

What's happening

Saturday & Sunday

■ Learn the information and skills necessary to be the best baby-sitter on the block during a weekend **baby-sitter training** offered by the city of Davis. Participants will learn child and infant CPR, rescue breathing, choking rescue and more. Participants must be between the ages of 11 and 15 and the cost is \$150. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday at the Davis Senior Center, 646 A St.

Wednesday

■ **Holmes Junior High** parent information meeting on student planning for incoming eighth-graders, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Holmes MPR, 1220 Drexel Drive.

Monday, March 7

■ **Emerson Junior High** parent information meeting on student planning for incoming eighth- and ninth-graders, 6:30-8 p.m. in the Emerson library, 2121 Calaveras Ave.

Wednesday, March 9

■ **Holmes Junior High** parent information meeting on student planning for incoming seventh-graders, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Holmes MPR, 1220 Drexel Drive.

Thursday, March 10

■ **Harper Junior High** parent information meeting on student planning for incoming eighth-graders, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Harper library, and for incoming ninth-graders at the same time in the Harper MPR, 4000 E. Covell Blvd.

Saturday, March 12

■ Come to the 10th annual **Davis Children's Summer Activity Faire** and learn more about the summer camps and programs available for your child. This year's faire takes place from 9 a.m. to noon at Central Park and includes fun activities, games, arts and crafts and more. For more information, call the city's Parks and Community Services Department, 530-757-5626.

March 21-25

■ The city of Davis offers all kinds of camps for kids during spring break, including:

— The **Spring Break Safari Camp** for kids ages 6-12, which takes place every day during spring break from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Redwood Community Building, 1001 Anderson Road. The cost is \$165.

— **Mad Science Eureka! The Inventors Camp** for kids ages 6-12, which runs from 9 a.m. to noon at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. The cost is \$179.

— The **Invention-Action!** camp for kids ages 6-12, which takes place from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. The cost is \$179.

— The **LEGO Pre-Engineering camp** for kids ages 5-6, which runs from 9 a.m. to noon at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. The cost is \$178.

— **Engineering Fundamentals** for kids ages 7-11, which takes place every day from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. The cost is \$178.

— The **Mini Horse Camp**, which runs from 9 a.m. to noon at the Sterling Riding Academy on County Road 102 every day during spring break. The cost is \$184.

— And, finally, for the older set, the **So-Cal Safari**, an annual trip to visit colleges in Southern California, is available for students in grades 9-12. The trip, which takes place March 21-24, includes stops at UC Santa Cruz, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Santa Barbara, UCLA and USC. The cost is \$500.

For more information about all city of Davis spring break camps and programs, call 530-757-5626.

Eagle Scout project focuses on keeping shelter animals safe

By ANNE TERNUS-BELLAMY
Enterprise staff writer

Cats have a way of getting where they want to go. At the Yolo County Animal Shelter, despite the best efforts of many, cats were escaping from two cat rooms at the Glide Annex building. The rooms were more like large cubicles, with the walls not attached to the ceiling above, making escape easier.

At one point, some fraternity members came and draped netting across the tops of the rooms to try to keep the cats contained, but they still were managing to get out.

Enter Matt Grabert. The lifelong Boy Scout was thinking about undertaking an Eagle Scout project when a parent from Troop 66 suggested the animal shelter.

Grabert, a senior at Davis High School, headed out to the shelter in Woodland and took a look at the set-up.

"My first thought was it was going to be really hard to fix," Grabert said.

Then the idea of panels occurred to him — multiple wood-framed screened panels placed across the top of the two rooms. The screens (similar to screen doors) would allow light in and air to circulate but would not allow cats to escape.

He took some measurements, went home and built a sample panel and took it back for the shelter staff to look at.

"They liked it," he said, and gave him the go-ahead to complete the project.

Grabert spent the next couple of months working on the project, building a total of seven panels, each framed by long, painted boards with screen mesh stapled in.

It took a couple of days to get them installed at the shelter, with Grabert helped by family members and fellow Scouts.

"They were really happy with the final product, very thankful," Grabert said of the shelter staff.

And he was thankful to have pulled it off.

All this work



Davis High senior and lifelong Boy Scout Matt Grabert finds a precarious perch to install escape-proof screens for the Yolo County Animal Shelter's cat facility, with an assist from his dad, Bill.

Below, Grabert built the screens himself as part of his Eagle Scout project.

COURTESY PHOTOS

happened to take place during the fall, which was a very busy time for Grabert. For one thing, he was serving as place kicker for the Davis High football team, for another, he was also filling out college applications. But Scouting has always been a big part of Grabert's life.

He started out as a Tiger Cub many years ago and has now reached the pinnacle of scouting, Eagle Scout.

Along the way he's benefited enormously, he said.

"Scouting has helped me become a leader," Grabert said, "and those leadership roles in Scouts have carried over into leadership elsewhere."

He's served as a cabin leader at Walker Creek (attended by Davis sixth-graders during their outdoor education week) and as a camp counselor for city of Davis

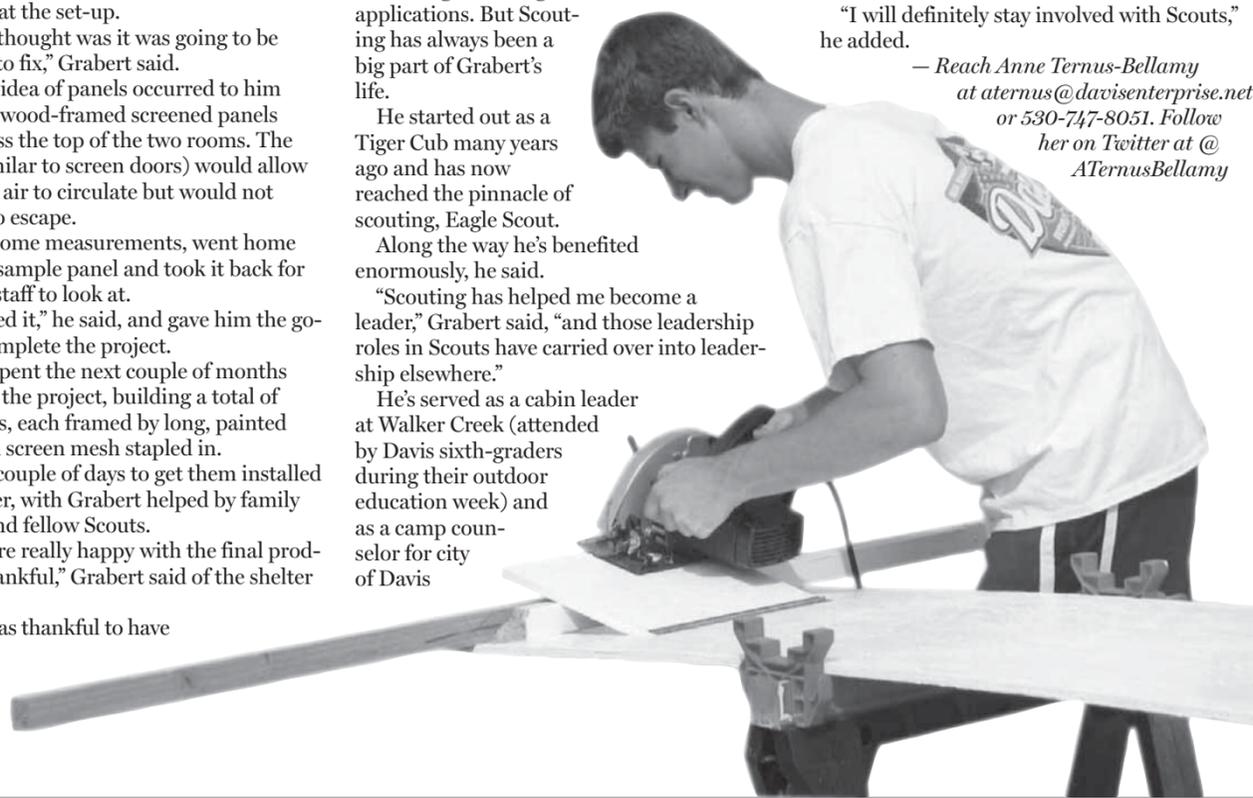
summer camps.

Scouting also has contributed to Grabert's love of outdoor adventure.

"It's provided me with a love for the outdoors," he said.

"I will definitely stay involved with Scouts," he added.

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Opportunities to follow that dream

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is making students aware of opportunities they may not have realized. Nowhere is this more apparent than when I work with undocumented students, many of whom think college is out of the question.

I have worked with students who, when arriving at the data entry section of the college application that asks for their Social Security numbers, have to go back and question their parents only to find that their number does not exist. Often this is the first introduction to their undocumented status, leading to feelings of confusion and vulnerability. It is always a welcome relief for me to be able to reduce their anxiety by showing them that college is still an option.

Undocumented students are students who live in the United States but are not U.S. citizens or legal residents since they were born in another country. Although they are guaranteed public education through 12th grade, their path to college is less clear. It is estimated that there are 65,000 undocumented students who have lived in the U.S. for five or more years graduating from U.S. high schools each year.

So how does the college admission process play out for these students? Essentially, there are three areas where undocumented status presents unique challenges: admission, tuition and access to financial aid.

With respect to admission, while they face many of the same hurdles and requirements as other students, many undocumented students wrongly assume that they are not legally allowed to attend college in the U.S. and therefore do not attempt to do so. This is not the case! No federal or state law prohibits undocumented students from attending U.S. colleges and there is no law requiring them to prove citizenship as part of the college admission process.

That being said, state laws vary. In some states, undocumented students are accepted into college as international students, which has implications for financial aid



(more on this later). But the main message here is that being an undocumented student does not mean you cannot go to college.

The second complicating factor relates to tuition. As you may know, there is a significant difference between in-state, or resident tuition, and out-of-state, or non-resident tuition, at public colleges and universities. At the UCs for example, the average resident tuition is \$13,400 compared to the average nonresident tuition of \$38,108.

If undocumented students are classified as nonresident, they would have to pay nonresident tuition. However, California — along with several other states such as New York, Connecticut and Nebraska — passed a law to address this situation. In California it is called AB 540 and it states that undocumented students who meet certain criteria are considered to be residents for tuition purposes at public colleges and universities. Here are the three criteria:

■ You must have attended a high school (public or private) in California for three or more years;

■ You must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent (GED); and

■ You must file an affidavit stating that you have filed (or will file) an application to legalize as soon as you are eligible to do so.

Usually this is great news for students. But even if students do not meet the AB 540 criteria, they still can go to college. They just do not qualify for resident tuition so they should look for scholarships to make college more affordable.

When I toured colleges in Oregon, this issue really hit home for me. I met Oregon students who were not as lucky as California

students since Oregon does not have an AB 540 equivalent. They were being charged nonresident tuition for public Oregon universities even though they had lived in Oregon almost their entire lives.

Access to financial aid is the final component of the college admission process that is affected by undocumented status. Federal and state funds are available as aid either as student loans or grants. Are undocumented students able to access these funds? In California they are.

A package of state laws commonly referred to as the California DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act sets forth that children who were brought into the United States under the age of 16 and do not have proper visas or immigration documentation but have attended school on a regular basis and otherwise fulfill AB 540 criteria are eligible to apply for student financial aid benefits.

What this means is that there is an alternate route for undocumented students to access financial aid in California through the California DREAM Act application. See fact box for more information.

Another important component of the college admission process for undocumented students that affects financial aid is DACA, or Deferred Act for Childhood Arrivals. DACA is an immigration policy that provides certain benefits to undocumented immigrants who came to this country before their 16th birthdays and before June 2007.

In addition to being able to attain renewable two-year work permits while in college and after, DACA recipients can get a Social Security number. Having this number enables them to receive institutional aid via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and access scholarships that are available only to DACA recipients.

To summarize, then ... although the process for applying to and affording college can be more

Resources for undocumented students

Overview: www.e4fc.org/images/E4FC_FinAidGuide.pdf

Dream Act application: <https://dream.csac.ca.gov>

FAFSA info: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf>

DACA: www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2015/04/07/110558/daca-helps-undocumented-students-access-higher-education

Scholarships: <http://maldef.org/leadership/scholarships>; www.latinocollegedollars.org; www.10000degrees.org/students/scholarships/undocumented-students

complex for undocumented students, there is no reason these students cannot make their college dreams a reality.

One more thing to mention: If they do have concerns about their undocumented status being revealed, remember that a law called the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act protects the confidentiality of student records. Also, many colleges have fabulous resource centers on campus for further assistance on these issues. For instance, at UC Davis, check out the AB540 and Undocumented Student Center at <http://undocumented.ucdavis.edu>.

Please spread the word that college is not as unattainable as one might think. Opportunities abound!

— 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