn at Girls State is communication and learning to interact with others and that skill will really help me later on.”

What advice do you have for the new Governor and Secretary of State, in terms of next year for the 2016 conference?

Annie: “Be prepared. Be organized. Be confident. The girls here voted for you for a reason. Demonstrate that reason when you come back and meet the new girls.”

Mea: “Get to know your girls. Remember you are there for them, just be passionate, be open, live in the moment. Love it. Relish it.”

Do you have any closing words? Anything you want to the girls to know?

Annie: “You’ll hear them in my parting speech on Thursday.”

Mea: “Use the skills you learn now you’ll use them a lot during your senior year. The main thing is perseverance, you may have ran for mayor and lost but you have to keep going. Just like senior year you’re going to find a lot of disappointment but also a lot of happiness and rewarding experiences.”

Freedom is not free, and it never will be

Angela Bell
Ironwood City Reporter

Yesterday, Girls State was humbled and blessed with the opportunity to be inspired by two true American patriots. With their words, they sparked a sense of American pride and desire to take action; that is exactly what the Joe Foss Institute aims to achieve.

Decorated General, Governor of South Dakota, first commissioner of the American Football League, engineer behind the first Super Bowl, host of ABC’s “The American Sportsman” and “The Outdoorsman: Joe Foss”, Director of the United States Air Force Academy, president of the National Rifle Association, patriot, evangelist, and motivational speaker: Joe Foss was nothing short of an American hero and had plenty of experience under his belt to prove it. As if that weren’t enough, The Joe Foss Institute ensures that his legacy lives on forever.

Sending volunteer veterans out to encourage young people to take pride in their great country is just one of the many challenges they take on.

Joe Foss once said, “They gave their lives as simply in those days as you go and deposit money to purchase something. They had confidence in this country, and they knew that they liked the lifestyle that they had, with freedom, freedom.” In response to this statement, Bob, Vietnam veteran, was asked: Why is it that our culture lacks such patriotism that came so naturally in Foss’s era? His retort hit the nail on the head. “We have lost our moral compass. We have lost our way.” The men and women who lived through the WWII period had a much different perspective on sacrifice and freedom than we hold today. In those days, one hardly thought twice about doing everything and anything necessary to protect the ideals set for us by our American forefathers. Today, while many patriots

still remain, it has become a grotesque trend to condemn the very country that grants us a life of liberty.

Let us never forget, in the words of Bob, “It is the Veteran, not the Preacher, who has given us the freedom of religion. It is the Veteran, not the Reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press. It is the Veteran, not the Poet, who has given us the freedom of speech. It is the Veteran, not the Campus Organizer, who has given us the freedom to assemble. It is the Veteran, not the Politician, who has given us the right to vote. It is the Veteran, who salutes the flag, who serves under the flag, whose coffin is draped by the flag. Freedom comes with a price and many Veterans have paid the ultimate price to maintain our Freedoms.”

As Bob and Dick Melick remind us that “the two most important words in the English language are ‘Thank you,’” let us all take a moment to step back and say, THANK YOU!

Behind the Scenes: Girls of Cholla City

EmmaWallace & PaulinaLianoz
Cholla City Reporters

United at the 68th Annual Girls State, the girls at Cholla City work hard to get themselves known. However, it isn't all business and politics. When asked for an interesting fact, a few girls responded with mind blowing comments. Below are a few:

- Zailey Cook - "When I laugh, I snort like a pig."

- Brandy Tenorio - "I'm a professional snow technician." (She makes shaved ice)
- Madison Crumby, - "I can put my feet behind my head."
- Hailey Sunderland-O'Neal - "I've broken 8 bones."
- Kimberly Pacheco - "I like to be very optimistic about things."
- Erika Albrecht - "I can swallow my tongue." (She really can)
- Julia Morgan - "I can solve a rubix cube in under a minute."

- Kameo McAuley - "I play 2 sports: volleyball, basketball and softball."
- Paige Swanson - "I'm really good at the middle splits."
- Klarissa Arreola - "I lived in Germany for 4 years."
- Josiah Pierce - "I have 9 siblings."
- Madeline Lyman - "I had 2 benign tumors."
- Theresa Ruiz - "I don't have tonsils."
- Molly Bishop - "I've lived in Alaska and I was a student activist."

Price of Freedom

KathleenWatz
Ocotillo City Reporter

"Freedom is not free, never will be." Today the girls at Girls State listened to and inspiring talk given by two elderly veterans from the Joe Foss Institute. This dynamic duo began their talk with a little banter back and forth. It was evident they were having a good time and liked to put on a show.

The talk these men gave was named Inspiring Patriotism in our Girls State handbooks. For Ocotillo citizens these men did exactly that. They not only were

speaking for a good cause but people could tell they were speaking from the heart and enjoying the time.

They spoke about people they met, the things we could do in our community, and how we can ultimately serve our country. They stressed the idea of service for our community and our nation because both do so much for us as American citizens. When they spoke about visiting the elderly in homes, the girls could tell they spoke genuinely because they had seen firsthand what happens.

One of the men spoke about how veterans risked their lives for the safety we

have today and how we have a duty to give back to them. The men also emphasized patriotism. Patriotism is found in daily life all the time. It is in the way American people treat each other and what they do to help their country, whether it be visiting the elderly or going into the military.

At the end these men got the standing ovation they deserved. They were passionate and gave their real opinions. They told us to never give up an opportunity and without their service our lives could be different. Their words were inspiration beyond words.

Sycamore Q&A Session

NatalieEzeugwu & AlyssaRosetta
Sycamore City Reporters

Q: What is a day at Girls State like for you?
A: "It's busy and a lot of hard work but it's really fun overall."-Diona, federalist precinct committeeman

A: "The most interesting part of the day is when we're the ones setting up behind the scenes, doing work to represent what the party stands for. Putting the political process into Action is a very rewarding duty."

-Eleanor, precinct committeeman
A: "Meeting new people is the most fun part of my day. Having people come up and introduce themselves and 'sell' their platforms to you is the most interesting part."-Tatum Witt

Q: Do you have any other comments about Girls State?

A: "I most appreciate the City Advisors, especially Mrs. Queen. They take time out of their lives to teach us how the government is run."-Courtney

A: "I appreciate all the leaders of Girls State."-Eva

A: "I've always been interested in local government especially in my district. I'm pro education and volunteer in my own district, District 8. I am going to take away from this experience not only the friendships I've created with my city but also the learning aspects--communication skills and running for offices in my city. Overall, I will never forget my experience at Girls State"-Kris

Q: What has been your favorite memory at Girls State so far?

A: "Meet the candidates night. One girls story was so touching that it made me cry."-Jade

A: "Creating relationships that are going to last past just the week of girls state."-Lindsey

A: "Getting to know everyone in my city and my sister city."-Kris

Q: What's the most important thing you feel you've learned so far?

A: "How to adapt quickly to various situations."-Kathy

A: "How important it is for women to take part in the government."-Nyssa

A: "That communication is key."-Kylie

Arizona Girls State Independent



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How can I be a true Girls State Alumni when I go home?

Veronica Boyd
Pinon City Reporter

During a regular school year, many students look forward to the weekend. But here at Girls State, no matter how sleep deprived you are, many of us don't want to leave. We can agree that we have made so many connections and bonds not only with our cities and counties, but with our entire state. It's crazy to think that we just checked into our dorm rooms and introduced ourselves to our roommate for the week; and today, we will already begin cleaning up and packing up our belongings, wishing there was an extended stay option.

One of the fondest memories that we will all take back with us to our communities will be the presentation given to us by Charlene Fernandez. She is a legislative who believes strongly in feminism, passing bills that will benefit the majority of the state, and for voting for the best candidate, no matter what party. You could tell the audience really made a connection by the constant cheering, clapping, grins, and from nods of approval.

During yesterday's presentation, Kennedy Prock asked our guest speaker how we can bring her inspiring, motivational energy back to our communities. She began her instruction by explaining how we can show all

voting citizens the realization that what party you are shouldn't matter when deciding who will represent our sunny state. Charlene continued by explaining that you need to really consider every candidate's experience and background and make sure to watch and listen to what they believe in and how they apply themselves to various situations. This was an amazing question because Charlene was able to give us life lessons that will allow us to be the true Girls State 2015 alumni we will shortly become and some insightful tips for those of us who will be allowed to register to vote soon.

She explained to us that we need to make opportunities for ourselves and not wait for others to present them to us. She discussed how she lost the first time she ran for legislative, but then went on to explain how she managed to not lose her drive and perseverance for her next campaign where she ended up winning. This shows us that we can accomplish anything we put our minds to because we are qualified individuals who contain strong wills that need to be fulfilled. By doing this, she has spoken out against "feel good bills" where, if passed, would actually do more harm than good for the state.

Being apart of the minority party does not stop her from having voice; it actually

allows her to speak up more for what she knows is right, even if they are not from the same party. She opened up our eyes to what a government should be and taught us how to apply ourselves. To close up Kennedy's question, we need to remember the two important vocabulary words our previous Governor, Annie, taught us yesterday: compassion and passion. Compassion is having "sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others" while passion is having "a strong desire or emotion for something."

These two definitions are something to take home with us and share with others. Both of these amazing women have given us the necessary tools needed for making our state a better place and to help improve topics such as education. We will all miss them dearly as we finish out the week, but we can all agree that we are thankful for the time and dedication they have given us to allow us to grasp the necessary tools to make the right decision. Now we just need to finish the week out strong and take back all of the lessons and experiences we have learned here at Girl's State. Enjoy the rest of your time here at Girl's State and congratulations to all newly elected and appointed city, county, and state officials!



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An Overflow of Talent

KathleenWatz
 Ocotillo City Reporter

Come one, come all! The entire Girls State gathered in the State House for one special evening, the talent show. This show was not short of talent. Every single girl who was courageous enough to get on stage caused numerous uproars of applause throughout the crowd. Girls from different cities and counties participated. The city of Ocotillo had an outstanding number of four citizens displaying talent.

The girls who performed from Ocotillo ranged from monologues, to the ukulele, to an outstanding song, to very fast fingers on the piano. These girls worked hard and had a lot of courage to get up in front of everyone. Cristaly Betancourt performed a monologue from Finding Nemo. Kathleen Watz played La Vie en Rose on the ukulele as well as sang it. Ivana Rodriguez sang I'm Yours by Jason Mraz. Emily Chou received a standing ovation for

her skills on the piano. All the girls, even the people from other cities, performed excellently and displayed their talents for everyone to see.

As well as having girls participate in the talent show Ocotillo also had amazing spirit for everyone in the talent show. The cheered and encouraged all the girls even if they were very nervous or scared. After the show the citizens of Ocotillo congratulated all the participants from the city with praise and applause. They were so energetic and loving to everyone in the show, especially their fellow girls from Ocotillo.

The talent show was a success. The girls on stage displayed their talents very well. The girls in the audience did as well. They had so much spirit and love for the girls performing. Getting up on stage is courageous and nerve wrecking. The audience did a great job making the performers feel at ease. This was a night where everyone learned more about people and the state of Girls State grew closer.

Saguaros revolt! Mayor kidnapped! Entire Saguaro city found guilty

LaurenOlson
 Saguaro City Reporter

This morning at approximately 6:20 am the city of Saguaro kidnapped their mayor. Pretending to be knocking to wake her up, the unsuspecting mayor opened the door to a revolting city. A bag was thrown over her head and she was forced to sit in a chair and then tied up with yarn. The kidnappers used the elevator to send the mayor up to the 6th floor.

Below is an exclusive interview with the mayor herself.

What was going through your head at the time of the attack?

I was very, uh; I didn't know what was going on. I was confused and I was like what the heck are these guys doing...My own people.

Why didn't you fight back?

It was early in the morning. At 6:23 in the morning, exactly. I was so tired that I didn't even know what was going on; my mind was just blank. I just wanted to go back to sleep. That's why I stuck my foot out the door, to get the door open because I thought they were waking me up.

How do you plan on handling the revolt?

I had to think about that. For all the citizens, including the innocents, they will have to suffer through the pain also because they didn't stop those that were guilty. (At this point one of those innocent citizens interjected "I was sleeping!" to which Nina responded, "I was sleeping, too.") For their jail time, they will have to be at their city hall from 4:50 to 5:10. They have to bring everything- water, food, if you want to bring a pillow or blanket, okay. I will get to say when they can leave.

Do you remember anything significant about your captors?

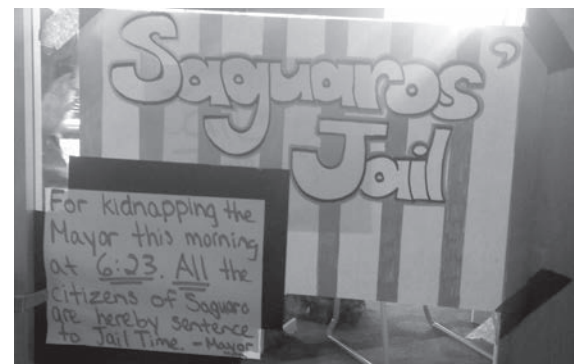
I remember Kelly. She put the pillow cover over my head. So, I remember.

What happened?

So, this is what happened. I opened the door, the first thing I saw was Kelly and then I saw the other girls, I didn't know who, but, I just saw girls, okay. Then, my mind just went blank. They put me in the elevator and I was like "Where are we going?" and someone said, "We're not going anywhere."

How did you fight back?

So, they sent me up to the top sixth floor and I had no idea what was going on. They sent up me up in the elevator and I was waiting for them to be at the top. But, they weren't. So, I was thinking and I was like, "why not make them merciful and give them a real kidnap scene". I was trying to make them think another city was kidnapping me. So I just left the chair in the elevator, just like in the movies. So, then, after I got to the sixth floor I waited for a while and then sent the chair down to the second floor. I pushed the button and watched the doors close and I waited until it reached the second floor and I heard everyone laugh, and then, panic. And then, a few minutes later, I decided to send the yarn they tied me up with and the pillowcase down the elevator to try and make it look like I tried to escape in another city and they kidnapped me.



Inspiration at Girls State

Madison Mazaheri
Ironwood City Reporter

Today we all had the amazing opportunity to speak with the lovely Charlene Fernandez. She is a member of the House of Representatives for Arizona. She represents district four which is one of the largest districts in the whole state. Mrs. Fernandez lives in Yuma and she drives to Phoenix early every Monday morning in order to spend the week there for her job. She is a woman of passion and great integrity. She inspired Girls State delegates to no end. She fights for what's important

to her people and she doesn't rest till it's done. She taught us many life lessons and encouraged us to not only chase our dreams, but to make them happen.

Some like Reece Andonov simply stated "she is my new idol." Rene Ferguson told us "if she ran for governor she'd have my vote!" I think we were all blown away by not only the content of her character and her passion, but by her fantastic speaking skills. All the girls were engaged the whole time and asked questions like crazy.

Meghan Cawley from the city of Ironwood stated "I really loved the enthusiasm she had the whole time she was speaking,

she was just so passionate." Not only did she relate to us as an education lover and a person who presents herself as a warrior in the battle field of the court house, but also a proud feminist. Hailey Abrams from Ironwood mentioned "I think she related to us the most as woman and she was really inspiring and it was really good for us to hear her story."

Everyone was mesmerized during her speech and we were all so moved by the way her passion just poured out when she spoke. She is an outstanding role model and I think I can speak for most Girls Staters when I say she is an inspiration.

The Importance of Being HERnandez

Kaley Scott & Hannah Grothe
Yucca City Reporters

Today in the state house, Girl's State delegates had the honor of hearing from a fantastic guest speaker, Charlene Hernandez of the Arizona House of Representatives District 4. She explained to all of the girls in attendance the value of prioritizing education or what matters to the

girls or their eventual constituents when thinking in terms of bills or laws. When asked about feminism, Hernandez showed her full support for girl power and equal rights. She made sure to mention the significance of a woman's independence and the authority that all women possess as individuals. She inspired the girls to work for goals without asking for the permission

or approval of anyone else. Mrs. Hernandez later went on to address that women can do anything that men can do.

The possibilities of what women can do are endless. Charlene Hernandez is a perfect example of a strong woman representative in a male dominated government. She refuses to stop working towards what she believes in no matter the tribulations

that may impede her journey. She knows that a person can't wait for an opportunity to come along they must push themselves. She goes after what she wants and strives to reach her goal. Charlene Hernandez is a fantastic role model for young women, teaching every girl the importance of women's independence and focusing on specific issues at hand.

Mesquite City's Agricultural Archives Stay green. Save green.

Aaditee Kudrimoti & Reina Pile
Mesquite City Reporters

... We don't inherit our earth from our ancestors, we borrow from our children....

To save our Earth from ourselves and for our posterity, Environmental conservatism needs to be made a priority all around Arizona, which needs a starting point.

The girls of Mesquite City are working towards a greener future, where renewable energy sources are the main energy source.

Their main stance is the use of water for energy. Water can be used in both agriculture and energy production. In the field of agriculture, hydroponics is the process of growing plants using nutrient solutions in water with no soil. Some benefits to hydroponics are a decrease in land use for crops, there is less water usage than crops, and there is less pesticide use. Some disadvantages include the cost for hydroponics are more expensive than traditional farms and hydroponic fields require more

research and attention.

Another way we are using water to help the community is hydroponic power. This power is more often than not conducted by dams. With the lakes and dams in Arizona, it is possible that we could power most of the state. Water is a renewable source that can be used for energy and crops, and a smart way to start saving the environment.

Live for and love the Earth.

From Girls State to Everyday

Marissa Rottnek
Yucca City Reporter

To many who have never been to Girls State, it is simply just a boring government thing. To those who have been to Girls State it is so much more. The citizens of Girls State are able to learn about the government in a way that most teenagers don't get the opportunity to. The girls vote like the average citizen and they run for offices like so few in America. The benefits of the different branches of government are learned as well as the process and the more intricate details in the political

system. These girls are already preparing for their future whether they just do their civil duty and vote or they reach beyond that and run for some sort of office.

The girls here at Girls State are able to talk about their opinions and thoughts on things that most teenagers and even adults don't really want to discuss, things such as education and welfare. While in the "real world" many teenage girls who try to voice their opinion of the state of the country get told "you're just a teenager you don't know what you're talking about," Girls State is giving everyone a chance to speak their mind freely. Girls

are able to speak without anyone looking down on them when they really should be grateful that the youth is taking a interest in the country. The girls are shown that their opinions matter and are valued just like they should be in real life.

While we may not be here longer we will all be taking what we have learned and applying to our real live. This may be knowing how to vote, how to be an informed voter, knowing how to run for office, or even just the reminder that are opinions and thought are just as important as anyone else's.



Pop it. Lock it. Rock it.

Nicole Clasen
Manzanita City Reporter

With the election of governor Maricella Garcia, who belongs to the Federalist party, many people may find themselves questioning what the Federalist party stands for.

As the party rallies commenced on Tuesday night, the Federalist chant "Get fed" was heard echoing throughout Likin Hall. During the rally Gabby DeGravina, Federalist party chairman, outlined the party's platform.

The Federalist position focuses heavily on matters involving education. A reduction in state issued standardized tests such as AZ Merit and Benchmarks, and curriculum taught

and created by teachers. Increasing the budget for arts and career preparedness programs. Budget equality for schools to maintain socioeconomic equality. The Federalist party has a strong stance on agricultural development as well as environmental conservation.

So what does the election of a Federalist Governor mean for the fate of Arizona Girls State? Nothing. Both Nationalist and Federalist parties are concerned with similar things. Working together as one state, versus working as two parties will create better education, with standards created by teachers. A reduction in standardized testing. Budget equality for schools. Economic and

agricultural conscientiousness. Equal opportunity for minorities and the lower and middle classes. A solution to problems that not only this state faces, but America as a whole. A

united front means having a governor who will push for change in a time that desperately needs it. It is the foundation for a better future, for a better Arizona Girls State.



How has your Girls State experience been thus far? Ironwood girls tell their answers!

AngelaBell
Ironwood City Reporter

Lexie Grant: This week has been Aca-awesome! I met so many unique ladies and I am so happy that they're part of my life now. I also learned more about the state and how the government works, which is also a plus.

Reece Andonov: This week has been great. I've made so many unexpected friendships and gotten so close to everyone.

Maddie Stidham: Girls State has been absolutely phenomenal. Not only have

I grown emotionally, but the knowledge I've gained and friends I've made will last me a lifetime. Thank you American Legion Auxiliary for changing my life.

Cristina Garibay: My Girls State experience has been aca-awesome. I've met some amazing people who I feel have helped me grow as a person. I've learned so much.

Christina Bottenfield: I've really enjoyed my time here and have met some really awesome girls. I love how everyone is so laid back and accessible. It's also been really interesting listening to our guest speakers and learning about the pro-

cess of government and the importance of getting involved and making a difference in our communities.

Madelynn Brewer: I have had an absolutely amazing time at Girls State! I love my Aca-Ironwood girls! Even though it's been exhausting, I will never forget this experience.

Karen McCleve: My GS experience has been stressful but overall enjoyable. I've enjoyed being involved and having the opportunity to meet wonderful girls and make friends and lasting memories. It's fun to meet girls that can be so different yet so like me.

The Life of a Captive

KirstenOrrahood
Saguaro City Reporter

Imagine walking by your city jail and looking to see all of the inmates who captured your city mayor. It sounds slightly nerve racking, but I had a pack of gummy bears so I was all set. There in itself was my mistake. In a blur there was a jail break and I was surrounded

by felons grabbing me and herding me towards the jail.

I remember crying out "No!No!" but to no avail. In no time flat I was all tied up. I looked to my right and saw that the Sheriff has succumb to the same fate. In no time the Mayor returned and wound up in a chair just like the rest of us.

The jailbirds then moved us all into the mayor's room and closed the door tight.

Needless to say, it did not take long for the three of us to escape.

While being kidnapped was an experience, the true perpetrator of the jailbreak remains at large. The mayor, the sheriff and myself have yet to press charges. Any information about the people involved with the jail break is greatly appreciated by Saguaro City Police officials.

Mimosa Must Be Magical

HannahHorner & ImmaNgugi
Mimosa City Reporters

In this past week Mimosa has gone from a group of strangers to the strongest and most supported city in Girls State. In the passing days, girls ran for a plethora of positions and more than 1/3 of the population achieved their goals. They not only kicked tail during elections they also took the stage away during last night's talent show.

As most people know Maricella Garcia

ran for Governos and WON! This girl poured her heart into her campaign. She did not use posters or flyers, however she used her heart and mind. She earned her votes through discussion with her congregation. She genuinely loves Girls State and cannot wait to come back next year.

In these previous elections the city won several positions. They ranged from city to state. There are actually two girls, Kennedy Prock and Sydney Jenner, running for Girls Nation from Mimosa. The city has many girls in the Senate as well as the

House.

Lastly, the talent show presented many girls from Mimosa. The acts ranged from slam poetry to piano performances. If can be seen that Mimosa is talent filled. Mimosa citizen Lauren Remy, taught the audience of Mark Smith and what slam poetry really is. Delaney Kranz killed it with her views on politics.

Overall, it can be seen that Mimosa city really is Magical. It's a place where girls dreams rally do come true. Mimosa is the happiest place in Girls State.

Exhaustion at Girls State

MeganEwy
Ocotillo City Reporter

Basic functioning, like listening, talking, and just plain interacting, can be extremely difficult to do after a day consisting of sweltering hot walks, informatively expansive lectures, and belling bursting meals. Add this to 16 hour work days and you have a recipe for extreme exhaustion. Even walking around the U of A campus, anyone near enough to a Girls State delegate can catch small glimpses of mumbled conversations based on how tired all these fellow girls are.

However, at such a prestigious program no one wants to miss a single moment as they create their collection of memories that will always be present in their heart. So, in order to combat this threat of exhaustion, there are

several ways to keep your eyes open as to not miss a single second. Firstly, the most popular method of combating sleepiness is the consumption of caffeine through coffee and soda. Luckily, the staff at Girls State knows that this program is extremely tiresome--even though it entails hard work and attention to detail-- so they generously supply this stimulant at every meal. Coffee at breakfast. Soda at lunch. Soda at dinner.

If the intake of caffeine isn't enough to keep the representatives at Girls States awake, another well-known method is activity: Having your heart beat at an accelerated pace helps distribute blood to every part of your body-- especially your brain-- and, thus, aids in fighting the threat that consists of drooping eyelids, sluggish movements, and--of course-- full on coma-

tose. Well, fortunately, everyone at Girls State gets plenty of exercise by walking from continuously walking around U of A's campus from one side of the campus to another side.

But the real battle occurs when all of the young ladies of this program are congregated into an auditorium and told lecture after lecture after lecture. This is when the last-- and final-- weapon can be utilized: gum. Gum is the victor in this fight against exhaustion when all else fails. The minty fresh taste keeps your mind awake and focused while combating bad breath. This is the true MVP. However, there are many, many more ways to stay awake and focused and everyone is different, but I hope these few tips are able to help all of my fellow Girls State representatives fight the threat of exhaustion.



Mock Trial: Putting Girls State citizens on the stand

NatalieEzeugwu
Sycamore City Reporter

With the court system now established, the Girls State mock trial is in the making. A grave crime has purportedly been committed by one of the our own Girls State citizens, putting the livelihood of another at stake. Several girls witnessed certain aspects of the events that unfolded on that fateful day, and these citizens shall appear on the witness stand.

Both plaintiff and defense

will make opening statements, interview the witnesses and expose the evidence. Ultimately, it will be up to the jury to decide if the defendant is indeed guilty. Is she to blame or are they prosecutors simply mistaken?

The court officials convened in several meetings to hash out the details for the court case. We hope that you as an audience enjoy the trial. And hopefully our actions in the courtroom will do the citizens justice.

Cholla Goes Mad...

PaulinaLianoz & EmmaWallace
Cholla City Reporters

At the last city hall meeting Sunday night, the girls of Cholla decided on their theme: Alice in Wonderland. For 3 days, each girl worked on their door. Although the girls all worked on their own doors, the whole city cooperated to correlate each door with the others.

Erika Albrecht, is one of the many artists withing Cholla. Albrecht spent many hours creating 2 large Alice's, and 2 small Alice's. According to Albrecht, her favorite part about working on the doors was, "coming up with ideas together and doing crazy things."

Though lacking some serious sleep, Supai County Attorney Klarissa Arreola shared the same enthusiasm for door decorations. Scared that Cholla would not finish in time, Klarissa stayed up way past bedtime in order to finish her "down the rabbit hole" decor in an effort to hide from the hawk eyes of city supervisor Mr. Gaines, Klarissa decided to take a quick cat nap hidden behind a wall of the art room. Klarissa woke up at 4am and tiptoed back to bed, only getting 2 hours of genuine sleep.

The Cholla girls worked hard but it is up to the panel of judges now! Who will win the door competitions this year?