

What's happening

Saturday

■ Families are invited to enjoy **Bikes, Books and Fun** at the Stephens Branch Library, 315 E. 14th St. beginning at 11:15 a.m. Activities include stories, a visit by the Yolo County Library's Book Bike and a game of red light/green light in the park.

Thursday

■ Learn about about **gap-year possibilities** at a presentation from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Brunelle Performance Hall at Davis High School, 315 W. 14th St. Ethan Knight, founder of American Gap Association, will discuss "The Gap Year: Taking the Time to Maximize Your Future" and a panel of gap-year alumni will share their experiences. The event is free and open to the public and seats may be reserved in advance at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2601909. For more information, call 530-304-0506.

Friday, Oct. 7

■ Parents are invited to take the night off — and spend it out on the town — during **"Parents Night Out"** at the Civic Center Gym. Children ages 6-13 will be supervised by city staff from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., enjoying gymnastics fun and games. The cost is \$12 in advance or \$17 at the door. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

Saturday, Oct. 15

■ Join local author Kate Morejohn for **Children's Books in the Woods** at 1 p.m. at the Wyatt Deck in the UC Davis Arboretum as she reads from a variety of books exploring nature. The readings will be appropriate for kids 5 to 10 years old and their families. Participants also will have an opportunity to draw and color afterward. The event is free, and parking is free on the weekends in Visitor Lot 5, at Old Davis Road and Arboretum Drive. For information call 530-752-4880 or visit <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/calendar.aspx>.

Sunday, Oct. 16

■ Elementary school students are invited to enjoy entertainment, a bounce house, a free raffle, food and prizes while learning how to be "upstanders" at the **Upstander Carnival**. An upstander is a not a bystander but a witness to bullying who does something to make it right. The event, sponsored by the Davis Phoenix Coalition, takes place from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. For more information, email davisphoenixco@gmail.com.

Friday, Oct. 21

■ The city of Davis gymnastics program will hold an **Open Gym** from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Civic Center Gym, 23 Russell Blvd. Open Gym is open to children ages 1-17 years who want to try out gymnastics for the first time. Children 1-4 years will need to have a parent or guardian supervise them on the gym floor. The fee is \$6 at the door.

Friday, Oct. 28

■ Families are invited to **Bike Party Davis**, a fun-for-all-ages bike ride around Davis. Decorate your bikes with lights and meet at Ken's Bike-Ski-Board, 650 G St., for a ride leaving at 8 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 18

■ Parents are invited to take the night off — and spend it out on the town — during **"Parents Night Out"** at the Civic Center Gym. Children ages 6-13 will be supervised by city staff from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., enjoying gymnastics fun and games. The cost is \$12 in advance or \$17 at the door. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

Saturday, Dec. 3

■ Past cast members and staff are invited to the **"Davis Children's Nutcracker's" 40th anniversary** celebration from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. The family-friendly event will feature performance memorabilia and sets, picture slide shows, performance solos and more. Light refreshments will be served and donations are appreciated. RSVP to Ajay Raj by Nov. 30 at nutcracker@cityofdavis.org, including name, the year (or years) you participated and what parts you played. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

Thursday, Jan. 12

■ Today is the deadline to nominate a deserving teen for a **Golden Heart Award**. Awards are given in two categories — for contributing meaningful service to the community or for overcoming significant challenges in life. Nomination forms are available online at <http://www.cityofdavis.org> (search Golden Heart Awards) and can be emailed to codyer@cityofdavis.org. Awards will be presented in the Community Chambers at City Hall in February.

How do you handle a disciplinary history on college applications?

As the school year starts and high school seniors head into application-mode, I wanted to kick off with some words of caution. Prevention is always more than half the cure.

What does prevention have to do with applications, you might wonder? Well, in this case it means preventing a disciplinary record. In other words, try to avoid getting in trouble at school. I'm sure you all do this anyway, right?

I bring this up because most students don't realize that a high school disciplinary action has consequences with respect to the college admissions process. Many applications ask for students to self-report their disciplinary history.

If you do have a disciplinary history from ninth to 12th grade, do not despair. It's not the end of the world and doesn't mean your chances of going off to college are ruined. But it's helpful to understand how this will be reported and assessed so that you can still put your best foot forward.

Of note, there has been a rise in high school disciplinary actions in general. According to a report in Inside Higher Ed — <http://bit.ly/1erKicu> — about half the high schools nationwide disclose these disciplinary actions to colleges and universities, and about three-fourths of colleges and universities collect this data, with 90 percent of those using it in the decision-making process.

Big disclaimer from my lawyers: I am not an attorney and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act comes into play here; but the bottom line is that this information is being disclosed.

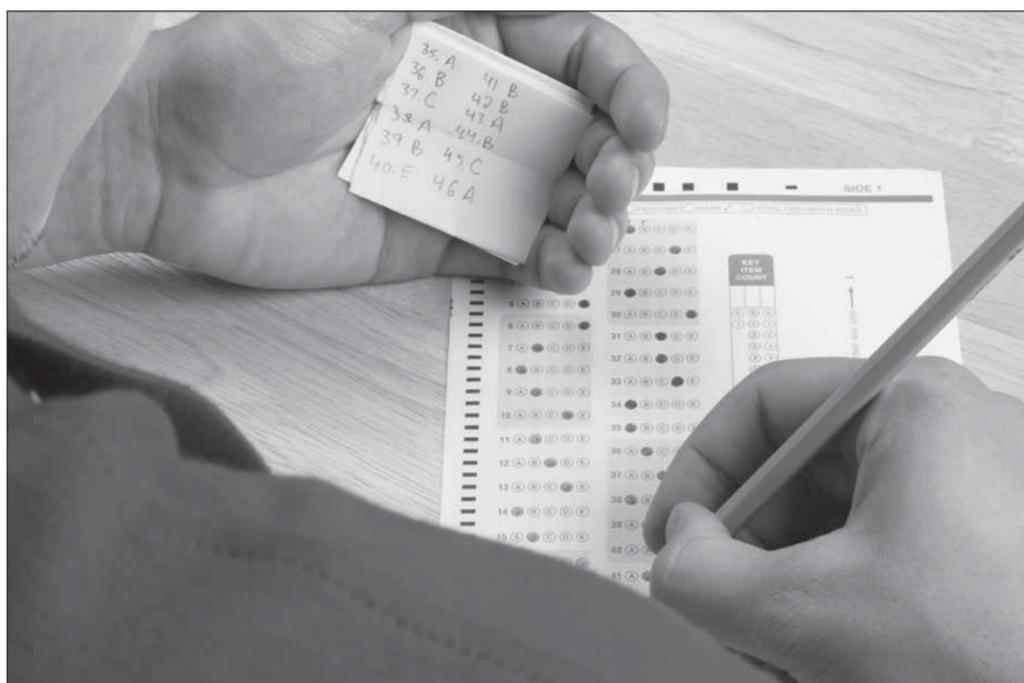
'No surprises'

Just what do students have to report? It depends on the application.

The UCs and the CSUs do not ask students to report this information, and students usually do not send transcripts to these schools unless they are admitted and decide to attend. Thus the only way the UCs and CSUs would know about disciplinary history is when a student sends a final transcript.

In this case, it is in the student's best interest to contact the college before it receives the final transcript and discuss with an admissions counselor how to proceed. The mantra is "no surprises." Colleges appreciate students being proactive and are more willing to be amenable if notified in advance about potential complications.

This gets more complicated on the Common Application, which is home to nearly 700 mostly private, but also several public, colleges and universities. There are two main questions about disciplinary history: One asks if you have ever been found responsible



Getting busted for cheating in high school can have long-term consequences.



for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution you have attended from the ninth grade forward, including but not limited to probation, suspension, removal, dismissal or expulsion from the institution.

The other asks if you have ever been found guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony. Note: If the criminal conviction has been legally required by law or ordered by a court to be kept confidential, a student does not need to answer "yes" to this question nor provide an explanation.

Some Common Application schools ask for more specifics. University of Colorado Boulder, for example, has the following additional question: Do you have a pending criminal charge? (Misdemeanor traffic offenses are exempt.)

From several students who have been unlucky or didn't realize this would show up on the application, I've been asked whether they need to report these types of actions if they won't be on their transcripts. The answer is yes, even if you think there is no way the college will find out.

The last thing a student wants to do is not be forthcoming in a college application. First, because if you were caught in a lie, that is most certainly going to ruin your chances of admission.

Second, counselors fill out what is called a Secondary School Report, which is submitted to all

Common Application schools. Many of the SSRs ask for this type of information about disciplinary history, which means that even if you do not disclose it on your part of the application, it will show up somewhere else in your file.

For public, out-of-state college and universities, there may be a place to report disciplinary history. On the University of Nevada, Reno application, for instance, there is no reporting requirement; but on the applications for the University of Oregon, Western Washington University and Montana State University, there are questions similar to those on the Common Application.

Now, how will reporting this history affect students' admission chances? From my experience, if students had a strong application to begin with and it was a minor infraction, it does not undermine their acceptance. Of course, the more selective the school, the more of a challenge having a disciplinary history could be. And, the more serious the infraction — usually academic dishonesty and violence being more serious than drinking alcohol, in these cases — the more of a problem it will be.

With all of this in mind, how it's reported also can affect admission chances. For students who must answer yes to any of the disciplinary history questions, it is best to explain the situation with these following tips in minds:

■ Own it and admit the error: Even though you will be explaining what happened, be mindful not to sound like you are making excuses.

■ Be succinct: Be as direct and to-the-point as possible. Do not spend a great deal of time on the details.

■ Show what you have learned: This is the most important part of the explanation so spend the most time on this aspect. What did you learn from this experience? How have you changed since then? Be specific, give examples and show what you do differently now.

Real-world examples

The University of Oregon admission counselors I have worked with say they do a quick review of the disciplinary situation in the context of the holistic review of the application. If it is minor infraction, it is not likely affect the chance of admission.

At the University of Colorado Boulder (which is on the Common Application), admissions counselors have told me it means a lengthier review process with a more uncertain outcome. A noteworthy development is that many colleges are re-thinking these policies. For example, the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, one of largest public universities in the country, recently voted to no longer ask applicants whether they have been convicted of a felony.

For now, just be aware of how your actions may affect you down the line. If you have something to report, be prepared to show what you have learned and you should still be able to attend the right college for you.

— Jennifer Borenstein is an independent college adviser in Davis and owner of *The Right College For You*. Her column is published monthly. Reach her at jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org, or visit www.therightcollegeforyou.org.

Brother-sister team wins wildlife video challenge

By ANNE TERNUS-BELLAMY
Enterprise staff writer

Two Davis children have been named winners of the Wildlife Video Safari Challenge for Kids.

KIDS IN THE NEWS Over the summer, brother and

sister **Arav and Aranya Karighattam** of Davis accepted the Wildlife Care Association's challenge to use technology not to capture pretend creatures (think Pokémon Go) but to capture real life in nature without actually disturbing anything.

Rather, the Karighattams captured birds, reptiles and small animals on video, and their compilations landed them the top prizes in the safari challenge.

Aranya, 9, created "The Beauty of Birds" video, which featured a variety of birds from Davis, the Yolo Bypass and elsewhere. Arav, 12, created "Everywhere Around You, Things Amaze," which featured everything from butterflies to bullfrogs, barn owls to bats.

Their videos can be viewed on the Wildlife Care Association's Facebook page.



Arav Karighattam, 12, left, and his sister Aranya, 9, show off some of their wildlife photography in their Davis home. The siblings are just as talented as videographers, having won the Wildlife Video Safari Challenge for Kids.