

Arizona Girls State Independent



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The Treasure that is Inspiration

BY MIKAELA GARCIA
Palo Verde City Reporter

Wednesday afternoon Girls State was blessed with a visit by a lady who needs no introduction. Girls State 2024 welcomes alumni and official Arizona State Treasurer Kimberley Yee to speak to our girls about the government and her place in said government throughout the years.

Mrs. Yee has been a guest speaker in years prior, but as time goes on it only becomes more special that she has dedicated herself to inspiring the next generation of young intelligent women into not only politics but also leadership.

Her connection with Girls State runs much farther than just being a guest speaker, because as previously mentioned, Kimberley Yee is actually a previous attendee of the program, so being able to return has been an honor of the highest degree.

It's not just her that is a previous Girls State attendee, but also her own mother and other bright relatives who found themselves immersed in the program. Yup, this program has been around for a long time!

During the wonderful speech Yee provided, our sisters were able to find themselves in her journey of what has led her



to the position of Arizona State Treasurer. Women are able to inspire each other in amazing ways, and Yee's speech captured the hearts of many.

When the speech reached its end, Kimberley Yee informed the girls of a scholarship that they can apply for and earn \$529 in scholarship money for. So if you're

interested, make sure to enter the "My Picture-Perfect Career" photo contest by June 9th by 11:59 p.m. (MST).

All you need to do is make sure you fit the requirements, and take a picture of yourself as your future career. Best of luck to all who enter, to a new day at Girls State!

The Ladies in White Shirts

BY AUDRINA RODRIGUEZ
Saguaro City Reporter

The moment we walk into Linkins Hall we are greeted by individuals wearing white shirts. They greet us with warm smiles and welcoming arms as they hold our hands through the first day as they teach us what we should expect to come during Girls State.

Miss L., the advisor of our Capital City,

Saguaro City, was roped into Girls State by her mother. Miss L. started out being part of the support staff.

In the beginning Miss L. struggled a little bit in keeping up with the rest of the staff though soon realized she was capable of more. Once Miss L. became an advisor the laughs and giggles were music to her ears.

One year one of her delegates ran for

Secretary of State and won. This delegate came up to Miss L. and said to her "Miss L. there is no telling what else I could do because I never saw myself running for something big and getting it. What else is there?"

This memory is glued to Miss L.'s brain as Girls State is a program that pushes young women to discover who they are as people.

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‘Words are literally a double-edged sword’:

Two interviews with Arizona Girls State Citizens on their perceptions of how words impact people

BY ELEANOR ACKLEY
 Ocotillo City Reporter

On June 4th, 2024, this reporter made an effort to get to know the people in her city and strengthen her interpersonal skills. So, I asked several people what their favorite word in the English language would be. I received several unique answers. This idea inspired the interviews I conducted on the morning of June 5th. I interviewed Selma Lijan and Emerson Miller. They explain their opinions on the impact of words, particularly at Arizona Girls State.

Hi, thank you so much for agreeing to talk with me today. Please state your name, what city you live in, and what high school you go to.

“So, my name is Selma Lijan. I live in Peoria and I go to Ironwood High School...”

What city are you in at Arizona Girls State?

“I’m in Ocotillo City.”

What is your favorite word in the English language? Why?

“My favorite word in the English language would have to be café and I honestly just really like that word because of the aesthetic or the vibe it brings. It gives out like a brown vibe. It’s just...kinda comforting. I like always sitting in cafes as well.”

Do you believe that words have an impact on peoples’ perceptions?

“Yes, I believe that words do have an impact and, y’know sometimes, I don’t remember who it was during Arizona Girls State, but they said that ‘Words are literally a double-edged sword’...They either bring pain or bring happiness upon people and it just depends on what people I guess think of that word as well.”

Specifically for Arizona Girls State, do you believe that the speeches told by County and State Candidates will impact who you vote for?

“...I feel like...they wouldn’t really impact who I vote for as...I feel most people are very...They’re telling their...what they would be doing. It’s more of like the actions that they would do, y’know? So one can say whatever they want, but it’s more of what they do to prove what I must do to get their vote...Or, I mean, to give my vote to people, right.”

Lastly, are you going to present a speech in front of Arizona Girls State?

“No, I’m not really planning to present a speech

in front of Arizona Girls State but...y’know, because I’ve already taken up positions in my own city. So I feel like I should just stay within the city just to keep it simple for me...”

Hi, thank you so much for agreeing to talk with me today. Please state your name, what city you live in, and what high school you go to.

“Hello, my name is Emerson Miller and I’m in Yucca City and I go to Chaparral High School.”

What city are you in at Arizona Girls State?

“Yucca City.”

What is your favorite word in the English language? Why?

“My favorite word in the English language has to be...I’d say huzzah because it’s just one of those words that when you say it it’s just a good word. Like, it’s just peppy. It brings people love. I love it.”

Do you believe that words have an impact on peoples’ perceptions?

“Absolutely. Words...dictate...The way you use your words and the way you speak not only in your tone and how you present yourself while you’re speaking, but also what you’re saying can have such a big impact on so many people. Whether they’re the ones receiving the news or what you’re saying or whether you hear it from somebody else, words are our most useful weapon and our most dangerous weapon. And it is something...that is both very beautiful and can be amazing and something that can harm a lot of people.”

Specifically for Arizona Girls State, do you believe that the speeches told by County and State Candidates will impact who you vote for?

“Yes. I try to, as much as we love to make friends and stuff, especially when it comes to voting. Whether that’s for a club, Girls State... positions at school... anything like that, I always try to be impartial beforehand. Where I love seeing the signs, I love meeting the candidates, but, honestly, the speeches have the most impact on me. If you have a better speech than somebody else, I’m gonna vote for you. Or if your speeches convince me, yeah, I’m gonna vote for you!”

Lastly, are you going to present a speech in front of Arizona Girls State?

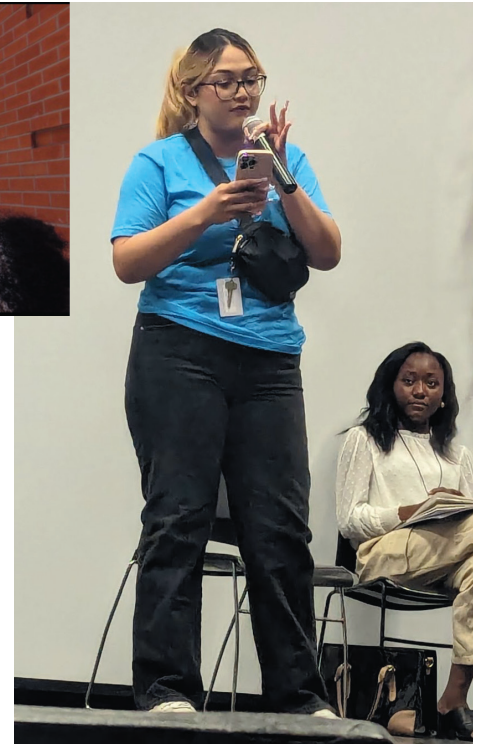
“Yes, I am. I’m running for...Supai County Sheriff, so I will be giving a speech today.”

Bright futures ahead

BY MEGAN KOLISEK BLATECKY
Saguaro City Reporter

June fifth started off with our county and state speakers campaigning, and all the girls did absolutely amazing. The amount of enthusiasm and support after everyone spoke truly showed just how much of a community has formed here in the span of a few days.

The presentations before lunch of grace are so diverse and through the differences in belief we all come together to create an



amazing and inclusive place for everyone.

After the rally the night before there was an environment of mutual respect and it really allowed everyone to showcase who they were and what they wanted for Girls State. So many perspectives and ways of thinking were shared and even though not everyone agreed, the discussions were beneficial and respectful.

These girls have the tact and ability to voice their opinions without needing to resort to yelling or insults, and these are the type of people we really need in our political system.

During the speeches the girls were given a limited amount of time and they used every second to advocate for themselves and every presentation was unique.

Many had extraordinary academics and achievements and others were so passionate they had others in the audience wanting to join in.

The various perspectives and bills proposed showcased just how much diversity in thinking we have gathered at girls state. Overall every single competitor was respectful and anyone can see just how wonderful our futures look with these girls representing us.

Breaking Barriers: Meeting the Arizona State Treasurer

BY DIVYA NATARAJAN
Cholla City Reporter

On June 5th, we had the honor of listening to a former Girls State Delegate and current State Treasurer Kimberly Yee. Her journey started in 2010 when she was elected as the first Asian American woman in the Arizona House of Representatives.

Kimberly Yee is someone I look up to because of her determination, commitment to public service, and respectfulness. Kim-

berly Yee has had her fair share of trials and tribulations, but it is her resilience that I admire.

Her first government job was transcribing official minutes of state board of education meetings. She often described this job as tedious and challenging; however, her determination allowed her to rise up the ranks. Additionally, she faced discrimination due to her age and gender, but that didn't stop her from standing her ground.

I also commend her work in personal

finance as Treasurer Yee appointed Arizona's first-ever task force on financial literacy with the goal of making sure that all Arizonans have basic money management skills.

This is an issue that I am very passionate about and it is one that I aim to help curb in Arizona. Having basic finance skills is vital for everyone in all careers and I enjoy seeing Treasurer Yee's work and how much progress she has made.

Remember to stay hydrated this week as it will be hot!

Girls Nation Candidates: the Future of Our Country

BY HAARIKA RAAVI
Ocotillo City Reporter

With new generations, change is bound to envelop the future of the United States, for better or for worse. Luckily, programs like Arizona Girls State offer great insight as to the ideas and ideals that are present in the minds of plenty of young leaders, whether these topics range from technological safety to healthcare equality.

This reporter decided to peer into the ideas of a Girls Nation candidate, one amongst all those who are more than qualified to head to Washington, D.C. in July, representing the state of Arizona with pride and ambition.

Although this interview was taken before the results of the primary election for Girls Nation, it is safe to say that all candidates' campaigns are of the highest degree, and delegates should most certainly be acknowledged for their aspirations and noble intent.

Interviewed was Tiena Serrano, who runs under the platform of technological

safety and the necessity to protect American children.

She emphasizes the need to protect the next generations in an age during which the internet's domain grows exponentially precarious.

First off, what is your name and what city are you from?

Serrano: "My name is Tiena Serrano, and I am from Saguario City in Kaibab County."

What school do you come from?

Serrano: "I come from Liberty High School in Peoria, Arizona"

What is your platform as you are running for Girls Nation?

Serrano: "So my platform is internet safety for youth, and I believe that we need to make social media better because [...] we as kids have seen things on the internet that have left us creating bad habits.

Like some of us doom scroll or have other addictions and toxic relationships and such, and I feel that for when we do have

kids, which is the main goal of this, is to protect our kids from all the bad things on the internet.

Social media companies are exploiting children, and that is no bueno. So yeah, we need to have better social media safety for the youth."

Why do you think that you are best fit for Girls Nation?

Serrano: "I believe that I'm best fit for Girls Nation because I believe it is an experience that I wish every one of us could experience, but I would absolutely love to go so I can really understand how our government systems work. And maybe I can learn and find my true passion, as I make a real change for the world."

Those who made the ballot as the final eight were announced just before flag, with Ocotillo's Emma Goldstein being included with her legislative aim to eliminate corporations like Colledgeboard in particular, which, from her position, has an unnecessarily influential impact on students' futures.

Work and Play, A Balance

BY MEGAN KOLISEK BLATECKY
Saguaro City Reporter

As Girls State progresses more and more responsibilities are being dished out and the stress is piling. The counties have met and positions were listed with campaigns being rolled out at full speed.

As all this chaos unfolds and everyone grasps for a hold on normalcy we can see how the balance of work and play is maintained.

All the girls around me putting up their campaigning signs and passing out flyers are doing such an amazing job and we can all see how much time it takes and dedication they all have. These future leaders are taking charge and putting aside their leisure time to campaign and support their cities. Although our schedule is jam packed, girls have taken the time to bond and make connections that will help them for years to come.



This balance between work and play is so important and I sincerely hope that all

the girls out there remember to rest and enjoy this once in a lifetime experience.

May The Best Girl Win!

BY SIANNA DAVIS
Manzanita City Reporter

Campaign Night!

The girls of Girls State entered their first day of campaigning. The exciting day consisted of county and state nominations, where the girls introduced themselves and obtained the signatures they needed.



Girls state gathers in the courtyard to campaign. (Submitted)

For a few hours, candidates in the running used a collection of art supplies and their own artistic abilities to create advertisement for the election.

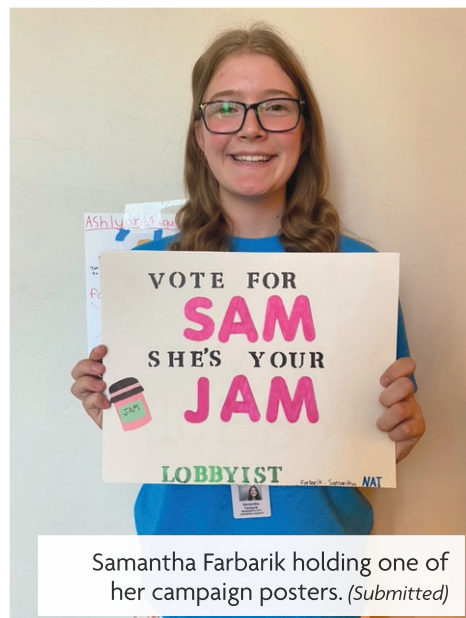
The candidates filled the walls of the dorms and the outside buildings with funny taglines that caught people's attention.

At the end of the night all of the cities gathered to meet one another and share the ideas and personality traits that made their citizens great candidates for their positions.

After meeting girls from different cities, I can surely say that every candidate is capable and qualified for their potential roles. The colorful and creative posters give everyone at girls state a more comfortable and exciting environment, giving our eyes a break from the standard brick walls.

Take it from Sam!

Samantha Farbarik (Sam) shared her experience campaigning for her chance to be one of the Cocopah County Lobbyists. She says she was really excited to make the posters. Her favorite part was being able to use a variety of different colors to make each



Samantha Farbarik holding one of her campaign posters. (Submitted)

poster unique and different from the other.

She also shared that she liked creating funny and clever catchphrases and added "I especially loved using Frost's (another girl from Manzanita city) stencils".

Election Day!!! June 5th 2024

BY JADE NAVARO
Palo Verde City Reporter

Today around 9:53 in the morning each candidate says their speech for the chance to be heard and considered to be elected for the spots they ran for. All parties coming together in one room to elect the one they feel will be best fit for a state position.

See full video on the Arizona Girls State Blog.



Arizona
Girls State
Picture Show

Be a part of the
Arizona Girls State Slide
Show by sending us your
selfies, group pics and
all out fun times!
Email to photos@azgirlsstate.com