

# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## Cholla's Fantastic Mayor

BY ELIZABETH BENNETT  
Cholla City Reporter

Ella Hackett of Cholla City in Supai County was selected as the city mayor on June 2, 2025 at Arizona Girl State. I was fortunate enough to interview her this afternoon:

Bennett: "What are what your goals as mayor during your Girl State session?"

Hackett: "My goals as mayor are to win best city and to get everyone involved in our city. I also want to create long lasting friendships between the girls and aid each of them in securing the county and state positions they are running for."

Bennett: "What are you most excited for this week at Girl State?"

Hackett: "I'm excited to learn about all the responsibilities that come with the job I

have as mayor and I'm also excited to meet like-minded people."

Bennett: "Tell us about your city's theme."

Hackett: "Our city's theme is 'My Little Pony.' Our citizen Lexie came up with it after we discussed our favorite TV shows. Lexie will be running for Supai County Sheriff later this week and she is an excellent candidate across the board. Our theme has been so fun to work with and we are so excited to have our doors all decorated accordingly, and to walk around campus with our cutie-marked crowns."

Bennett: "Even though we've only experienced two days so far, what has been your favorite memory at Girl State?"

Hackett: "I really loved making balloon animals with my city today. We made

balloon 'ponies' to share with our sister cities and it was so nice to sit down as a group and have some real time to bond as a group."

Bennett: "How is your city planning to succeed this week and what advice would you give to the other city mayors?"

Hackett: "Our city is built upon our theme's magic and our friendship with one another. We are already so close as a group and our tight relationships with each other has definitely helped our decision-making. I would advise other mayors to also build a tight knit community and give everyone the valuable space to share their ideas."

Ella Hackett has a great term as mayor of Cholla ahead of her and is absolutely guiding her city to success at Girl State.

## The RunDown of Precinct Committeemen

BY VICTORIA GOESER  
Juniper City Reporter

I am a Precinct Committeeman (PC) from Juniper City for the Nationalist Party. Before I got to Girls State, I had no idea what this was.

As a precinct committeeman, I am on the Platform Committee. This means that we build the Nationalist Party's core principles and beliefs.

Our State Nationalist Party Chair is Karina Koppikar, who happens to also be from Juniper City. Besides being very informed and knowledgeable in government, she is kind and genuine to everyone she meets. She gets stuff done gracefully and efficiently. Overall, she has been a wonderful leader with an intriguing personality.

The 3rd night at Girls State, we all had county rallies. The rally for my county, Cocopah, was invigorating.



We had chants from both parties and got introduced to everyone who is running for county positions. After this loud and upbeat rally, we had a "Meet the Candidates" night.

This entails getting to know more people and learning who your candidates are for county and state positions. Since we haven't

had our primary election yet, most nationalists met with nationalists and vice versa.

It's a great experience meeting others who are passionate about the same topics because we always have something in common and can compromise on lots of issues. I am excited for what's to come in the near future here at Arizona Girls State.

**Fantastic Mayor** ..... page 1  
**Athletic Affect Aptitude** ..... page 2  
**My Little Pinon's** ..... page 3  
**County Policy** ..... page 4

# Arizona Girls State Independent



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# The Stylistic Choices of Girls State

BY CADY TRAUSCH  
 Manzanita City Reporter

At Girls State we have a uniform, or uniform adjacent clothes. All citizens have to wear the same shirt, meaning the same color, design, and cut.

I have not always been the biggest fan of uniform clothing, the idea of everyone dressed in the same attire felt very restricting to me. I thought all personality was lost when you take away the visual aspect of not being able to express yourself through clothes.

However, since being here at Girls State I have realized uniform does not take away creativity and uniqueness, it actually makes your creativity more

prominent by having to configure your personal style to accommodate the uniform.

I have seen so many great interpretations of style expression since being here. Some girls have chosen to wear fun pants or shorts. Other girls have decided to show their style through layering of clothing or wearing fun, colorful shoes.

In the past days I have seen so many creative hairstyles to spice up the uniform. Even down to girl's nails and jewelry has added a nice touch to the outfit.

All these little details have really shown that personality is not lost when your clothing becomes limited, instead it gives you a new canvas to be able to express yourself.

# Athletics Affect Aptitude

BY ZOEY OLSON  
 Saguaro City Reporter

Citizens enter Girls State with a variety of extracurricular backgrounds, but one stands out as a common favorite amongst girls, as well as one that seems to offer the most learning experience heading into this week of politics and new experiences: athletics.

Luci McDonald, an elite badminton player, claimed that many of her skills in leadership stem from "winning multiple tournaments", allowing her to feel confident in herself and her skills both on and off the court, something that serves her especially well in her campaign for state superintendent.

Abigale Dixon, who wrestles competitively and has previously qualified for her state championships, stated that wrestling has helped her grow in a variety of ways.

Specifically, she feels that because "wrestling is an extremely mindful sport where wins and losses can really get to your head" it forces you to develop confidence, resiliency and the stamina to keep going, three things that are especially important in Girls State.

Abigale is currently running for clerk of the superior court and has had to put in hours of work on top of her job as secretary for Saguaro City, an experience certainly made easier by the perseverance built through her wrestling career.

Not only do these sports help athletes grow confidence, their consistent and strict adherence to rou-

tines helps them develop the discipline they need to get up at six am sharp each morning to resume their county and state positions.

Zoe Gadow, a gymnast, states that her experience in gymnastics forced her to prioritize, as she had to balance academics with "five hours a day in the gym."

Her gymnastics career also allowed her to become more responsible, as she learned to balance her heavy workload.

Even though it's an individual sport, gymnastics can also be a way to connect with others. Abigail Munchinsky, nicknamed Abbie, another highly accomplished gymnast, stated that being a gymnast has "helped [her] make a lot of friends."

She mentioned that since Zoe is also a gymnast, those "experiences have helped us really bond."

Abbie's experience in the world of gymnastics has also allowed her to become much more "courageous." She stated that "Whenever I feel that I don't want to go out and do something... I say it's five seconds of fear once or a lifetime of regret."

Her commitment to her goals and skills in conquering her fear allow her to balance her many difficult and stressful responsibilities as mayor for her city's citizens alongside her quest to attend Girls Nation as a senator.

Clearly, the skills earned through days, weeks and months of training for these athletes have paid off at more than competitions, as they continue to serve them here in the mythical 51<sup>st</sup> state.

## 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](mailto:photos@azgirlsstate.com)**

# My Little Pinon's

DAISEY GARCIA  
Pinon City Reporter

With the power of friendship, the Pinon City has established their halls with the spirit of Equestria.

The entrance wall symbolizes Equestria's primary town Ponyville.

Moving down the hall you embrace Princess Celestia. This princess is responsible for the rise of the sun at dawn.

Moving forward you encounter her younger sister Luna. Princess Luna is responsible for raising the moon every night.

## My Little Pinon's



The door to the left is Spike. Spike is a pre-teen dragon who acts as a best friend and assistant for the lovely Twilight Sparkle.

Moving around the curve you are blinded

by the diamonds of Rarity, a Carousel Boutique owner of Ponyville and long-term crush of Spike.

To the left you see the transformation of Princess Twilight Sparkle and facing her you encounter Twilight Sparkle's older sister figure, Cadanza.

If you look to the right, you will get flustered at the sight of Fluttershy, and as you dash more forward you feel the breeze of Rainbow Dash.

In case you get hungry, I am sure Applejack will provide you a little snack on your way next door to the part made by the excited Pinky Pie.

# Campaign Day at Girls State!

BY MOLLIE DITTMER  
Saguaro City Reporter

This concludes today's activities for Tuesday, June 3, 2025.

We had a guest speaker introducing our county government positions and information, Ms. Lisa Matthews, who directs Pima County Facilities Management which we would like to thank for coming to speak to us today.

We also had our first county courthouse meetings to introduce county roles. For lunch, we had a delicious pesto chicken

sandwich with tomatoes and other assorted vegetables.

Our slate committee worked very hard to secure all positions, both Federalist and Nationalist, in county offices and state offices.

Just a reminder that the county papers, state papers, and Girls Nation papers were due today because the campaigning started today and was from 8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

There will be continued campaigning tomorrow and elections. In addition, there was more Glee Club rehearsal and talent

show activities.

That concludes the official full day two of Arizona Girls State, and tomorrow we can expect some speeches from Girls Nation candidates, the introduction of our county office candidates, more county courthouse meetings, and primary elections, accompanied by some speeches to advocate for everyone's given role.

There will also be whistle-stop campaigns in the statehouse for the reporters. Good Luck to all of these lovely ladies running!

# She's Listening. She's Leading. She's Gluski.

BY ERIN WALLACE  
Sycamore City Reporter

At just 17 years old, Wendy Gluski has already achieved an impressive amount.

Her perseverance and passion set her apart from the crowd. Now, she's setting her sights on a new goal: becoming Governor at Arizona Girls State. And if determination counted as votes, the election would have ended yesterday.

Gluski is an incoming senior at BASIS Scottsdale. Since her freshman year, she has excelled both academically and in extracurricular activities, and her love of learning even earned her a perfect score on the ACT.

She's been involved in various school organizations from the beginning.

"I've been involved in speech and debate since my freshman year," said Gluski. "I did congressional debate, and I also coach congressional debate for middle schoolers. I'm also part of the Red Cross, and I was the president last year."

But her achievements don't stop there—Gluski also has a background in basketball.

"I'm coaching the girls' basketball team next year, and I played way back in the day," she added.

Clearly, she has a natural flair for leadership and has built her campaign around listening to others.

"I want to hear what every single person who came here has to say," Gluski emphasized.

Rather than focusing on her own priorities, she aims to reflect the collective voice

of Girls State.

"I really want us to focus not on the issues that I think are the most important, but on the issues that the entire Girls State thinks are the most important," she explained.

Gluski credits two major influences for shaping her mindset.

"My biggest inspiration is probably Michelle Obama, because I think she's a boss and she's an amazing public speaker and writer," she said. "My other inspiration is my family. My mom and dad are the hardest workers I know."

Undeniably, Wendy Gluski is a highly qualified candidate, and she's got my vote for Governor at Girls State.

If you're still undecided, be gutsy and vote for Gluski!

# County Policy at Girls State

BY JULIA WATSON  
Sycamore City Reporter

Today, the citizens of Girls State had the honor of starting their day with an educational and encouraging speech from Lisa Matthews, a member of Pima County Facilities Management.

She began by explaining the Board of Supervisors and its role in protecting the welfare, safety, and economic development of the community.

This board fosters safety through numerous initiatives and policies that affect things such as water, law enforcement, and more. Policy development operates like a utilitarian government.

In other words, this approach to government works to establish laws that promote the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people.

Additionally, policies are passed through a typical democratic process that involves lengthy discussions, debates, community

actions, and voting.

Lisa Matthews provided an excellent example of how a utilitarian government operates in flood management within Pima County.

The Department Director, after discussing with those around her, proposed a solution to the flooding problem. They suggested creating a loop that serves not only as a way to manage floods, but it's also used as a recreational path for walking and biking.

Though this project requires lots of time, funding, debates and discussions, citizens can truly appreciate the work of the county government through how their efforts have improved their own lives.

Unlike utilitarian rule, authoritarian government involves little to no democratic process. This form of policy development is not typically seen in the United States. However, we saw this happen in real time during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the pandemic rampaged across Arizona, there was no time for democracy. Policymakers had to rapidly instate laws and orders to quarantine and close businesses.

In addition to her discussion of policies, I would also like to touch on the encouragement she provided all of us with.

As stated by Lisa Matthews, "Everyone has a talent that you can contribute to your communities." This talent can look very different from person to person, whether it is public speaking, leadership, event organization, creativity, and much more.

Many of us may have these abilities that will never surface if we don't tap into them. In other words, the more you push yourself out of your comfort zone, the better you understand your own abilities.

Though our talents can look different from one another, who's to say that you cannot create a meaningful impact if you make the effort search for your own.



## Boy State vs. Girl State: Sisters or Cousins?

BY ELIZABETH BENNETT  
Cholla City Reporter

While the citizens of Girl State learned the ins and outs of county and state government, assessed the number of candidates in their counties running for each government position, and began campaigning for the elections to come, it seems the citizens of boy state have been up to other activities.

Boy State citizen Noah Bartlett, who ran for Compton State Senator in the primaries today, gave an update on his

day: "Today we had a career night where we went to a few 15-minute sessions of people presenting programs like naval academy, rotc, border patrol, FBI, marshal service, etc." He continued, stating that "at 'Boy State University,' (which prepares them for their positions in government) we have law and legislative school, and then you have to pass the bar if you want to be a lawyer."

He also cleared up some recent rumors circulating at Girl State concerning whether or not a city had assassinated their mayor, by simply stating he had not

heard of such events.

Concerning the food, Bartlett states "breakfast and lunch are alright but they definitely need to serve more, and dinner is typically pretty solid," to which many Girl State citizens would agree is the case on the other side of campus.

So it seems while the food catering is similar, the current events and processes of government positions differ between Girl State and Boy State, proving the two to be closer to cousin programs rather than sisters.

**Remember to stay hydrated this week!**