

What's happening

Friday

■ **Davis Parent University** continues its lecture series with an appearance by best-selling author John O'Sullivan, who will talk about youth sports and raising high-achieving athletes in a positive atmosphere. The lecture is from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Brunelle Performance Hall, 315 W. 14th St. Davis Parent University lectures are free and open to the public.

■ Today is the deadline for students in grades K-6 to submit an entry for the **Water Awareness Student Art Contest**. The theme is "Conserve Water — Every Drop Counts" and original artwork must be on white paper no larger than 11 inches by 17 inches. See all contest rules and how to enter at <http://www.yolowra.org> or call Donna Gentile at 530-666-2733.

Saturday

■ Join parents, child care providers and teachers at the annual **Yolo County Child Development conference** from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. The conference offers a wide variety of workshop topics including infant/toddler and child development, challenging behaviors, parenting and special needs. Registration is \$50 and includes lunch from Dos Coyotes. For more information, call 530-747-8236.

Friday, April 4

■ Kids between the ages of one and 12 are invited to **Friday Night Live** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the city of Davis Gymnastics and Dance Center. For a \$5 fee, children can work on gymnastics skills, jump on the trampoline and more. Gymnastics and dance staff will be available for coaching questions, supervision and fun. Children under four must be supervised on the gym floor by a parent or guardian. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

Saturday, April 5

■ The annual **Father-Daughter Dance** benefitting the **Leukemia/Lymphoma Society** takes place from 6 to 10 p.m. at the El Macero Country Club. The event features dinner, dessert and dancing. Tickets are \$35 each and may be purchased at The Avid Reader Active, 605 Second St., or at the country club. For more information, contact Laura at 530-753-7299. All proceeds this year will be donated in Brooke Beaubier's honor.

April 5-6

■ Become the best babysitter on the block with **American Red Cross babysitter training**. Learn the information and skills necessary to provide safe and responsible care for children, including child and infant CPR, rescue breathing, choking rescue, preventing disease transmission and first aid, as well as basic child-care skills like diapering and feeding, handling bedtime and discipline and more. Participants must be between the ages of 11 and 15. Training takes place Saturday and Sunday at the Community Pool Building from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and costs \$150 per person. For more information, contact the city of Davis at 530-757-5626.

Ongoing

■ Get your **Grad Night tickets!** If you haven't gotten a ticket yet for your graduating senior student, purchase it online through the Davis Grad Night website at <http://groups.dcn.org/davisgradnight/tickets>. Alternatively, download a form from the website and mail in a check. Ticket prices are \$90 through May 31; after that, tickets must be purchased at the door for \$110. Scholarship tickets are available through school counselors.



Team captain Jasmine Zhou, mentor Mike Coresetto and driver Takumi Kawaguchi control the team's robot at UC Davis. Brycen Wershing and Jasmine Zhou, below, attach the bumper to their robot.

WAYNE TILCOCK/ENTERPRISE PHOTOS



Citrus Circuits rules at robotics competition

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Citrus Circuits is on a roll. The team of Davis junior high and high school students dominated the competition at the Sacramento Regional FIRST Robotics competition over the weekend, winning the final match 226-87 before a hometown crowd at the UC Davis ARC Pavilion. This is the third time in four years that Citrus Circuits took home the title of Sacramento Regional champions.

The win — which came against more than 50 other teams — comes on the heels of a victory last month at the Inland Empire Regional that guaranteed the team a fourth straight trip to the world championships in St. Louis in April, where the team finished in the final four last year.

Heading into the weekend competition at UCD, Citrus Circuits was ranked second in



WAYNE TILCOCK/ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Team Citrus Circuits fine tunes their ball-throwing robot.

California and 13th in the world — in a field of thousands of teams.

FIRST Robotics was started by Segway inventor Dean Kamen as a way to encourage student interest in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

The competition involves teams of students from around the world building robots using

identical kits of components, as well as their own add-ons. Teams receive their kits — as well as learn what game their robots will be playing — in January and have six weeks to design and build a robot.

In previous years, teams have built robots that threw Frisbees, shot basketballs and played soccer. This year, robots are throwing large exercise balls through hoops as well as earning points by throwing balls over a truss and catching balls thrown by alliance members. The robots are operated remotely by students.

Citrus Circuits has been participating in the competition since 2005, under the guidance and coaching of Da Vinci teacher

Steve Harvey, and this year is captained by Davis High student Jasmine Zhou.

And though participation on the team has been an extracurricular activity up until now, the school board is expected to give final approval next month for an elective robotics course that will be taught by Harvey. The course will be open to all students in grades 9-12 and participation on the Citrus Circuits team will be a mandatory component of the class.

This year's team will have one last regional competition before heading to St. Louis next month. The team will compete in the Silicon Valley Regional, to be held at San Jose State University, April 3-5. Learn more and watch the competition streaming live at <http://www.citruscircuits.org>.

— Reach Anne Ternus-Bellamy at aternus@davisenterprise.net or 530-747-8051. Follow her on Twitter at @ATernusBellamy

California community college CliffsNotes

For many students, heading to college after high school has become a rite of passage. The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reports that about 20 million students enrolled in American colleges and universities this past fall. Yet the path to a four-year school is not the right fit for every student. Financial concerns, family requirements and just plain preferences often lead students to consider other options — one of which is community college.

The scoop on California's community colleges

In California, there are 72 community college districts with 112 colleges serving an average of 2 million students per year. With the highest rate of public attendance of all community college systems in the nation, community colleges enroll 30 percent of Californians ages 18 to 24.

In order to attend, a student must have a high school diploma or an equivalent and fill out an application online at <http://home.cccapply.org> starting in February of the senior year. Quick and straightforward, this application is basically a few pages of data entry on student demographics. No essays, standardized test scores, letters of recommendation or interviews are required. See box for more facts on the California community colleges.

Why community college?

Many students I come across are interested in community colleges — some as a first choice, others as a backup in case they do not get in to their first choice four-year college or university. Here are the main reasons:

■ **Cheaper route.** The typical cost per unit for California residents at community colleges is \$46, so for a full-time student (12 units is considered full time), the cost is \$552 per semester or \$1,104 per year (<http://www.icanaffordcollege.com/?navId=18>). Keep in mind there are additional charges for books, transportation, housing, food, health services, parking, etc.

Compared to an average yearly tuition of \$5,472 at a California State University, which is the next cheapest option, there is a sizable financial savings by going this route.

Big caveat, though ... it is often a challenge for students to complete the required coursework to successfully transfer in two years. Frequently, I encounter students who have had difficulty getting the classes they need, figuring out what is required to transfer and just staying motivated to achieve their goals. Of course, this depends



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California community colleges at a glance

- About 60 percent of community college students are people of diverse ethnic backgrounds
- About 55 percent are female
- 42 percent of the students are above age 25
- 29 percent of University of California and 51 percent of California State University graduates started at a California community college
- 80 percent of all California firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical technicians are trained at community colleges

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.CALIFORNIACOMMUNITYCOLLEGES.CCCCO.EDU/POLICYINACTION/KEYFACTS.ASPX](http://WWW.CALIFORNIACOMMUNITYCOLLEGES.CCCCO.EDU/POLICYINACTION/KEYFACTS.ASPX)

on the student, so spend some time doing self-reflection about whether you can overcome these challenges.

■ **Academic record.** Many students select the community college route because their academic performance to date is not sufficient for admission to the four-year school they want. Going to a community college first gives them time to hone skills and achieve a higher GPA in order to be more competitive when transferring.

Many Davis students consider enrolling at Santa Barbara City College or Cuesta College to improve their odds of transferring to UC Santa Barbara or Cal Poly. While this path can make sense, it is not as easy it sounds, so be prepared to hit the ground running.

■ **Specific programs or degree goals.** Some students are drawn to a community college to earn a specific certificate that can catapult them more directly into a job. There are hundreds of options that vary from learning to be a veterinary technician at Santa Rosa Junior College to earning a certificate in animation at Berkeley City College.

Other students want to speed up the time it takes to enter the workforce and plan to finish their schooling with an associate's

degree (a two-year degree usually of 90 quarter units or 60 semester units).

What to know if you are heading to community college

Thankfully, the California state budget is on the mend so the fiscal future for community colleges looks better than in the past. But the lingering effects of previous budget crunches have taken their toll. Community colleges are more impacted than ever. Many have altered which students have priority for registration and, unfortunately, new students do not benefit from this policy. So, if you are heading this direction, here are some tips:

■ **Be proactive.** Consider applying to or enrolling at two or more community colleges. Since many community colleges have either reduced or canceled classes, students may need to be able to travel a little further to get the classes they need.

■ **Take placement tests seriously.** If you need to take placement tests in math and English classes, study and do your best. Otherwise, you may need to take additional classes at a community college that could slow you up by a year.

■ **Connect with a counselor right away.** If you want to transfer, meet with a counselor and let him or her know as soon as possible. Familiarize yourself with the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum — which can be found at <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/transfer/requirements/additional-requirements/igetc/> — to smooth the way to a University of California or CSU campus. Private colleges have their own requirements but IGETC covers most, except for USC.

■ **Learn your major requirements.** Most four-year college majors have prerequisites. Learn the UC and CSU major requirements at www.assist.org. Private colleges have their own requirements.

■ **Get involved.** Being active in clubs on campus may qualify you for priority enrollment and it is also valued by four-year colleges.

Regardless of the path you choose, just remember that it is always worthwhile to investigate options, learn the system and be an advocate for yourself. Oh, and be sure to have some fun along the way!

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