

# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## Morning Motivation from Lisa Matthews

By Megan Burke  
Saguaro City Reporter

The delegate's Tuesday morning began promptly at 8 am in the state house. Governor Esther Malish introduced Lisa Matthews as the speaker for today.

Ms. Matthews currently is the Assistant to the County Administrator in Pima County. The goal of Ms. Matthews' speech was to educate delegates on what county government is.

However, I walked out of the first meeting of the day not only informed, but inspired to start each day with a purpose.

During the questionnaire section of the speech, one delegate asked Ms. Matthews what motivated her to go to work everyday in an environment that can be emotionally draining at times.

Ms. Matthews answered eloquently; her response still etched in my brain. She began by explaining that her mornings start at 4:30 or 5 am! The delegates burst with laughter, in shock of Ms. Matthews being such an early riser. Ms. Matthews explained that her time in the military shaped her sleeping schedule.

Next, she elaborated that once she is awake, she expresses gratitude for being granted another day.

Finally, Ms. Matthews reminds herself that she only has 24 hours to make a difference. She questions, "Will I use these 24 hours being mad, annoyed, talking about others? No." Once she lays her intentions, Ms. Matthews begins her day with determination to accomplish her goals.

Every day counts in the battle of accom-

plishing change. Delegates from across Arizona are united with their passion to improve their community or nation. We all have bills we want passed, legislation to be changed, and propositions to be discussed.

Wasting one's day distracted by pointless arguments and gossip slows down this revolution for reform. Instead, labeling your intentions right when you wake up lays the foundation for a great day.

I may not wake up at 4:30 am like Ms. Matthews but I will be implementing her advice into my morning routine.

Girls State expresses endless gratitude to Lisa Matthews for sharing her guidance and wisdom to the delegates.

After a week of speeches, delegates are truly going to leave Girl States skilled and inspired as the future changemakers in society.

## Manzanita campaigns for County and State

By Annika Good and Amelia Cooney  
Manzanita City Reporter

In the later part of the day on Tuesday, June 6th 2023, the city of Manzanita took part in election campaigning in the Likins Hall courtyard. The girls made friends and introduced themselves to other citizens with the hopes of being elected to their respective offices of choice.

After an eventful morning of learning about the county offices and attending the first Cocopah county meeting of the week, the girls were eagerly anticipating which office positions they would fill.

Several girls, including Manzanita citizens Lexi Moreno and Lani Kujawski, elected to campaign for seats on the senate, while Isabella Sizer opted to run for the position of State Governor!

The girls then returned to their dorm in Likins Hall after the meeting and began making their campaign materials. The nominated candidates creatively and efficiently assembled posters or small tokens



Left, Lani Kujawski campaigns for a position of Senator as she talks to citizens from Saguaro city. Right, Lexi Moreno poses with a friend as they discuss campaign strategies.

to benefit their campaign and started the process of pitching to other counties.

They started taping up their campaign posters, talking to other citizens, and advocating for a future they want to build.

Skyler Greener, a citizen of the city, reflects fondly on her experience with the campaign. "Campaigning was fun because it introduced me to so many people," she says. "I ran for Cocopah County Sheriff."

The Girls State citizens ended the night with a county rally and a 'Meet the Candidate' night with each city and county attempting to gather as many votes as possible.

It was an exhilarating night of meeting new citizens and making friends for the city of Manzanita. In the end, the girls wrapped up their exciting campaigns and eagerly await for the day of the election. Best of luck to all the candidates!

# Girls Nation Candidate Strives as Mayor of Palo Verde!

By Maria Leon  
 Palo Verde City Reporter

The newly elected Mayor in Palo Verde City named Paris Long has a heavy load on her for the rest of the week. This Madam Mayor is not only the leader of our town that is also running for Girls Nation as well.

Before I get into her Bill that she will be working on I asked her a few questions on how she will use her skills to be a Funky Fresh Mayor for Palo Verde City!

The first question I asked Mayor Long was, "What is your leadership style and how will you use that in your role as mayor?" Her response was, "I like to work together with people. I think that collaboration is very important and every leadership skill. With being mayor I am trying to see where everyone is at and throw their ideas into our city because I think that their point of view and their mindset should be the goal of our city".

For the second question I asked her, "What do you plan to implement in your city?" and her response was, "I was looking in our past city book and our map was scored very poorly. So in my mayorship I would like to create a map of our city that reflects our history better and makes Palo Verde a more innovative and collective society".

For the final question I asked Long, "What is your main goal for Palo Verde at the end of the week?". Madam Mayor responded with, "The main goal for Palo Verde is that all of the citizens of the city have made a relationship with each other, more of a sisterhood. I hope that we all work towards becoming capital city and that our doors look nice. I also hope that we have people getting the positions they want".

Some girls from Palo Verde shared how they feel about Paris Long being mayor and we will get to that but right now let's talk about the Bill that Mayor Long

hopes to pass if she gets selected for Girls Nation.

This Bill is about the cost of student education. Many students do not pass the level of high school education because they simply do not have the money to pay for a university.

Low income families have children that strive to be successful and go to a higher level of education but it is not possible.

Paris Long wants to pass a bill that lowers the cost of higher education so that low income students can become more successful and live a better life in the future.

Now the citizens of Palo Verde have a few words to say about their Mayor that they elected.

First off we have Alysa Barcelo saying wonderful things about Mayor Long. Alysa stated, "So far I think she is really energetic. She really puts our time as a priority because she will run meetings quickly so we can get to bed or move on when we are doing something but she will make sure we have time".

Another person who had nice things to say about Long was Jessica Lee. She said, "I think that our mayor has been such a good mayor. She is so kind and listens to everyone. She is so organized and I'm so glad to have her as our mayor. I feel like I can talk to her about anything and she will understand".

One last person who had wonderful words about our mayor was Caleigh Hydock. Caleigh said, "I think she is doing such a good job as mayor. It's such a hard task and you can't even see her struggling if she is so I think she is doing a great job".

Paris Long is an excellent mayor and she will be running for Girls Nation. Education is so important and it needs to be an option for everyone and not just for people who are financially blessed. This will improve things around the country! Best of luck to Paris Long for Girls Nation Senator!

# Food Review of the Week

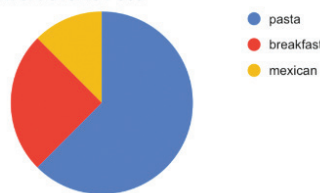
By Gargee Tamboli and Delia Riley  
 Pinon City Reporters

One of the most memorable experiences for most at Girls State is having meals with their friends. We've enjoyed a variety of different foods from different cuisines, and the idea to create a food review was born.

Daily breakfast normally consists of continental foods: bagels, muffins, cereal, coffee, etc. During lunch, we've had sandwiches, fried chicken, and mac n' cheese. Dinner consisted of pasta (Sunday and Tuesday night) and Mexican food.

Through a poll, we've determined pasta night was far and away the most popular night. As it was also

Count of Favorite Food



our first night, we're excited to see if the food will hit a similar high throughout the week.

"The meat pasta was pretty good, and the cheesy one was also really good. Good options, good flavors, all the things" said one of the people we talked to.

Breakfast was close second to pasta night, with girls pointing out their favorite parts, including muffins and crystallized lemon, "it tasted like lemons, and it comes in a salt like form and a packet!".

Many girls also made mentions of the drinks we've enjoyed during the week. The punch, lemonade, and some of the soft drinks, like the sparkling water from the Girls State Store, were some popular drinks.

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**2023 Girls State Reporters**

- Maria Leon - Palo Verde
- Ayana Molina - Palo Verde
- Jordan Casey - Juniper
- Camila Lavayen - Juniper
- Delia Riley - Pinon
- Gargee Tamboli - Pinon
- Sydney Schurz - Ocotillo
- Juliana Li - Ocotillo
- Sarah Kibby - Cholla
- Starry Hopkins - Cholla
- Amelia Cooney - Manzanita
- Annika Good - Manzanita
- Sania Patel - Yucca
- Payton Robbins - Yucca
- Reidiny Aguirre - Saguaro
- Megan Burke - Saguaro
- Gabriella Comer - Sycamore
- Elyse Gonzales - Sycamore

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# The Breakfast Club

By Jordan Casey  
Juniper City Reporter

Everyone knows the famous movie: The Breakfast Club. In a quick summary, the movie is about how five high school students meet in Saturday detention and they discover they have a lot more in common with each other than they previously thought.

Each of the five students held strong opinions of each other. They judged one another before they knew one fact about each other. Spoiler alert! They learn that their differences aren't something to be frowned upon. They take their differences in consideration, and they embrace those traits. Through detention they write an essay dedicated to each

other and sign it 'The Breakfast Club'. The movie captures a story on the celebration of humanity to bring different types of people together. Lets be like The Breakfast Club.

Another thing that brings people together is food. All meals of the day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Food brings all types of people together. Every meal or food item is important for making connections to other people.

Why do you think food is always available at celebratory holidays? Why are there buffets at all types of parties that you attend?

It is because food is a discussable piece that starts conversations. It begins meaningful relationships. And with those rela-

tionships you can experience self-growth and endeavor self-reflection.

And now... a poem. Dedicated to all of you, and the joy you each bring to Girls State and life itself.

To enjoy a meal  
Is to deeply feel  
To enjoy a dessert  
Is to do no hurt  
To enjoy a juice  
Is to make pursuits  
To enjoy a side  
Is to help and guide  
To enjoy sharing  
Is to be daring  
And caring  
Then to do with a friend  
Is to extend, intend, & depend

## Rally the Valley...except it's Tuscon!

By Sydney Schurz  
Ocotillo City Reporter

It was a dark and stormy night on the University of Arizona Campus. Well, to be more specific, it wasn't a regular storm. It was a storm of thundering rallyers! Our first political rally took place last night, and it was a face-off between the Nationalists and the Federalists. The blue and red took this rally to the patio, and it was nothing short of epic.

Party Chair Allegra Canelos of the Federalists led red last night. Her strategy was simply to lead by example and spread positivity throughout her party. The running joke with the Feds about the Nats was this: adding a "G." This made Nats, Gnats.

"What's that sound? It's the G-Nats," could be heard from every corner of the patio. Allegra wanted to keep her party clean and yet add an element of comedy to her party's chanting.

Canelos' final message to the federalists at Girls State is this: "Stay respectful, kind, and selfless! Let's all unify as one body and be excited about this opportunity. GO RED, GET FED!"

On the other side of the war is Chloe Chun, the Nationalist Party Chair. As an incredibly energetic and enthusiastic human, Chloe had no problem hyping up the blue.

A revamp of Miley Cyrus' "Party in the U.S.A." created by the Spirit Committee was sung loud and proud by the Nationalist

crowd, and they definitely put their hands up to "exercise their right to vote."

Chun relied on slogans to keep her party motivated. The blue crew also chanted to the beat of we will rock you and ended with "... we got your back, 'cause we don't slack!"

Chloe wants her party to stay passionate and joyful, plus she encourages the Nationalists to read up on their platform which will be featured soon on their Instagram!

As our County and State elections begin, tensions are rising. Whether it's red or blue, the vote still belongs to you. Whatever happens, just know that the delegates of Girls State will fight together no matter what!

Check out both 'grams of our two amazing parties!

**Federalists: @getfedandvoterred • Nationalists: @your\_nationalists\_2023**

## Special guest speaker at Arizona Girls State

By Reidiny Aguirre  
Saguaro City Reporter

Today, the incredible speaker, Lisa Matthews, came down to talk to the women of Girl State discussing "Why County Government?"

She graciously answered many of our citizens' questions through genuine discussion. Then, goes into depth the functions of county government.

Most importantly, she encouraged us to stand up for our counties and voice our

opinions. Even when countries and the residents do not agree.

A prime example of this is the "loop," a program that involves multiple loops for bikes that creates a passageway for those who are using bikes as a means of transportation.

The "loop" had caused some controversy amongst the party men where some believe that it was a waste of money and they should be funding other things.

With her sincere conversation, many women can take away some of the core

values she has expressed to us during this assembly. Inspiring fellow women to reach for positions that are typically male dominant to make a change. Because change begins with us, because we are the minority able to make a difference.

Although it may not seem so, we truly can make a grand difference to our city, state, and country. Simply one vote can completely change the odds. Proving that things that may set us back actually push us forward.

# Meet the “Syc” Officials of Sycamore

By Gabby Comer and Elyse Gonzales  
Sycamore City Reporters

After a very close election on Monday afternoon, Sycamore City elected the Mayor and City Council.

Isabella Nickolls was elected Mayor.

## Sycamore City Mayor Isabella Nickolls

“I am excited to work with the citizens who have stepped up to participate in our community and to hear everyone’s input into our city.”

Isabella Nickolls is from and already has experience in her own city government and can’t wait to dive deeper into her passion for city government. She is looking forward to this hands-on experience.

Elyse Gonzales, Gabby Comer, Ivana Grgic, and Adelina Grotenhuis were elected to city council after a very close race.



## Elyse Gonzales

“I love to interact and make new friends, so I’m very curious to see the different personalities of my fellow girls state delegates as well as make a true impact and be the voice for the women here”

Elyse Gonzales comes from a small mining town called Morenci on the border of Arizona and New Mexico.

## Gabby Comer

“I am excited to hear all the girls’ voices and help the Mayor to make our city the best that it can be.”

Gabby is from Verdado High School. She has a heart for community service and theatre, which makes her a great public speaker. She is very excited to incorporate both of her passions into her role as City Counsel.



## Ivana Grgic

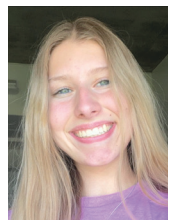
“I’m excited about being able to work as a community. I’m very passionate about everyone’s voices being heard and feeling safe in the community. I hope everyone in our city can find comfort in stating their voices and options, and they know that they can trust us. Their voices will be represented through the councilmen.”

Ivana has a love for film and theater. She is from the Central Phoenix area and attends Sunnyslope High School.

## Adelina Grotenhuis

“I am most excited about making the ordinances because I want to make them super unique and different.”

Adelina goes to Desert Mountain High School. She has a love for other’s cultures and can’t wait to incorporate this passion into her role.



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EMAIL TO PHOTOS@AZGIRLSSTATE.COM

# CHOLLA RISING TO THE TOP

Starry Hopkins and Sarah Kibbey  
Cholla City Reporters

The citizens of Cholla City are making great strides to rise to the top of the ranks. Today all the citizens of Supai county met up together to decide nominations for various county offices.

Out of the three cities in the Supai county the only candidates for the office of County Sheriff are from Cholla City! The three candidates are Alexis Alvarez, Gabriella Tafoya, and Sarah Kibbey. We are very proud of these three ladies!

The County Sheriff is responsible for enforcement of law in the County, maintaining (running) the jail, and providing security in all courts of the County.

Usually, this role is very male dominated; which makes the three ladies running for this office even more empowered.

It is important to have female representation in our governments, especially to be a role model for future girl state citizens.

The responsibility these ladies have volunteered for is one that can be full of fun but also a good learning experience. Tons of laughter and surprised expressions filled the County House as the delegates raised their hands in ambition to become the next Sheriff of Cholla City!

Our lovely candidates have taken the time to say a few words for the whole State!

Alexis Alvarez: “I am very enthusiastic to run among the other candidates. I look forward to influencing my county. Have common sense, VOTE ALEXIS!”

Sarah Kibbey, one of Cholla City’s journalists states, “I am looking forward to being able to ‘keep order in the county’ and to meet the citizens! Good luck to all the other candidates (from my city!). May the best woman win!”

Our city also has many delegates who are working hard in their campaigning for both county and state positions. As a city, we girls are close with one another and love to sit and

chat with those from other cities and counties.

Our County Attorney candidate would like to say, “Hey, I am Alexa Hernandez, and I am running for Supai county attorney. I have always had an interest in law and would love the opportunity to serve as your County Attorney. Alexa, your partner in crime for legal matters!”

Jazmin Santillan proclaims, “I am running for Arizona State Governor. I believe that people in power should always strive for a better tomorrow- that’s what life is all about. One should strive to be opened minded and include people from all social constructs, life backgrounds, and opinions; coming together to provide the best solutions for pressing issues.

I am so excited to see all the amazing candidates, and getting to know them. Not only because Girls Nation has created new life experiences, but because it has created community.”

Good luck to all the GIRLS NATION SENATORS!!!!

# “Why County Government”

By Sania Patel and Payton Robbins  
Yucca City Reporters

To start off our day, the members of the Girls State program attended a lecture from Lisa Matthews, the current Assistant to the County Administrator in Pima County.

During the meeting, she discussed the importance of communication, leadership, and open-minded discussions, as she detailed her work and impact.

Lisa Matthews has worked with Pima County for over thirty years and enjoys every bit of her experience, despite its high demand and workload.

To begin the lecture, Matthews began with a story of one of her largest projects - The Loop - in Pima County.

Initially, the area - now 137 miles of paved pathways and bike lanes - held expensive homes. These homes, however, were constantly under the threat of flooding, so in order to reduce the issue, the County Administrators proposed The Loop.

Despite its amenities, The Loop was widely disputed, as most residents of Tucson believed it was a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Instead of giving up, Matthews and her team worked to create celebrations centered around The Loop. During these public gatherings, Matthews would talk

with the members of her community, hoping to gain insight into their views, opinions, and concerns.

Throughout her story, Matthews highlighted the importance of “connect[ing] with your communities to learn their needs.

After discussing the responsibilities of her work, she began to discuss the broader topic of women’s education and representation.

She stated, “...when I was coming through, I didn’t see very many women in leadership positions...all the other [positions] were directed by men. Seeing that, and seeing how that space is changing, I absolutely try to inspire people”.

When the lecture was finished, Matthews opened the floor to questions and provided delegates with incredibly insightful responses.

Angela Prevatt, a member of Yucca City, decided to target a part of the lecture Matthews described. While discussing some of the difficulties her work offers, Matthews described various instances of harsh criticism.

Prevatt, wanting to go further in-depth, asked Matthews to talk about how she dealt with the criticism she faced from her constituents and how she gathered the strength to keep moving forward.

Matthews - pointing out the importance

of self-confidence and understanding - responded, “First of all, you have to know who you are. Know your strengths and know your weaknesses because people will pick you to the bone. But the next thing is to focus on what is the ultimate goal... people are going to have their opinions about you, good or bad, and sometimes the bad might be a bit of criticism you need to fix up, and sometimes the criticism is just hot air coming out of somebody’s mouth... the challenge is - and what we need to do - is focus on the ultimate goal”.

Throughout her discussion - and while answering questions - Matthews also connected with the students through larger meanings.

For example, Ally Rumzis - a student from Yucca City - shared that her favorite statement was, “You have 24 hours to make as much of a difference as you can”.

Matthews concluded her meeting with Girls State by offering advice, in which she confidently empowered the young ladies in the room by declaring how women need to fight for what they believe in and stand up for each other and themselves.

By focusing on empowerment and the impact of her work, Lisa Matthews captivated the students at Girls State and helped them realize the power women have.

## Remember to stay hydrated this week!

