

## What's happening

### Now through Monday

■ **Sophomores and juniors: Interested in doing research at UC Davis this summer?** The UC Davis Young Scholars Program offers summer research opportunities in biology and the natural sciences for high achieving high school students. Applications are due April 1. Go to the Davis High School Career Center for more information and an application.

### Monday through April 5

■ **Children can spend part of spring break in the gym during the city of Davis Spring Fling Gym & Dance Camp**, taking place April 1-5, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Civic Center Gym, 23 Russell Blvd. The cost is \$71 per child and children should bring lunch to camp every day. For more information or to register, call the Community Services Department at 530-757-5626.

■ **Children ages 6 to 12 can take a Spring Break Safari** featuring games, arts and crafts, cooking, indoor and outdoor activities and field trips from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 1-5. The cost is \$150 per child. For more information or to register, call the Community Services Department at 530-757-5626.

### April 6-7

■ **Youth ages 11 to 15 can receive baby-sitter training** from the American Red Cross during a weekend-long session at the Community Pool Building at Community Park. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday and the session costs \$150. Register with the city of Davis Community Services Department by calling 530-757-5626 or visit <http://community-services.cityofdaivs.org>

### Friday, April 12

■ **Students in grades 7-9 are invited to a junior high dance** from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased in advance at the Community Services Department, 600 A St., Suite C. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

### Saturday, April 13

■ **Children can start dreaming big by focusing on science careers in STEM fields** thanks to a city of Davis and Mad Science program featuring firefighters, chemists, engineers and more demonstrating eye-opening experiments beginning at 2 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Theater, 203 E 14th St. Tickets are \$7 general and \$5 for children if purchased in advance; \$8 at the door. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

### April 25-28

The Emerson Junior High School PTA is **bringing the carnival back to town**. At Cannery Park at J Street and Covell Boulevard, the carnival will feature popular rides as well as games and food. Advance purchase all-day passes are \$20, good for unlimited rides. Purchase tickets now at Fleet Feet, 615 Second St.; Davis Food Co-op, 620 G St.; and Common Grounds, 2171-D Cowell Blvd.

# Have learning differences? Applying to college requires the right stuff

A significant development in the world of college admissions is the increasing number of students with learning differences or disabilities who are attending college. For families and students, managing the transition to college is often a bewildering and arduous task. But it doesn't have to be. This column will give you the basic knowledge to plan your "mission" and successfully launch into college.

## Status check

While in high school, a student with a documented learning disability is covered under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act and receives services via an Individualized Education Plan or Individualized Family Services Plan. However, when the student goes off to college, these accommodations and services do not necessarily follow.

In college, students are covered under Titles II and III of the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Under these laws, it is up to the student whether, when and how to disclose a learning disability and to seek accommodation. In order to seek accommodation, a student will need to provide medical documentation showing he or she has a disability and needs accommodation. Parents have no right to access this information of their adult-aged student unless the student waives privacy rights.

## Ready for boarding

To ease them along the path, it is vital for a student with a learning disability to be involved in setting long-term goals for an IEP/IFSP transition plan, which often includes finding a college that is a good fit. The student should learn how to articulate his or her learning disability and be aware of how the services needed will facilitate success in school.

With this in mind, there are three stages of the college admissions process where it is important to consider learning disabilities: testing, college selection and college application.

## Instrumentation check

Here are the specifics about each area:

■ **Testing:** Almost all colleges require standardized test scores, such as SATs and ACTs. Students with learning disabilities have the right to test accommodations that may vary from wheelchair accessibility and Braille to extended testing time or taking the test in a quiet room. The student must apply in advance for the accommodation; just because he or she has an IEP, it does not automatically mean the services will be granted.

Check each test provider's website — <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/>



JENNIFER BORENSTEIN  
COLLEGE CORNER

for-students-with-disabilities and <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/disab> — to learn more about the process. Keep in mind that colleges do not see what accommodations a student received during testing.

■ **College selection:** The college search process is essentially the same except for the way students with learning disabilities prioritize their selection criteria. The type of student support services offered are a vital aspect of whether a college is a good fit. The key question to analyze is just how much support a student will require.

The "go to" resource for learning disabilities information on colleges is the "K&W Guide to College Programs & Services for Students with Learning Disabilities or ADD/HD" by Marybeth Kravets and Imy F. Wax. In general, there are three types of college programs for students with learning disabilities:

— **Structured:** This is the most comprehensive type of program and may require additional costs. There is trained staff who track, monitor and counsel students. Many services are offered such as note-taking and reduced course loads. The University of Denver and the University of Arizona's Strategic



CANSTOCK GRAPHIC

Alternative Learning Technique Center are examples. There also are colleges that are designed exclusively for students with learning disabilities such as Landmark College, a two-year college in Vermont, and Beacon College in Florida.

— **Coordinated:** This type of program is not as comprehensive and does not cost extra. There may be one or more staff who are specially trained, but there are not as many services offered. Stanford, Brown and the UCs are examples.

— **Basic:** This program meets the legal requirements, but there is usually no trained staff to help. Whether course-level services are received often depends on department chairs. Basic programs are best suited to highly motivated, independent self-advocates. Emory, University of Oregon and Loyola Marymount are examples.

■ **College application:** The primary difference in the application process is self-disclosure since students will not receive services unless they choose to divulge information. A student should consider whether he or she feels comfortable revealing the learning disability situation in the application — perhaps in the essay — or if it's preferable to wait until hearing the admissions decision.

Be aware that disclosure is voluntary and confidential. A student cannot be denied admission solely on the basis of a learning disability. Instead, colleges consider whether the student has met the admissions criteria and will be able to be successful in school.

## Countdown is a go

Throughout this process, it is essential that students and families work with their high school counselors and their support teams to ensure that deadlines are met and correct documentation ends up where it needs to go.

## To infinity and beyond

Although students with learning disabilities/differences and their families may feel disheartened about certain aspects of the college admissions process, please remember that there is a college out there for everyone. As stated in his book "Colleges That Change Lives," Loren Pope says, "Today's learning disabled will be tomorrow's learning gifted."

So, get ready to blast off and discover just what the universe holds!

— *Jennifer Borenstein is an independent college adviser in Davis and owner of The Right College For You. Her column is published on the last Tuesday of the month. She lives in Davis with her husband and two daughters. Reach her at [jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org](mailto:jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org), or visit [www.therightcollegeforyou.org](http://www.therightcollegeforyou.org).*

# Holmes student heads for state geographic bee, Harper student to Miss Teen pageant

Kids in the news

ENTERPRISE STAFF

Holmes Junior High School student **Sam Goidell** will compete in the 2013 California National Geographic Bee in Sacramento on Friday, April 5.

In order to reach the competition, Sam won his school's geographic bee and then took a qualifying test that was submitted to the National Geographic Society.

Sam, an eighth-grader, also competed in the state competition last year and finished tied for sixth place. The bee features students in grades 4-8, with the state winner heading to the Washington, D.C., for the national finals.

— **Emma-Shane Cowan**, a student at Harper Junior High School in Davis, was selected recently to participate in the 2013 Miss



COWAN  
Will compete in  
Miss Teen  
pageant

feature girls and teens ages 7-19 competing in modeling routines, which include casual wear and formal wear. Emma also will show off her personality and interviewing skills while interviewing with a judging panel.

The winner of the pageant will represent the Sacramento region at a national competition

Teen Sacramento/Stockton pageant competition, which will take place Sunday, April 7, in Sacramento.

Emma, a Woodland resident, will compete in the Miss Jr. Teen division, one of four divisions that will

in Orlando, Fla. Emma is sponsored by The Gifted Penguin in Woodland, and additional sponsors are being sought. For more information, call 877-403-6678.

— **The Davis High School academic decathlon team** finished another successful year, once again capping the season with a trip to the California Academic Decathlon in Sacramento. The team, representing Yolo County, competed in the state-level competition March 15-16, with student **Rami Rashmawi** being named Davis High's highest-scoring student and 12th highest-scoring in the state overall.

— "Let the Battle Begin!" was the cry heard in the multipurpose room at Patwin Elementary School on March 14 as 26 groups of third- and fourth-

graders prepared to face off during an intense Battle of the Books. For the previous few weeks, the students had been reading the seven books chosen by school librarian Wendy Chason. After the nearly hour-long "battle," three groups were declared winners.

Winning the ultimate prize — a pizza party in the library — were **Austin Thornburgh, Jack Stilling, Nick Kennedy, Garret Milner, Lucas Seban, Joey Kunkel, Itai Kalman, Hwanhee Cho, Olivia Price, Dahlia Kraus, Sophie Russell** and **Josie Beoshanz**.

Battle judges included parents, retired school librarians and former Patwin students. The Battle of the Books for fifth- and sixth-grade students is scheduled to take place in early May.



# Happy birthday, Girl Scouts!

Violinists **Amanda Berry, Megan Looney, Jillian Geist** and **Julia Thomson** perform during an ice cream social at Atria Covell Gardens earlier this month. The 101st birthday of Girl Scouts was celebrated in style at the North Davis retirement community with two things that go together perfectly: ice cream and Girl Scout cookies. Seniors at Covell Gardens had invited area Girl Scouts to join them in honor of the day Juliette Gordon Low officially registered the first Girl Scouts on March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Ga. Their timing was perfect, as local Scouts were selling Girl Scout cookies at the time and brought along boxes to share. A number of Scouts also brought along musical instruments and the afternoon was filled with music and singing by Girl Scouts of all ages, as well as those happy to celebrate with them.