

Arizona Girls State Independent



June 5, 2023 • Volume 14, Issue 1 • Tucson, Arizona

Girls State is more than just learning

BY MRS. MEAD
AZGS Managing Editor

Welcome to the 76th Annual Arizona Girls State session. 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 American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is dedicated to helping veterans as well as our future leaders, such as you.

Established in the early twentieth century, the Auxiliary has grown to nearly one million members. In 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary was created, dedicated to supporting the United States Armed Forces and all of the veterans.

Today, the ALA has over twenty national programs that benefit through money and other donations. Two of the ALA's most well known programs are Girls State and Girls Nation.

New Experiences

This week is going to be full of new adventures and new experiences. Some good and some perhaps not so good. We do hope that you consider each experience a stepping stone for your future.

Your first day brought you to a dorm filled with new and exciting young women who were just as nervous as you. Yet, each of you took time to either stand out in the hall and create a greeting line or wander from room to room introducing your self and saying hello.

Each day here will bring fun and learning with all the 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. Yet, the lack of sleep will be worth all the great memories.

The week to come

During this week you will learn about city, county and state government with emphasis being placed on political parties, campaigns and elections.

That is right, there will be Federalist and Nationalist parties. *Party rallies here we come!!*

Also there will be voting and a general meet the candidate night. This night gives you a chance to get out there and show the entire state why you would be perfect for each office. Get out there and be creative.

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.

Did we mention that you will get to decorate your city. Each door in your city will represent a business within your community. Be creative and show your design side. *These will also be judged for awards!!*

While the cities are important please do not forget about the county and state positions as well. There will be lots of county positions to run for as well as state positions.

Did we mention Governor or how about Secretary of State? Don't forget the illusive Girls Nation Senators as well.

Fun, Fun and MORE FUN

This week there will not only be meetings and speeches, there will be FUN. There will be leisure time in the dorms and perhaps some outside activities to keep down stress.

We have glee club that will be practicing all week to sing us some amazing songs during our Magical Evening on Friday.

There will be a talent show held on Thursday evening. A fun way for each of you to show off your talent. Please keep an

eye out for the sign up sheet.

Did you see the mention of the magical evening? Oh yes we have a wonderful evening of dinner and harmony planned with some very special guests.

We will round off our week with an awesome court trial on Friday!! Your court officials that you elect later this week will be working on that one.

Oh and of course there will be PIZZA!! Yes there is even a pizza party this week.

Don't forget all of our wonderful guest speakers that are sure to keep you laughing and learning.

Please Remember

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

DO NOT FORGET THE 3 B'S:

- Book - *Girls State Book*
- Bag - *If you carry one*
- Bottle - *Water bottle*

Be mindful of your things in your rooms. If you have valuables that you would like to have secured please see your City Advisor. Keep an eye on those room keys as you do not want to get locked out of your room.

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 5th floor.

B's Stop & Shop!!

B's Stop & Shop is our official Arizona Girls State Store. They have so much to offer, from t-shirts, blankets, stickers, cards, snacks, key chain accessories, and SO MUCH MORE!! Stop by the store and see what wonders they have to offer. Do not fret there will be a day of shopping for each city this week as well as plenty of time to stop throughout the week..

WELCOME TO GIRLS STATE!!

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Arizona Girls State Independent



Say hello to your Girls State Independent reporters. These lovely ladies will be writing articles regarding your cities during our week here at Girls State.

From Palo Verde:

Maria Leon and Ayana Molina

From Juniper:

Jordan Casey and Camila Lavayen

From Pinon:

Delia Riley and Gargee Tamboli

From Ocotillo:

Sydney Schurz and Juliana Li

From Cholla:

Sarah Kibby and Starry Hopkins

From Manzanita:

Amelia Cooney and Kailyn Harper

From Yucca:

Sania Patel and Payton Robbins

From Saguaro:

Reidiny Aguirre and Megan Burke

From Sycamore:

Gabriella Comer and Elyse Gonzales

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Arizona Girls State
Penny Maklary, Director
Shannon Mead, Managing Editor

2023 Girls State Reporters

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Payton Robbins - Yucca
Reidiny Aguirre - Saguaro
Megan Burke - Saguaro
Gabriella Comer - Sycamore
Elyse Gonzales - Sycamore

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

Do you have that one special talent that sets you apart 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. The sign up sheet is already down on the window of office on the first floor near flag.

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. Shields in room 628 or Ms. Laughlin in room 414.



76th Annual Girls State begins with registration and greetings

BY MRS. MEAD
AZGS Managing Editor

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 you started out in line waiting to get your first set of instructions and see just how this week was going to be.

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 the store and pick up some great items, like shirts, blankets, bookmarks, stickers, snacks and of course WATER!!!

After the bank it was off to yet another room where you were greeted by the UofA staff to help you get the room key for your new home away from home for the week! Please be sure and keep those keys on your lanyard and do not loose them!! Also be mindful when closing your doors so as not to lock yourself or your roommate out of your room.

Next you were off to have your amazing picture taken for your photo ID badge that you will be wearing during your week here at Girls State. *Please be sure to always have this on as it is part of your uniform.*

Then it was off to get those new beautiful berry colored shirts that will tell everyone on campus that WE ARE GIRLS STATE in a sea of beautiful berry. 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 our amazing junior counselors who helped get you headed to your new city.

Here you were greeted by your City advisor as well as your new city citizens. Remember that you will be with these ladies 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.

Have a great week and enjoy every moment!

Calling all Glee Club enthusiasts

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. McMullen in room 214.

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



**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

Opening Session At Girls State

BY MRS. MEAD
AZGS Managing Editor

Last night was an amazing first night. There were many wonderful speakers and lots of fun. To open the evening our color guard posted our very patriotic colors. We were introduced to our wonderful Governor Esther Malish and Secretary of State Stella Lipson. Each welcomed you and wished you the best time here at Girls State as well and to reach for your goals and make the best of the week you have here.

Next we had greetings from three of our state government officials. Senator Sinema was gracious and excited to welcome you all here and wishing you a great week.

Senator Kelly reminded all of us how far women have come in politics and how great it is to see the accomplishments and legacies being made.

One of our AZ Alumni, State Treasurer Kimberly Yee welcomed you all and talked about her experience at Girls State and explained a breakdown of the Arizona executive branch. What a great speech.

We had a wonderful flag ceremony presented by Post 36's Copper Knight Color Guard and Ms. Solis. 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.

Following the amazing flag presentation you saw a video from Mrs. Sandra Rice that 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.

We enjoyed an amazing presentation for the lovely ladies on staff. This presentation explained all about the American Legion Auxiliary and how we help not only our veterans but our communities as well. Awesome job ladies for the great presentation.

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 "Stop N' Shop" has all that you are looking for while you are here at Girls State. From clothes, blankets, stickers and all sorts of snacks and drinks.

After dinner we enjoyed more learning and fun from two guest speakers.

We started with our very own Arizona Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes. He gave us a great presentation on the function of political parties. What a great start to our week of guest speakers.

Next we closed the night with Chris King speaking on the role of Precinct Committeemen. He started us off with some dad jokes and then really got into some great information. He really kept us all captivated with all sorts of information. Such an interactive speaker.

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.

As our Governor stated, remember to participate and stay involved.



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The Art and Rhetoric of Politics

By Sydney Schurz
Ocotillo City Reporter

As Girls State has begun, so have local elections! In each city, the positions of Mayor, Councilmen, and Precinct Committeemen have all been up for grabs. To obtain these roles though, a 30-60 second speech must be cleverly put together and presented in an impromptu style. This puts much pressure on candidates but is also a great way to test their rhetorical skills.

Many girls at Girls State have taken AP Language, which is a class focused chiefly on rhetoric. By definition, rhetoric is the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, especially the use of figures of speech and other compositional techniques. In political speeches, rhetoric is heavily infused in writing, advertising, and public speaking. Even the teenage nominees know about this idea, and it assisted many in being elected to a city office.

Daniela Putu-Kang of the Nationalist

Party is a strong believer in strong rhetoric. She is currently reading "Win Every Argument" by Mehdi Hasan to learn how to improve her talent in debating. So far, Putu-Kang has learned three essential things: "First, understand both sides of the argument, and even learn more about the opposing side so that you can counter and make your argument stronger. Second, know your audience. Present in a way that they will understand, and in a way that will make them want to agree with you. Lastly, be respectful! No one will choose the side of someone who bashes them throughout their point. Stay calm and collected, do not go for someone personally. Stick to the facts." With the help of this novel, Daniela is glad to serve the Nationalist Party and the City of Ocotillo as a newly elected Precinct Committeeman!

Sonya Colattur and Maddie Carder also ran for Precinct Committeemen for their party; the Federalists. Although these two girls both got elected, their sense of rheto-

ric was approached differently. Sonya's speech was strong and fact-based, and Maddie's was more of a narrative filled to the brim with personal experience. Sonya stated that "...this is Girls State! Women's Rights is what this body of students is all about. We are at the forefront of the future, and women deserve a seat at the table." Her speech inspired many and began with statistics about women in the workplace, as victims of domestic violence, and involvement in politics. Maddie's, on the other hand, began with her experience in clubs, orchestra, and service organizations in her school and community. Her participation in these social and economic areas helped to relate Carder to the rest of the delegates, and therefore would help her represent her peers as a Committeeman.

Whether it be following steps, sharing facts, or enlightening others with personal anecdotes, rhetoric is omnipresent in politics and continues to lead candidates to success!

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Sycamore City... The Sisters We Never Had

By: Gabby Comer and Elyse Gonzales,
Sycamore City Reporters

Since stepping into the dorm yesterday morning, all the citizens of Sycamore City (or Syc City as we like to call it) have known this city is something special. From talking nonstop to planning out how to decorate our dorms we have been able to build a strong bond even though it is only Day 2 of camp.

"The community within our city is very

uplifting and positive. We haven't stopped talking since we got here!" says Emily Topcey

The biggest way that the girls have been able to build a bond is by decorating our dorms under the surfer theme. "We chose the surfer theme because we were really attracted to the humor and irony of choosing something so not Arizona, and the theme just lent itself to some really cute decorations," says Allison Mannon. Each

dorm is decorated with a different aspect of the beach.

Sycamore City has made it our main objective to make our past city sisters proud. The city plans to do big things throughout the week, as well as continue to form these life-changing bonds with the fellow Girls State delicats. Every woman is enjoying their time, making friendships, getting creative, and being hands-on.

Syc City Signing Out!

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YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Starry Hopkins and Sarah Kibbey
 Cholla City Reporters

Today in Cholla City and the rest of the cities in Supai County there were primary elections held. Primary elections are elections to appoint delegates to represent a specific political party.

The city members were all able to learn and follow proper voting protocols. The two prominent political parties in our Girls State are the nationalists and federalists. In the elections today the mayors and councilmen for each party were selected. The two mayors and eight councilmen selected will now go head-to-head in the general election to win the title of Cholla City mayor and city council this evening!

NATIONALIST- The future is looking bright for the nationalists in city government. Two delegates ran for mayor today, and 5 delegates ran for city council. All the candidates for each position were all equally equipped and had potential to all soar in their jobs. The official councilmen for Cholla City to represent the nationalists are Alaina Tracy, Daniya Siddiqui, Leah Bucher, and Mallory Hooper. The elected mayor on behalf of the nationalist is Starry Hopkins. Congratulations to all of these great ladies!

FEDERALIST- The Federalist primary was a tight race amongst six well-qualified candidates

who all presented themselves as hard-working and caring for the city the best. Four girls were chosen for City Council: Sarah Kibbey, Xuan Tran, Erika Ghassemi, and Gabriella Tafoya who are all equally excited and ready to take on their new jobs for the City! The elected mayor for the Federalists is Alexa Hernandez.

All the girls in Cholla City enjoyed taking part in the city's nomination and election processes, each learning the most they could for the upcoming state races.

Candidate for Mayor for the Nationalist Party, Starry Hopkins, would like to say good luck to her opponent. "The well-being of Cholla city is the most important thing to me. I believe I will be an asset to our government, but whether I am chosen or my opponent; Cholla will be in great hands!"

Alexa Hernandez, mayoral candidate for the Federalist, would like to say, "To the city of Cholla, thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you this session. I want to bring us together as a community and work as one. Good luck to the other candidate, Starry, in the race!"

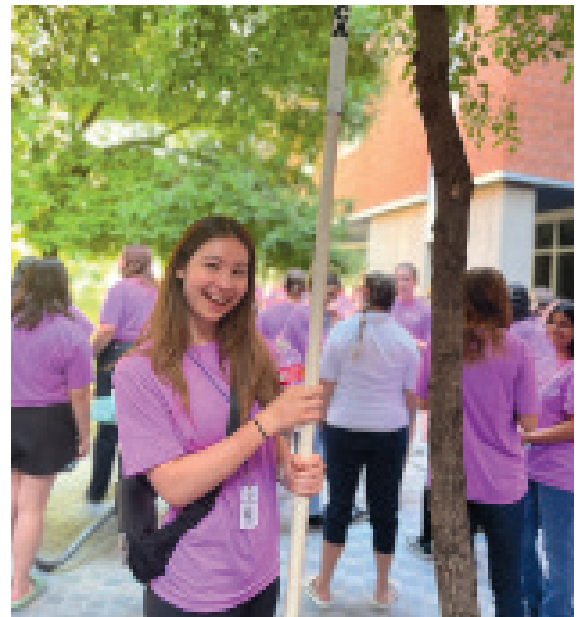
JUST IN: Mayor for Cholla City is Starry Hopkins!! Elected Councilmen are: Erika Ghassemi, Xuan Tran, Alania Tracy, and Daniya Siddiqui! Congratulations and we hope you all will represent our city with great pride!!!

Remember to stay hydrated this week!

Morning Colors

By Payton Robbins
 Yucca City Reporter

Before the selection process, Arizona Girls State delegates had fully recognized and understood the importance of honoring our nation's flag through ceremony and respect. We were told that each morning and evening, however, we would experience and grow to understand the value of teaching and recognizing this ceremony. This morning, as the start to the week of Girls State, we witnessed the beautiful presentation of colors... and the sky seemed to present its colors as well, in accordance with the ceremony. On this beautiful morning, harmony of music, the sky, pride for our nation, and more than 200 girl's hearts swelled with longing to leave a legacy on our nation. The violin accomplice to play the national anthem pulled on our heartstrings as the flag was raised. For the Yucca ladies, this moment especially holds the memory of giggles, smiles, and an infamous photograph of our pole holder.



Ocotillo's Day One

By Juliana Li
Ocotillo City Reporter

When asked what emotions the newly arrived delegates were feeling, one sentiment prevailed amongst all of Ocotillo city: excitement. Whether that emotion was preceded by nerves or hopefulness, excited was the most common word when asked to “describe your first day.” All delegates felt they were thrown into the complex and confusing environment, but with the kind support of their peers, they quickly became hopeful of what is yet to come.

In the first Ocotillo city hall meeting, the air was tense, partially thanks to Ms. J Solis' bad intuition of how high the AC should be blasted, but also because being placed into a group of twenty-two strangers feels deeply uncomfortable. But, as we introduced ourselves, we quickly found commonalities.

We giggled as we struggled to find our hometowns on an Arizona map, we broke tensions when asking each other for pens, and all gained more insight into the exciting program we had ahead of us.

Before our first election, I went around the hall and interviewed Ocotillo city citizens on how their first day went, starting with the holistic question: day one, one word? My second question was: how long was the drive, and how was it?

When realizing the first emotion for Girls State was often nervousness and not excitement, the drive can have a lot to do with why. Over the course of a long drive from Phoenix, Glendale, or Buckeye, the nerves seem to set in, and spending a week

away from your family starts to become real.

I wanted to take a deep dive into everyone's personal experience, since despite the nerves being universal, the experience that accompanied the nerves was not. Some interviewees also commented on their outlook for the rest of the week.

Jazmine McKnight, my roommate, was the first interviewee. Her answer to the one word question was, “exciting, because I was surrounded by people who are willing and eager to learn. I'm looking forward to something new every day going forward.”

Next, Hailey Helm's answer to the first question was, “Eventful. It was crazy in a good way because I was learning how things work and meeting new people.” Her comments on the drive were, “I am from Bukeye, and the drive is 2.5 hours, so it was long.”

Claire Catkins, Hailey's roommate, was next. Her answer to the first question was, “Exhausting. You think you have time to chill and then you're bombarded with info... but it's helpful!” Claire also thinks that the next steps of Girls State will have, “A lot to learn, a lot to do, and a lot to get done.”

It's clear that the girls have already become close, as leaving the interview, Claire and Hailey said they already get along so well, as seen by their similar sleep schedules: going to bed and waking up early.

Daniela Putu-Kang shared the same senti-



ment. She said she felt, “excited, and meeting new people was easy because they were very kind. I liked getting involved.” However, her drive was more tumultuous than most. It was described as being two hours from Glendale in a hot car with the AC off.

Finally, Sonya Colattur also felt the day was hectic. She said it was, “eventful! There was a lot of stuff happening back to back.”

Her drive was described as a little boring with no scenery, but there was a surprise Ostrich farm coming from Phoenix! Sonya says she's now excited for what's to come but has no idea what to run for.

Overall, it seems like spirits are high going into the rest of the week, with some nerves remaining, but only because there's so much to get done. Ocotillo looks forward to the future, with our second election happening right now!

Elections, Meetings, and More!

By Sania Patel
Yucca City Reporter

The 2023 ALA Girls State Program is in full swing at the University of Arizona! Throughout the day in Yucca city, students could be seen running from one meeting to the next as they participated in Precinct Committee meetings, primary elections, clubs, and more. Claire Lewis, Yucca City's Precinct Committeemen, and Clerk, describes the day as “exhausting, but totally worth it.”

The main focus of the schedule today was completing the primary and gen-

eral elections for Yucca City's Mayor and Councilmen.

The nominated students met for two hours just before the general election. Claire Lewis states that the meeting mainly discussed “the numerous responsibilities of the Mayor and the challenges they may face throughout the process.” When asked about the jobs of the Mayor, Claire Lewis responded with a seemingly un-ending list, all of which involved proper communication and leadership skills.

Despite the challenges and the workload, many members of the Girls State

program report feeling excited about the program itself and what is to come.

“The opportunity of this program is really profound,” Claire Lewis states, “I mean, it's hard - no doubt - but the stuff you get from it is great. I mean, without this program, I would have never gotten the chance to apply to the Samsung Scholarship or even have a shot at the Girls Nation [an opportunity for two selected students to travel to Washington, DC, and work with Senators and Representative members to pass proposed bills]”.

Speaking off the Cuff

By Delia Riley
Piñon City Reporter

“You will have one minute to speak, I will cut you off after that.”

This phrase has become a familiar one in the last day and a half of Girls State. Advisors say this like it is the hard part, that girls have so much to say they just can't stop.

However, the harder part is the implied “you have about fifteen seconds to think of something to say.”

In Piñon City, things have been heating up--well not really, we're all quite chill. However, with city offices being elected today, many girls had their first experience with the one minute speech.

Some had their speech almost automated by the end of their 15 seconds, others didn't use the time the advisor was talking to prepare at all.

A theme throughout, though? Bravery. It is a rough world here at Girls State, everyone already stressed and tired.

But, these young women have built up enough courage to make something of their time here, and with only one minute to show it.

It is an exciting thing to know that we will continue to see such extraordinary things throughout the week.

One of many morals I'm sure we will learn in our time here at Girls State is that of making the most of our time. With one minute, or seven short days, we have to prove ourselves.

First Day Jitters in Palo Verde City

By Maria Leon
Palo Verde City Reporter

Palo Verde City accomplished so much on the first day of Arizona Girls State. The City started off with a bang by welcoming all the girls when they first arrived, walking each other to their rooms and having our own get to know each other circle before any official meetings started.

This allowed us to become close with one another and it was shown during a series of interviews held after the first day of Girls State was completed.

The girls who were interviewed were: Jane McAplin, Amaya Henderson, Taylor Downey, and Sarah Haak. Each of the girls were asked the same questions and they all had similar but unique answers. The questions asked were:

- 1) What was your favorite part about your first day of Arizona Girls State?
- 2) What can be done better for the first day of Arizona Girls State next year?
- 3) How do you like your city so far?

Starting with Jane McAplin her answer to the first question was, “meeting my roommate Maria”. Not to be biased but that was an excellent answer given by Jane!

Her answer to the second question was, “They should give us more time to interact with each other and get to know each other. I feel like when we got here there was a little amount of time to interact with each other and we went straight into stuff. I think there should be more time to do ice breakers and get to know each other better”.

Her answer to the last question was, “I love it! Everyone seems pretty chill and

nice here”.

The next person interviewed was Amaya Henderson. Her response to the first question was, “My favorite part was when all of my roommates and people on the floor we all met up and played name games and it was good finding out what everyone wanted to do with their future. It was nice being surrounded by a group filled with beautiful intelligent ladies!”.

Her answer to the second question was, “Definitely organization, dinner was supposed to be at 6 and some girls did not eat until 7 so definitely just organization and how things can be run more smoothly. WATER! Water situation, they didn't tell us where we could fill our water bottles up and I was thirsty so basically just more information for the girls”.

Amaya's response to the final question was, “I love my city, like I love flowing with the energy. It's so nice we all get along so well there is no arguing, there is no hidden animosity, it is just a good city. I love the girls I'm with, I love their energy and personalities. I was nervous when I was first coming in like I told my mom “mama I hope i'm not with no weird people”, I was so nervous but I like it”.

The next person that was interviewed was Taylor Downey. Her response to the question asked was, “Meeting every girl here in my city, experiencing dorm life, and seeing how we run as a government, city, county, stuff like that”.

For the second question she responded with, “Having less meetings, planning out the meals better, having it more organized

because it did take forever for us to get the meal and we had to eat really fast or eat while standing because our food would get cold. Not having many meetings on the first day because it was a lot. I was exhausted and was not able to get to bed until 10:30 and woke up at 5:30 just to drive here was a lot”.

For her final question Taylor responded with, “I love it, I love each and every girl here. They all have amazing personalities, we all fit this group so well. I love it”.

Last but not least Sarah Haak was interviewed and her answer to the first question was, “My favorite part was meeting my roommate and all the girls and getting familiar with them which set the vibe for the whole day. Everyone on the floor was really fun, really amazing and it's nice knowing that I have a good group to go through this with”.

For the second question Sarah responded with, “The first day was a little rough and I think it was poorly timed and I think times for things should change. The important parts like us eating should change as well, when there are so many girls eating at the same time. I think they could organize certain parts of that better”.

For the final question she ended the interview with, “So far the city is really cool. It is still very confusing on the jobs and what each job does. Also on how everything works together but the people in the city are really cool and the atmosphere is really cool”.

All of the girls had one common thing. They all lifted up each other in their responses. This shows that even with our “First Day Jitters” the Palo Verde City is united together.



LEFT: New Precinct Committeemen: Magdalena Annala, Ashley Castaneda, Alejandra Cortez Martinez, Giselle Figueroa, Eniselina Longi, Gargee Tamboli (not in order of image); **CENTER:** City Council Members and Mayor: Shelby Anderson, Eva Da Silva, Michelle Laynes, Emma Rial, Celeste Rivas (not in order of image); **RIGHT:** Our wonderful pole bearer!

PINON CITY ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!

By Gargee Tamboli
Pinon City Reporter

The citizens of Pinon City woke up bright and early this morning to vote for and nominate city officers which included precinct committeemen, mayor, and city council.

Precinct committeemen were nominated on Sunday night, and mayor and city council members were nominated following the election of the precinct committeemen.

Each of the candidates were asked to present a short and brief speech on why they were qualified to fill the position on the spot. Each party showed immense support towards not only their own candidate, but to other candidates from the other party as well.

The girls maintained a respectful and

extremely supportive environment for everyone running, and it was heart-warming to see everyone in the room being so encouraging to one another.

The newly elected precinct committeemen for Pinon City are Giselle Figueroa, Gargee Tamboli, and Ashley Castaneda (chairman) for the Nationalist Party, and Enselina Longi, Alejandra Cortez Martinez, and Magdalena Annala (chairman) for the Federalist Party.

Shelby Anderson (Nationalist), Eva Da Silva (Federalist), Michelle Laynes (Nationalist), and Emma Rial (Nationalist) have been elected as the city's new council members.

"I'm very excited to fulfill this position. I can't wait to work with everyone in my city, and I'm ready to advocate for the

members of my community." Eva Da Silva, new city councilmen stated.

Finally, the citizens of Pinon City voted for the most anticipated city position: mayor. After going through the proper election process, it was determined that Celeste Rivas (Nationalist) would be the new Pinon City Mayor.

"I'm honored to be the new mayor of the city of Pinon. I'm looking forward to working with my fellow citizens and emphasizing the meaning of teamwork and leadership throughout this session of Girls State. I think it's important to work as one united group of strong, independent women, and my goal is to appropriately represent Pinon with integrity and resilience," stated Celeste Rivas.

We are so excited to see what our new city leaders will accomplish!

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

By Payton Robbins
Yucca City Reporter

On the itinerary for Monday of Girls State, the cities elect their representatives for city council and the mayor. In this process, the Yucca ladies had fun throughout the entire day, with enthusiasm and Yucca spirit, silly faces, and yelling across the room to announce names for the ballot; day one of elections was one of the most creative sessions ever to grace the hallways of Girls State.

The Yucca's ladies produced a pag-

eant of individual talents, artwork, public speaking, and wit. The "lucky Yuccs" had powerful campaign speeches, and showed heart amongst other leaders during campaigns.

One of the fondest memories of the day was during the primary elections with the selection of the Election Boards, where the Inspector, Judges, Marshall, and Roster Clerk were selected for voting procedures.

The Marshall, Frances Robertson, had a particularly interest-

ing job, announcing the beginning of the voting session by proclaiming, "hear ye, hear ye" to the citizens of Yucca city. The ladies all had a lovely laugh from the experience, and enjoyed their Marshall's spirit and excitement for the beginning of the primary elections.



Gaining Trust In 60 Seconds

By Megan Burke
Saguaro City Reporters

Monday's agenda has consisted of election after election, as each city is constructing their own governments.

From running for Precinct Committees to larger campaigns such as Mayor, citizens are told to prepare a one minute speech. Delegates are faced with the challenge of gaining the trust of the fellow girls whom they have met less than 24 hours ago. We have barely connected faces with names, therefore, to elect a leader in our city is a huge undertaking.

However, the delegates have taken this challenge and defied all odds. After a morning of speeches, I have learned how to gain the trust of voters in simply 60 seconds.

First of all, starting your speech strong is a key component in gaining votes. Many delegates began their speech with "Hi my name is ... and I am running for ...". However, when

delegates began their speeches with statistics, questions, or other openers, voters were hooked. Especially after listening to endless speeches after speeches, a strong unique start immediately grabs the attention of the voters.

Next, personal connections are crucial. Delegates consist of a diverse melting pot of experiences and backgrounds from various corners of Arizona. I was even shocked to learn that one of the delegates drove five hours to the camp!

No matter our differences, candidates found unity. For example, one of the delegates running for candidacy noted how all the girls had numerous leadership experiences.

She explained that instead of simply reading her resume in her speech, she gained votes by labeling her goals if elected. She was able to unite the strong leadership community while making herself memorable.

Finally, uniqueness also allows for success. During elections for chair positions, one delegate began her speech by comparing herself to JFK!

Throughout her speech, I can assure you that no other delegate in the room knew what would be said next. I was on the edge of my seat for the entire one minute campaign speech and with no surprise, she won the votes.

In a camp of 200 girls, it is easy to hide within the crowd, however those who made themselves stand out fall among the few leaders of Girl State. Uniqueness is encouraged and the speeches opened the door into the personalities and hidden humor of fellow delegates.

Overall, day one of speeches has taught delegates, including myself, new public speaking skills. I am amazed by the strength and poise of my fellow AZ State Attendees and filled with anticipation as we approach the County and State Elections.

As the time limit expands in future elections, I know my admiration for these future world leaders will as well. Being able to demonstrate such skill in simply 60 seconds, the world is these girls' oyster. The future of our nation is in great hands.

Manzanita joins sister cities in recreational meeting

By Annika Good and Amelia Cooney
Manzanita City Reporters

Manzanita City hosted the annual open house for her sister cities, Palo Verde and Sycamore, after their first political party rally. The girls headed to the Manzanita lounge after a chant battle to display their party affiliations. With spirits high and broken voices, the girls excitedly went up the stairs.

The three cities congregated together after exchanging warm greetings and opened the night with their unique chants. Each selected a particularly enthusiastic city member to deliver the chants. Palo Verde started off with a Power Ranger-themed motto, "Go, Go, Palo Verde!" Sycamore followed with a classic "I say 'Syc' you say 'city.'" Manzanita wrapped up the city chants with "Manzanita, Man-Man-Zanita." However, all the cities came together to pay tribute to the Manzanita City theme, The Lorax. Annika Garrison led the group with the "I say 'Let it' you say 'grow.'" Annika Garrison described the event, saying "It was an interesting experience to partici-

pate in such a large group of people with such diverse backgrounds and lead them in a unifying chant. It's an experience I'll never forget." The girls felt excited and ready to carry on with the night.

Candy was passed out as the cities began their prepared games. Sycamore suggested a creative mash-up between Rock, Paper, Scissors and Musical Chairs. This game provided an opportunity to further familiarize the girls with their sister cities. Manzanita Mayor, Amelia Cooney, played classic songs as the girls mingled around. When the music stopped, the girls had to find someone from a different city and interact while playing Rock, Paper, Scissors.

After the light-hearted game, the citizens gathered in the lounge once more to present the gifts the cities made for each other. The girls enthusiastically read each other's words and bonded over the gifts.

To finish the night, Palo Verde led the girls through a game of charades. While



Annika Garrison leads the Sister Cities through the group chant.

there was no clear winner, the citizens enjoyed each other's company and laughed whole-heartedly together. Mayors Isabella Nicholls (Sycamore), Paris Long (Palo Verde), and Amelia Cooney (Manzanita) closed up the night with a grateful message and hopeful wishes.

The Beginning of an Era

By Jordan Casey
Juniper City Reporter

All of us come from different backgrounds, different areas, and different types of lives. Be that as it may, we are all women living and facing the world together. And we might have more in common than what the naked eye perceives.

I interviewed all my fellow city members (Juniper City), specifically asking what they want to learn from Girls State. The answers were common, yet complex. Everyone had different responses, yet all were similar in multiple ways.

Most of these girls responded in a similar manner of wanting to learn more about the government functions - how it can be related to real life and gaining experience with hands on learning in government situations: Kaitlyn Espinoza, Aria Everett, Blythe Brown, Savannah Harrell, Hannah Harding, AnnMary Terrence, Sarah Witte, Niamh Waddell, Bailee Ramierz, Camila Lavayen, Chloe Chun, Kaiya Chun, Evangelia Sai Pen, and Amutha Rajasundaram.

Further, the rest of the girls here at Juniper City ranged in answering with wanting to develop interpersonal skills and gain social connections, then some others wanted to learn the true meaning of leadership: Abigail Rasmussen, Ashley Vega-Rosales, Leah Callahan, Sofiya Galanyuk, Ayushi Setia, Skyla Bird, Brittany Noriega, Sierra Titus, and London Bonelli.

The other question I followed up with asking was what my city members want to get out of Girls State. The greatest common answer here was friendship and knowledge. I believe that as a group we will all get what we want from this situation, and I hope they believe that, too.

What I want to learn from Girls State is the considerable understanding of how politics really work, and the motivations from all ends from any person involved. I'm here to learn all opinions, because different viewpoints are relied upon in democracy. Whether those opinions are agreed upon or not. I want to leave Girls State knowing how to develop my opinion and what to develop it on in relation to politics. I want to create my own voice. One that's heard

and echoed.

I also want to leave Girls State with memories. Memories that cloud the mind and I'll think back to forever. I want to remember this era of my life. This little week of my life, and yet, it will have such a big impact on how I think, behave, and go on into the age of adulthood. Womanhood.

We might be rival parties. Rival counties. Rival cities. But the raw truth of our situation is that we all live in the same world. We walk the same ground, breath the same air, and look up at the same stars. We all welcome the same beginning in the stages of life. Well, I have a challenge for you; lets welcome this beginning at Girls State together. We will walk through the ups and downs of Girls State as one. We will take the obstacles and face them together. And when we leave this little era of our lives on Saturday, we will remember the laughs and smiles we all shared.

Will we remember the knowledge we retained? Yes, we will.

But most of all, we will remember each other.

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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

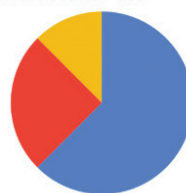
By Gargee Tamboli and Delia Riley
 Pinon City Reporters

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



- pasta
- breakfast
- mexican

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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- 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: @getfedandvotered • 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

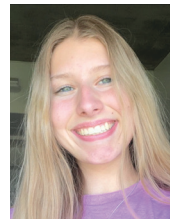
“I’m excited about being able to work as a community. I’m very passionate about everyone’s voices being heard and feeling safe in the community. I hope everyone in our city can find comfort in stating their voices and options, and they know that they can trust us. Their voices will be represented through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



Arizona Girls State Independent



June 8, 2023 • Volume 14, Issue 4 • Tucson, Arizona

Doers, Thinkers, and Dreamers

By Jordan Casey
Juniper City Reporter

Today I had the absolute entertainment of witnessing county and state elections. I enjoyed every step of the process and hearing all of the girls give marvelous, well-oriented speeches for their position.

As I was listening to all of the fellow young-ladies speak, I noticed a pattern between them. How they each talked. What they talked about in relation to what they are running for.

I decided on three different categories that all people can be separated into. These categories can be crossed, meaning you have the possibility to be two. You can even be all three.

However, as you read this article, I ask you to ponder the following: Are you a doer, thinker, or dreamer? Read closely and truly consider the raw truth of yourself. Contemplate which category your heart most follows.

The doers are (by social descriptions) the business managers, marketers, public speakers/ relations, social & community managers, etc. The most occurring definition is the doers are people who are the face and body of society.

They build things from scratch and make it their own. They take the broken and fix it up to create something functional for others. Nonetheless, the doers are not boxed and bound to be the surface of who only the eyes of society see.

The doers are people in society who have

a gift of goals that they focus on. Behind the scenes, the doers can accomplish monumental tasks that push society along.

In the candidate discourse, I found that the doers laid out their candid goals in front of everyone. They focus on what they plan for society and don't let anyone stand in their way.

The doers are people who believe in themselves and their opinion in order to influence the public. They have guided and shaped the world throughout decades of long history, and they continue to do so today. The doers are purposeful and impressive people who change the world.

The thinkers are (by social description) the engineers, scientists, medical workers, financiers, etc. The logical and most idealistic definition is that they are the backbone and the brain of society. They take things into careful consideration and look for the most beneficial route. They usually work behind the scenes.

On the other hand, the thinkers are not just confined to "brainy" routes in life. I've met a lot of adventurous, dare-devil people who are thinkers beneath surface level.

The thinkers of society are people I find to look at every possible problem, along with every possible solution. During the candidate election speeches, I decided that the thinkers assessed all of the audience viewpoints.

The "thinker" candidates most consistently talked about statistics of the conflict and how it effects their concerns, then how they plan to change it. They aim for great

heights and use the power of their wit to accomplish their goals. They are driven people who put in the work and it shows. The thinkers are strong-minded and valuable to the world.

The dreamers are (by social description) the authors, artists – of any kind, explorers, designers, etc. The common definition is that the dreamers are the heart of society. They keep the blood of humanity pumping and flowing. They offer balance to the part of society that is grounded.

The dreamers have their heads in the sky and their hearts in the palms of the doers and thinkers. The dreamers are found anywhere and everywhere.

Among the candidate elections, I believe that the dreamers are the ones who were filled with passion. They felt what they said in their soul. The "dreamer" candidates showed desire and devotion towards the audience. They have a strong connection with words and within themselves. They raise humankind to a level of aspiration that is out of this world. The dreamers are considerate and irreplaceable in the world.

So, what are you? A doer, thinker, or dreamer? Do you want to be one, but you're actually more of another? Are you two, maybe even all three of them?

If you truly do not know what you could be, then get a friends opinion. Ask a fellow Girls State girl if you seem like a doer, thinker, or dreamer.

Dedicated to all you fellow doers, thinkers, and dreamers: Follow your heart, you never know where it might take you.

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Shannon Mead, Managing Editor

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Arizona Governor comes to town

By Reidiny Aguirre
Saguaro City Reporter

Incredible legacy Governor Katie Hobbs came today in person to talk to the girls of Girls State. Governor Katie Hobbs was genuinely inspiring, telling us her experience about being a social worker and wanting to do more than that to help her community, making a stand to inspire us to do more in our communities to take the lessons opportunities, and teachings we have been given here and take them back home with us and make our community better.

She also told us the setbacks she had faced when

people tried to get under her skin however despite that she kept her goal set and refuse to let any setbacks stand in her way of accomplishing those goals.

She expressed most importantly to us that we will face setbacks as women and minorities but to always keep our goal in the forefront of our minds and not to let anyone tell us we cannot reach those goals.

She gave us a better understanding of what she really does for the community. She said that watching every election from the people running for governor again and again and that sometimes you cannot wait for someone else to step in you have to be the one to make change.

Post Girls State Dreams

By Gargee Tamboli and Delia Riley
Pinon City Reporters

Throughout the week, we've had the pleasure of hearing from many Girls State alumni, from our JCs and past Girls Nation delegates to Governor Katie Hobbs.

The program has its good reputation for a reason. The 2022 Arizona Girls Nation delegates are attending prestigious universities, Harvard and Howard. And, Governor Hobbs hasn't lost an election, which she attributes to her time in Girls State.

She's not the only notable alumni the Girls and Boys State Programs have produced, some of them including Kimberly Yee, Neil Armstrong, Bill Clinton, and Summer Walker.

So, we were wondering, what will our girls achieve in the future? A common theme throughout was the

communication skills everyone has learned here.

One of our fellow Pinon citizens says "I'm going into the health science/medical field. Coming here is a great opportunity to expand and interact with more people, and the medical field is all about interacting with people." Many girls wanted to go into the business or medical fields, with some stand outs being architecture and constitutional law.

Another common trend we identified was that people learned more about the democratic process. They learned how to use their voice and don't feel as overwhelmed about the election and voting process as they once were.

Regardless of whether or not the delegates at Girls State go into politics, they have learned extremely valuable skills here that will help them to succeed at anything they choose to do in the future.



Breakfast and Barnstorming

By Juliana Li and Sydney Schurz
Ocotillo City Reporters

On Wednesday morning, the night after Meet the Candidates, the patio was colorfully decorated with posters galore! Delegates were abuzz with excitement, because it was finally election day for County and State!

Here are some opinions on the food and friends of Girls State.

Zoey Stein of Manzanita was our first interviewee. Her favorite breakfast item was the lemon bread.

However, her favorite part about campaigning is a popular opinion: the Girls Nation candidates. She finds all the different bills and passions interesting, something that is echoed across all of Girls State.

At "Meet the Candidates," hopeful Girls Nation Senators could be found aplenty, all trying to make their voices heard and names memorable.

Kailyn Harper, also from Manzanita, had some strong breakfast opinions that could be summarized to "Coffee is bad," and, "Cherry danish is good."

Ally Rumzisz from Supai was the opposite. She liked the coffee, surprising me personally, but ascribed it to normally liking black coffee.

Another dissenting opinion came from Michelle Chen from Manzanita. She was into Cherry danish at first, but then quickly realized the amount of sugar was not suitable for a 7 AM breakfast.

Skylar Greener from Manzanita City was enjoying some granola and yogurt this morning. Her strategy (if you will) was to fill a plate up with granola and dump the yogurt on top. Mix and then it's all ready!

Although Skylar enjoys it, "I wish there was bacon!" she says wishingly.

Greener then goes on, "...my favorite part of campaigning is meeting new people! There are so many to meet with thousands of stories." She is currently running for County Sheriff with the catchy slogan, "The grass is greener with Skylar Greener!"

Adelina Grotenhuis from Sycamore City was not super enthusiastic about breakfast because she was busy doing something far more important; campaigning!

Adelina is taking the bold move of going for Girls Nation, but her bill is something even bolder. She is fighting for sex education to be taught in schools.

When girls walk down the staircase, a huge poster can be seen from as far as the top step. This outlandish strategy definitely

caught the delegates attention, and many have talked about her bill.

Grotenhuis is also running for Supreme Court, and as a strong, confident, and extroverted candidate, she is sure to catch the eye of many girls here at Girls State.

As someone as passionate as herself, Adelina's favorite part of campaigning is seeing others with similar drive sharing their ideas and opinions in creative ways.

Finally, Payton Robbins from Supai had some strong opinions about the muffins.

Quickly running out the first day, the muffins have become a fan favorite, with girls carrying them up and down the staircase.

Her favorite part about campaigning is talking to people! She could be seen campaigning for Girls Nation at Meet the Candidates, an event that was sure to be popular with the extroverted and those looking to secure top positions.

As the girls are getting used to the breakfast and the packed days at Girls State, campaigning and elections have made things even more hectic.

However, there is sure to be both a breakfast item and position at Girls State for everyone as we head into the third full day.

Katie Hobbs inspires Girls State citizens

By Annika Good and Amelia Cooney
Manzanita City Reporters

On June 7th, after leaving the lunch hall, Girls State citizens headed to the state hall, nervously anticipating their next guest speaker. As they chatted amongst themselves, Governor Ester Marish grabbed everyone's attention and introduced the eagerly awaited guest.

Current Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs entered the stage and was met by a room full of excited delegates, who had patiently

waited to hear the advice and wisdom the exemplary leader had in store for them.

After all the citizens had settled down and taken their seats, Governor Hobbs began with a brief introduction, telling the citizens a bit about herself and her professional experience in office before opening the floor to the city mayors for questioning.

In the end, she was able to answer four unique questions regarding the position of Governor before departing to tend to her

busy schedule.

Four city mayors, including Mayor Amelia Cooney of Manzanita city, were able to walk away with inspiring and satisfactory answers to their questions. Mayor Cooney recalls, "The experience was an honor and I'm glad I was able to hear from such a powerful woman in our state government!"

Overall, it was an incredibly rare experience for the girls, and each citizen walked away with fond memories of the event

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Even When Dividing Among Party Lines, Sisterhood is What Defines

By Megan Burke
Saguaro City Reporter

As rallies heighten tension between Nationalist and Federalist Party, Saguaro City presents an intriguing perspective to the polarization. Allegra Canelos, Chairman of Federalist Party, and Lindsay Price, Platform Co-Chairman of Nationalist Party, both are delegates within Saguaro City.

During the flag ceremony this morning, predicted rivals joined forces and presented a beautiful performance of the Star Spangled Banner.

Interested by their unity, I interviewed Canelos and Price on their opinions on the differing parties.

I began by asking the delegates “Do you notice any polarization between Federalists and Nationalists within your own city?”

Price began by explaining that she hadn’t seen any polarization. In fact, she stated that Saguaro is solidly unified as a group of girls no matter their party.

Even though leading positions of the Federalist and Nationalist Party co-exist nearby next door to one another, we are all

still Saguaro Sisters. Even out of the city, we can be in our own party but understand to demonstrate kindness and civility.

Impressed by the poised response, I continued my interview asking “How do you promote civility among the different parties?”

Canelos explained that civility is rooted from simply demonstrating kindness and not taking rallies too far. At the end of the day, everything is a joke and delegates are at Girl State for a fun and educational experience.

As Chairman of the Federalist Party, Canelos informs her party to focus on strengthening themselves, not on the other party.

I closed my interview with a final question: “How do you think being party chairmen living in the same city as an opposing party chairman has taught you about finding unity among differing ideas?”

Price and Canelos agreed that they found unity despite their differing parties. Specifically through their Star Spangled Banner performance, Canelos explained that they could connect in art and personal passions.



Price clearly explained that at the end of the day what matters is the relationship you have built, not the party who won. Saguaro City clearly demonstrated the important skill of maintaining an open-mind and protecting civility, no matter the political circumstance. Even when differing opinions and beliefs exist, sisterhood persists.

Campaigning Around Sycamore City

By Gabby Comer
Sycamore City Reporter

As all of Girls State dives deep into campaigning for primary and general elections, many of the girls in Sycamore city are running for most of the county and state positions.

Ever since they could start campaigning all the girls in Sycamore have been hard at work making campaign materials and helping the other citizens.

“I am helping out my city with campaigns by going out and just really expressing how

amazing these girls are. Being in their city I have personally got to know them and I am confident in all of their abilities to be amazing in each of their positions! I am trying my best to get their names out and known! As well as offering advice where needed,” says Brooke Wilkens, Sycamore City Federalist Precinct Committee.

Sycamore City has also welcomed many nominees from other cities, from all over Kaibab County and Girls State. The halls throughout Sycamore are decorated with tons of campaign posters from all over the state.

“Seeing the posters of girls in other cities and counties really brings all of us together, because I think I speak for most of us when I say that our halls have become like a piece of home for us, and seeing the marks of the other girls around us in our city feels like we are seeing them on a more personal level,” says Avery Borghoff, Sycamore City citizen.

Girls in Sycamore making door decor and campaign materials.

Campaign poster hung up in Sycamore City.



The Key to Leadership: A Lecture by Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs

By Sania Patel
Yucca City Reporter

Today, the students of the ALA Girls State Program were ecstatic to meet the incredibly accomplished Governor of Arizona, Katie Hobbs! During this meeting, Hobbs discussed her work and her contributions to her community while also highlighting the importance of passion and proper leadership skills.

To start with some background, Hobbs herself was a Girls State Delegate years ago. Her experience during the program helped her not only realize her future career path but also develop the skills necessary to succeed when in positions of leadership.

First, Hobbs provided some information about her past education and work. Hobbs studied at Northern Arizona University and Arizona State University, eventually earning a Master's Degree in Social Work. It was through her social work that Hobbs began to notice the immense amount of issues Arizona was struggling with.

In order to advocate for what she believed in - and make a real change - Hobbs used the campaigning skills she had learned during her time at Girls State to run for the Arizona House of Representatives in 2010.

After spending some time serving for the House of Representatives, Hobbs ran - and was elected - for a seat in the Arizona Senate. She served as Senate minority leader and then was later elected as Arizo-

na's Secretary of State in 2018.

Now, as Governor of Arizona, Hobbs focuses on incorporating leadership into her connection with the community. During her speech, she focused on the importance of humility and honesty, as she stated, "Without truth and accountability, it's impossible for the government to run smoothly."

She also told the girls that, despite the increasing political polarization within the nation, "my goal has always remained the same - and that is to serve my community and my state."

Following her statement, Hobbs expressed her focus on her mission. According to Hobbs, despite the harassment, political violence, and personal attacks she faced, she continues to "...stay focused on my mission. Not getting bogged down by the harshness of politics has allowed me to work better for the people of Arizona."

At the end of her discussion, Hobbs handed the floor over to the Mayors of the Girls State cities. Our very own Yucca City Mayor, Caleigh Ragsdale, questioned Hobbs over the involvement of women in the political sphere and - specifically - how women have impacted politics thus far.



In her answer, Hobbs stressed the importance of overcoming the stereotypes of women in politics, as females bring exceptionally detailed and thoughtful ideas, as well as "bring[ing] a different perspective to the table... it's not just about creating the jobs and building the economy for everyone, but what that means to someone's life and their family and how that affects them."



Arizona Girls State Independent



June 9, 2023 • Volume 14, Issue 5 • Tucson, Arizona

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."

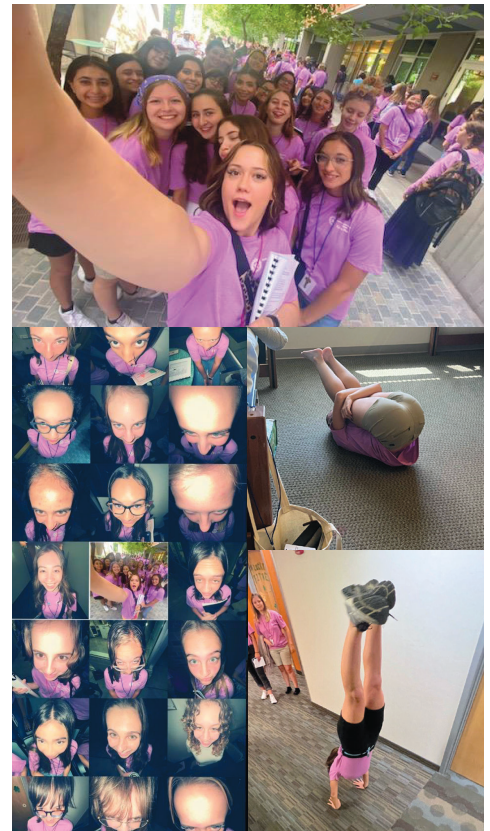
After long days in the sun and constantly on our feet, these city meetings bring out the best ideas from the tired, silly girls of Yucca city. Yucca loves to make every situation throughout the day absolutely, absurdly goofy.

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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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.

