

# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## Girls State Shenanigans

By Payton Robbins  
Yucca City Reporter

As the week is coming to a close, the ladies of Girls State are closer than ever. There is no better representative of this than the city of Yucca, whose members embrace the journey of Girls State through humor, bonding, and intense communication lasting into the early hours of the morning.

Yucca ladies have our stresses, but we know how to have fun. Our goofiness and closeness makes our city unique, and sets us up for success because of our sisterhood we've established.

Our Mayor definitely doesn't disappoint, as she is the head "Yucc" of the party. One quirky example of our city meetings happened today, when we were coming up with ordinances, or rules, for our city and city book. In these ordinances, we can exercise our creative freedoms however we'd like. Some of these ordinances we created in Yucca include, but aren't limited to, "Any citizen seen publicly with bare feet must turn her shirt inside out for the entire day," and "If a citizen exceeds the time

limit for their shower, she will be made to hug a tree which will be photographed and printed to be publicly hung on the city bulletin board."

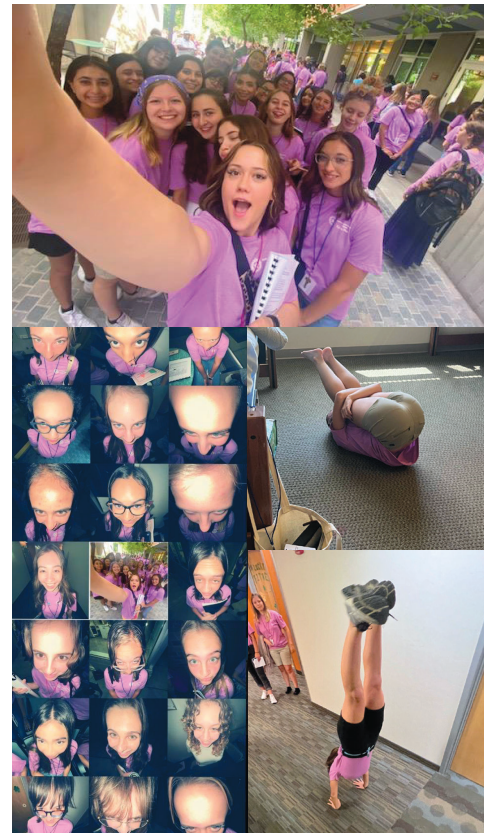
After long days in the sun and constantly on our feet, these city meetings bring out the best ideas from the tired, silly girls of Yucca city. Yucca loves to make every situation throughout the day absolutely, absurdly goofy.

Standing in line, extra time in the dorms, and waiting for morning colors, we sure know how to make every situation memorable.

This morning, while waiting for the results of the general election, the entire city of Yucca, along with all the cities in Girls State, danced our hearts out to "Cupid Shuffle," "YMCA," and "Cotton Eyed Joe."

Core memories have been made at Arizona Girls State because of the amazing young women in every city, every county, and within the entire state. However, the Yuccas will hold a special place in my heart.

*All the photos are credited to the ladies of Yucca.*



## Tears Shed During Today's State House

By Gargee Tamboli  
Pinon City Reporter

The entirety of AZ Girls State assembled in the State House at 8 in the morning to not only discuss general election results but also to say goodbye to the 2022-2023 AZ Girls State governor, Esther Malish, and secretary of state, Stella Lipson.

After the new governor, Daniela Putu-Kang, and secretary of state, Ivana Grigic, were sworn into office, it was time to say goodbye

to the officers who presided over the 2023 Girls State citizens throughout the week.

Just as Governor Ester Malish began her farewell speech, she broke into tears, and Secretary of State Stella Lipson took over and began her farewell speech. She spoke about how proud she was of all the citizens of Girls State and that she was honored to be able to serve as secretary of state.

Shortly after, Governor Malish took over and began talking about her inspiration and role model, her father. She explained that

her family lived in South Sudan where her father was taken from the family to serve in the army, to fight either for the people or against the people. She brought up her father's near death experience, and that prompted many of the Girls State citizens to break into tears.

Hearing her moving speech inspired the citizens of Girls State to always use their voices and exercise their rights. We will miss Governor Ester Malish and Secretary of State Stella Lipson dearly.

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**2023 Girls State Reporters**

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- Ayana Molina - Palo Verde
- Jordan Casey - Juniper
- Camila Lavayen - Juniper
- Delia Riley - Pinon
- Gargee Tomboli - Pinon
- Sydney Schurz - Ocotillo
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- Payton Robbins - Yucca
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- Megan Burke - Saguaro
- Gabriella Comer - Sycamore
- Elyse Gonzales - Sycamore

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# Reaching out

By Ayana Molina  
 Palo Verde City Reporter

Thursday has been an eventful day, as we had two lovely guest speakers. Big thank you to both Amy Love- Chief of staff, Attorney General and Theresa Martinez- Majority Whip who gave an amazing speech that gave background on themselves and information on their positions also answering questions that the citizens of Arizona Girls State had.

Both beautiful ladies receive constant cheering from the girls and many compliments from Palo Verde. As citizens of Palo Verde, we do hope that both of the speakers continue to accomplish their goals. Best of

luck to their future endeavors.

The citizens of Palo verde were touched by our 2023 Governor, Esther Malish who had shared a story of her beloved father. Thank you for sharing your story with us, we are extremely thankful to you.

Now for our 2023 Secretary of State, Stella Lipson, she gave us a speech on how when she came here she didn't exactly know who people were and she didn't know that she would have come as far as she has today. Stella Lipson is excited to see what we will accomplish. We ended our night with a talent show. All the girls that were In the talent show did absolutely amazing.

Thank you for reading!



## The Sweet Sycamore Secretary of State

By Elyse Gonzales  
 Sycamore City Reporter

Breaking News! Ivana Grgic has just been announced as the new Secretary State of Arizona Girls State.

Her speech was outstanding and caught the eyes and ears of all the young women at the Arizona Girls State elections, earning her spot.

She is a very talented, very kind individual who is always willing to lift up her fellow Girls State delegates. Her campaign was very clever, showing a chair that symbolized a deeper meaning than meets the eye.

Ivana gave us her insight to what was going through her mind during her campaign. She says " It was scary not having my usual support system, like my family and friends, but it was honestly way easier then I thought it would



be because I made a new support system that was unique and different from what I was used to."

"The girls in my city were so supportive of me and I couldn't have asked for a better family to have made here." Ivana explains that her fellow city members made her feel extremely welcomed and supported through each process of elections.

Through that support and friendship, she was able to persevere through every challenge she faced,

with multiple positions, as well as executing all of her speeches perfectly. Ivana used all of her exquisite qualities to earn her seat at the table, and as a down to earth leader, she saves seats for the strong minded, and bright young women of Arizona.

# First Day In Office at GS

By Megan Burke  
Saguaro City Reporter

After a speech from Chief of Staff Amy Love and a brief dance party, election results were in! Delegates waited anxiously as the new slate was read.

Cheers erupted for the new Secretary of State and Governor. Congratulations ladies! The celebration was short-lived as the new slate was rushed out of the state house to their respective areas.

As a Kaibab representative, I was moved into the Recreation Room. Representa-

tives from various counties began to file in; anticipation heightened to begin the new position.

The delegates learned about the role of the House of Representatives in passing bills. Leadership positions from Speaker of the House to Clerk were filled and committees were divided. I was placed into the judiciary committee to write bills with the common theme of law.

After electing the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, we began brainstorming. The House Judiciary Committee constructed

two bill ideas: regulated paid maternity leave and decreased carbon emissions.

Together, the committee drafted two professionally written and formatted bills. After editing and printing, the bills were submitted to be debated tonight.

After the talent show, the House and the Senate will present six bills each. If the bills pass both the House and Senate, the final decision will be left up to the new Governor. Will these bills pass? Will the delegates achieve the change they have fought for? Stay tuned readers!

## ...A New Generation Is Born

By Starry Hopkins and Sarah Kibbey  
Cholla City Reporters

Today, Arizona Girls State found out its 2023-2024 Governor and Secretary of State. First, we would love to congratulate Governor Daniela Putukang, and Secretary of State Ivana Grgic for accepting the privilege to continue their predecessor's legacy.

There is no doubt that they will continue the great legacy of our state, and influence the future states for the better. But, right now I want to discuss our now former governor, Governor Esther.

She made her parting address today in the State House. Her speech was not only emotionally moving, but also very motivating.

In her speech she gave honor to her father, who was her inspiration to pursuing the office of Governor. Her speech consisted of her telling the story of her father and the other lost boys of Sudan, and how his story inspires her.

Governor Esther's speech brought the entire crowd to tears. I know we will each take her words to heart, as she told all of us to be confident and to always pursue our goals.

The Nationalist leaders will hold their

new offices with great pride and respect as they carry on Governor Esther and Secretary Stella's legacy to the end of 2023.

The City of Cholla is proud to declare the holding of ten State and County offices! With judges, attorneys, senators, representatives, and education chairwomen, we are standing up as a City to win what is ours!

Going back to Former Governor Esther she presented the entire state with a eye-opening truth about her father's journey to freedom. God truly did protect him through everything he experienced.

With his strength, wit, and trust in the Lord, we were fortunate enough to be blessed with not only the presence of our wonderful and beautiful Governor, but to have her lead us through a week that will change so many lives forever.

The long-lasting truth she presented us has inspired a select amount of girls to put to mind- no matter what happens, just keep pressing on. Sharing that personal story with us and opening our eyes to her passion for freedom is something no one from Girls State can forget.

The Honorable Theresa Martinez came and presented a segment about the legislation in America. Though she is a proud

Republican, she presented a passionate and caring resolution for many crisis in America; for all PEOPLE.

Speeding up the Immigration Processes so that young girls can be saved from the atrocities that occur at our borders; speaking up so that the young women in attendance would have the courage to know who they are, what they stand for, and why they stand for it. Informing us of atrocious assault that happens, and reminding us that "if you see something is wrong, SAY SOMETHING!"

Arizona Girls State is blessed beyond measure to hear from these wonderful women who chose to stand up for what is right, giving this nation the hope we have been longing for!

Arizona Girls State 2023 Talent Show curtain opener began with some comedic introduction! It started out with a slow, pop, crowd moving song that earned a thunderous applause. A contortionist brought "no!" and oh!" all over the place. KEEP YOUR HEAD UP PRINCESS calmed the crowd, but also brought joy to the crowd as the young ballerina displaced the grace of a princess. So many more presentations left the crowd in awe!

## Glee Club

By Payton Robbins  
Yucca City Reporter

Harmony is the ultimate characteristic of any singing group. The Girls State Glee Club has it down pat. With guitarist accompaniment, the lovely ladies sing their hearts out to songs such as

"Set Fire to the Rain," "Hey Soul Sister," "Photograph," and "God Bless the USA."

With the performance during the "Magical Evening" banquet growing near, the anticipation of the event is growing.

The girls are seen singing on the way to dinner, across the U of A campus, and in their dorms, tirelessly practicing.

These ladies are not afraid to sing their hearts out and express their rights, not just

on the ballot, but with their voices too.

Unafraid to riff it up and stand out; with talents unique to each singer, and range from Alto to Soprano, fun can only be described as the feeling of chills after performing a song start to finish.

Again, Girls State Glee Club has their performance tomorrow night at the "Magical Evening" banquet! Come see the outstanding show and support the Girls State program.

# Palo Verde Favorites!

By Maria Leon  
Palo Verde City Reporter

As the final few days of Arizona Girls State arrives upon us, the citizens of Palo Verde City have various activities that they deemed worthy of being their favorite part of the week.

Starting off we have Sarah Bird and she said that her favorite part of the week was, "My favorite thing about the week was hearing all the Girls Nations speeches because they were entertaining and hearing

about all the bills was fun!"

Next we have Ella Brinkerhoff saying, "My favorite part about this week was seeing all the campaigns and getting to go around and meet new people and talk to them on issues that we feel are happening currently right now".

Leah Harris had her own opinion saying, "My favorite part of this week was making friends and not only the girls from my dorm but from the other dorms and cities. We had a lot of fun

chatting together and going to the shops. It was really fun".

Finally the last person who shared about her favorite part of the week was Ava Fulbright. She said, "This week I met really amazing girls and I had fun being one of the committee members and making the platform".

Overall this week was full of hard work and the ladies in Palo Verde City accomplished so much that they will keep with them for the rest of their lives!

# That Girls State Flair

By Jordan Casey  
Juniper City Reporter

Great job to all of the young girls that participated in the Girls State Talent Show! You all brought the flair to Girls State. I also want to personally mention one talented girl that's from my very own city of Juniper: Skyla Bird. She played the Accolay Concerto on the violin. You'll soar to great heights Skyla Bird!

Additionally, everyone that performed did outstanding and each of the presentations were breathtaking. You all inspire me to continue to pursue in life.

You bring the flair

No one can compare  
You pave your own path  
Do not hold wrath  
You carry your beauty  
Yes, I'm talking to you cutie  
Look up at the stars  
Maybe you'll see Mars  
Breathe the midnight air  
One like you is rare  
Just remember  
Flames start from an ember  
No one can compare  
You bring the flair  
Now read that backwards and remember  
that you bring the flair!



# Up Next, Your New Madame Governor!

By Juliana Li and Sydney Schurz  
Ocotillo City Reporter

The City of Ocotillo is proud to present to you our newest Arizona Girls State Governor, DANIELA PUTU-KANG!

As a delegate at Girls State, Daniela entered this camp not knowing what to do. There were so many incredible opportunities available, and Putu-Kang wanted to keep her options open.

She started small as one of the Precinct-Committeemen from her city, and she became a part of the spirit committee. Although she was pleased with her participation, someone inspired her to do more.

Daniela's mom always told her to dream big, and so when she got the chance, Putu-Kang took a chance and decided to run for Governor. Not only her mom, but Esther Malish, the presiding Governor over the 76

ALA Session of AZGS inspired Daniela to run for her position. Malish's advice was simply this: "Be confident. Be yourself. Tell your own story, and the world will listen." Putu-Kang took this guidance and ran with it, and here she is now!

When considering campaigning, Daniela took a bit of a different route. Instead of creating posters and telling her peers to vote for her, Putu-Kang just spoke her mind. She talked to a huge amount of citizens about not only her goals, but their own. This strategy highlighted Daniela's kind and selfless character and put her out there as a friend rather than an opponent. Her bright red pants also brought attention to her running!

As Daniela's name was called, Ocotillo and the rest of Girls State burst into applause. Daniela, herself, however, recounts, "I was overwhelmed, loved, valued, honored..."

As she talked, her adjectives were interjected with wistful sighs. She still feels shocked and engulfed in emotion, understandable when all eyes of Girls State are on our Governor-elect.

Daniela, while excited to get her signature straight, wanted to give some advice from the lessons she learned on her journey to Governor. She wants the girls to "...support each other," and "...not focus on the things that separate us, but rather focus on things we relate to, as we all want to feel loved and seen."

Her campaign was based upon unity, a welcome ideal when Federalists versus Nationals split threatened to tear apart Girls state.

Ocotillo could not be more thrilled to welcome Daniela Putu-Kang to the office of Governor, and we cannot wait to see the impact she will have in both 2023 and 2024 Girls State!

# Talent Show ladies

By Reidiny Aguirre  
Saguaro City Reporter

The talent ranged from contortion to a variety of instruments, and although some performances were performed through video it was clear to see the girl's passion.

The ladies that played their instruments touched our hearts with their sweet and incredible songs that had a scene along as

well as applauding to the beat.

Many other people that had a dance expressed themselves beautifully whether it was a hip-hop dance that got the crowd cheering or a digital ice dance they express themselves through movement and creative ways even using ASL to perform a song.

Every girl was beautiful and passionate about what they were performing and their

talents truly reflect that. After the talent show the fun was not quite over and a slide show began showing all of the adventures from Girls State with group photos and silly pictures the slideshow continued on with different music playing in the background that only amplified the excitement.

Eventually, the party was over but many of the girls kept the hype going until reaching the dorms.

