

What's happening

Today

■ Human-performance expert John Underwood will speak to parents and athletes at 6:30 p.m. in the Davis High School north gym. Underwood's "Life of an Athlete" program underscores four topics as they pertain to athletics and performance: chemical abuse, recovery, sleep and character. The event is co-sponsored by Davis High School Athletics and the Davis Junior Blue Devils. All high school and youth athletes are encouraged to attend with a parent or guardian. The event is free of charge.

Friday

■ Youths ages 1-17 are invited to **Friday Night Live!**, an hour of tumbling and gymnastics at the Civic Center Gym, 23 Russell Blvd, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Whether they want to work on gymnastics skills or just jump on the trampoline, children will be supervised and coached by gymnastics and dance staff, though children ages 1-4 must have a parent or guardian supervising them on the gym floor. The cost is \$5 at the door.

Saturday

■ The red-carpet finale of **Davis Idol 2015** gets underway at 7 p.m. in the Brunelle Performance Hall, 315 W. 14th St. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door and may be purchased from any Davis High Advanced Treble Choir member or at Watermelon Music, 207 E. St. Davis Idol features local high school students competing for the title of Davis' best singer.

Tuesday

■ Join school district staff for the third annual **parent engagement night** from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Harper Junior High School multipurpose room, 4000 E. Covell Blvd. Parents and guardians, teachers, principals and other district administrators will discuss issues on the minds of community members, tools to help students learn at home and ways to be involved at school sites. The event is open to K-12 district parents, teachers and staff members. Child care and interpreters will be available.

Feb. 7-8

■ The **Davis High School Jazz Choir's annual cabaret dinners** take place on Saturday and Sunday with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Both evenings feature dinner, a performance and auction at Emerson Junior High School, 2121 Calaveras Ave. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for students and can be purchased online at <http://www.charityauctionorganizer.com/auction/cabaret2015>.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

■ Join the **Davis High School Jazz Choir** for a performance beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Brunelle Performance Hall at DHS, 315 W. 14th St.

Friday, Feb. 13

■ Give the kids a break and take the night off at the city of Davis **Parents Night Out** from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Civic Center Gym, 23 Russell Blvd. Children ages 6 to 13 will be placed in age-appropriate groups for gymnastics fun and games. The cost is \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Contact the city at 530-757-5626.

Thursday, Feb. 26

■ Parents and community members are invited to a **Local Control Accountability Plan forum** from 6 to 8 p.m. at King High School, 635 B St. Participants will receive an update on the implementation of LCAP and will have an opportunity to provide feedback to school district staff.

It's cookie time!



FRED GLADDIS/ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Tessa Schouten, 8, who is in her fourth year of Girl Scouts already, shows Ginger Simon the yummy cookies that can be ordered this season from the Scouts. Waiting patiently at the door is Sonoma, Simon's 3-year-old terrier mix. Tessa is a member of Brownie Troop 1999, led by Jacqui Alldritt and Sandy Myler.

By **Anne Ternus-Bellamy**

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Chances are you've seen them walking the neighborhood or, if you're lucky, they've come knocking on your door: Girl Scouts. Selling cookies.

It's that time of year again — a time for Year Mints and Carmel Delites, Shortbread and Lemonades. Nine varieties in all

are for sale this year — including one-gluten free and four vegan choices.

All are \$5 a box with nearly all of the money raised staying with the local Girl Scout Council and troops themselves.

Girl Scout cookie season runs from Jan. 9 to March 22, with pre-orders being taken now and deliveries, as well as booth sales, getting underway in February.

From Feb. 27 until mid-March, troops will be selling cookies in front of grocery stores and other businesses around town.

The Davis Girl Scout unit includes hundreds of local girls from kindergarten through the end of high school. To learn more about joining Scouts, or to find out where to order cookies, visit <https://www.girlscoutshcc.org>.

District learns from NDE bomb threat

By **Kellen Browning**

ENTERPRISE CORRESPONDENT

When a caller threatened North Davis Elementary School with a bomb on Thursday, Jan. 15, school and district response was immediate.

"We had students evacuated within 20 minutes of the call coming in," said Laura Juanitas, director of student support services, told the school board a week after the event.

"The safety officer and the school resource officer for the district were on the scene. ... I was there within a few minutes," Juanitas added.

At the school board meeting, Juanitas, Superintendent Winfred Roberson, Associate Superintendent Matt Best and Public Information Officer Maria Clayton had the chance to debrief trustees on the incident.

Juanitas emphasized the speed at which the elementary students were evacuated, "and not only evacuated to the blacktop, which is their first evacuation site, but actually walking to Rainbow City Park and the Arts Center, which was their secondary site."

When it was determined that the evacuation and subsequent search of the school for a possible bomb would run well through lunch, Student Nutritional Services responded quickly.

"I made one call to them, and they, within minutes, were mobilizing enough food to feed the entire school and staff, and they took care of that," Juanitas noted.

Earlier district preparation paid off, as the new SchoolMessenger emergency response system tested and updated by Clayton earlier this year was used during the incident.

Clayton summarized the emergency response drill performed by schools earlier this year.

"The purpose of these drills was really threefold; the first being that we really wanted to educate parents in the school

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Have wanderlust? Go overseas for college

Many of you probably have read about the growing number of international students attaining degrees from U.S. colleges. What you may not be aware of is that there is a similar, albeit smaller, trend flowing in the opposite direction.

Increasingly when I work with students to develop their college lists, we have some international schools in the mix. And the countries that are most popular are — no surprise — English-speaking countries. So why are more Americans choosing this route, and what are the pros and cons?

Who applies and why?

Just how many people are we talking about here? The most recent data I found — from the Institute of International Education, iie.org — shows that about 46,500 U.S. students pursued a full degree outside the U.S. in 2011-12, which was an increase of 5 percent over the previous year. Compared to the 289,408 who do study-abroad programs every year it is a small but growing amount.

I've identified the five main reasons American students are heading overseas.

1. Broaden horizons. Many students are drawn to new cultural experiences and want to expose themselves to different perspectives. (Perhaps it is even more enticing to students from small towns?) What better way than to live abroad with a built-in community of peers? Additionally, students realize that to be competitive in today's job market, having an international degree may give them an edge.

2. Prestige. For students driven to achieve a degree from an uber-competitive university, applying to certain international universities is the gold standard. Take a look at



the Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings at www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2014/reputation-ranking: Graduating from a program at Cambridge (ranked fourth) or Oxford (ranked fifth) programs connotes success and is certainly unique. Big disclaimer: Always take rankings with a huge grain of salt. There are many factors to evaluate when deciding on which college is right for you.

3. Programs of interest. Don't feel like you have a good chance to get in to the program you want in the U.S.? Why not go overseas where they may have top-notch programs in your area of interest that may be less challenging for admission for U.S. students?

4. Ready for more challenge. In some respects, going to college abroad may feel like graduate school. Certain colleges — Oxford, Cambridge, King's College — are three-year programs rather than four-year programs. Students can hit the ground running and delve right into their fields of interest, plus be on their way to the next step sooner.

5. Bargain shopping. Believe it or not, the tuition at many overseas universities can be less than stateside private school tuition. According to US News, in the United Kingdom and Canada, average per-year tuition is \$21,365 and \$16,746, respectively. Not too shabby compared to the average

per-year tuition at American private colleges of \$29,056, with many private colleges costing upwards of \$40,000 per year. It is also helpful that the US dollar is strong these days.

Why not apply?

Of course there are trade-offs to consider.

First, assess the emotional and social fit. Is the student really ready to live so far away from home and family? Obviously, this is not an option for students who wish to come home frequently. Also, overseas universities tend to be less user-friendly than American universities. There is not the same level of advising, tutoring and social support.

Second, think about academic concerns such as whether the student is able to handle the condensed time frame and the different format of classes. It is not uncommon for grades to be based solely on one final exam. Also, this would not be a good plan for students who are unsure of what they want to study since there is less room for exploration in the schedule.

Next, look into what are the prospects after college. Will this degree have name recognition back in the U.S.? How will a student's transcript be evaluated for those who plan to attend American graduate school?

Finally, do the numbers. Plane tickets are not cheap. Plus, if financial aid is needed to make college affordable make sure aid is transferable. Check out this website to see if the international school participates in the federal student loan program. <https://studentaid.ed.gov/prepare-for-college/choosing-schools/types/international>

How to apply

Regrettably, nothing is

Overseas universities popular with Davis students

King's College, London
Trinity College, Dublin
University of British Columbia
University of Melbourne
University of Oxford
University of Waterloo, Canada

consistent when applying to foreign universities. Each will have its own application process with its own requirements and deadlines which are often earlier than in the U.S.

In general, though, these applications are similar to the Common Application for American private colleges with the biggest difference being that essays need to be much more focused on specific academic goals and letters of recommendation need to make specific mention of test scores and predicted aptitude. The good news is that almost all overseas universities accept the SAT or ACT, and documents can be uploaded electronically.

Until next time

Before I bid adieu, remember that there are as many different choices when it comes to life after high school as there are different people, so figure out what is the right fit for you and enjoy!

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