

What's happening

Today

■ Families of elementary students are all welcome to attend a **Math Night at Montgomery Elementary School** from 6 to 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room at 1441 Danbury St. Students and families will participate in activities focused on understanding math and making it meaningful in their everyday lives. The event is free of charge. For information, contact Dzaragoza@djud.net.

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. The cost is \$5 at the door.

Wednesday

■ Families of elementary students are all welcome to attend a **Math Night at Birch Lane Elementary School** from 6 to 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room at 1600 Birch Lane. Students and families will participate in activities focused on understanding math and making it meaningful in their everyday lives. The event is free of charge. For more information, contact Dzaragoza@djud.net.

■ Families are invited to attend Yolo County's annual **Public Health & Wellness Fair** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot on the southeast corner of Beamer and Cottonwood Streets in Woodland. The event will include bike helmet fittings and decoration (bring your helmet), car seat inspections, health check screenings, sidewalk CPR activities, healthy food samples, an Emergency Preparedness cook-off and Tdap vaccines.

Thursday, April 9

■ Transferring from a **community college to a four-year university** will be the topic of a parent education night at Davis High School. Don Palm, dean of Sacramento City College's Davis Center, and Darlene Hunter, UC Davis undergraduate admissions officer, will be the featured speakers. The event begins at 7 p.m. in the Brunelle Performance Hall at DHS, 315 W. 14th St.

Friday, April 17

■ Students in grades 7-9 are invited to **teen dance** at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St., from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Activities will include dancing to a DJ; a game room featuring foosball, Wii and board games; a snack bar and more. Tickets are \$10 and participants must have a 2014-15 city liability waiver on file or bring one to the dance. For more information, visit <http://community-services.cityofdavis.org/teens>.

■ 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.

Friday, May 8

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. The cost is \$5 at the door.

Showcase, auction help DHS speech and debate team keep

A good thing going

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

The Davis High speech and debate team is in the midst of its most successful season ever, preparing to send 13 members to the state tournament in Southern California next month. Last year the team sent eight members; the year before, three.

But to get there this year, students need the community's help.

That's why team members will host a showcase and silent auction on Friday, April 10, to raise enough money to send all the team members who want to go.

The showcase will feature a handful of speeches and one debate, as well as a silent auction that this year includes everything from a cabin near Lake Shasta to a pie-of-the-month subscription, wine packages, art and more.

Tickets to the event are \$5 and include free refreshments.

The evening will feature speeches by students Max Hagelthorn, Claire Michael, Kate Gieschen, Josh Gieschen and Sachin Kumar as well as a parliamentary debate on education reform.

The team, which has received a grant from NASA to conduct research and polls on drone usage in California, also will update attendees on that project.

"It should be really great night," said sophomore team member Claire Michael. "I'm really excited for people to finally see what we do in speech and debate. It's a great opportunity to show the public what we're doing, and hopefully they will enjoy it."

DHS teacher Janine



COURTESY PHOTO

The Davis High School speech and debate team's state and national qualifiers are, back row from left, Claire Michael, Matt Corey, Andres de Loera Brust, Logan James and Varun Kota; middle row, from left, coach Janine Widman, Peter Zhu, Camila Ortiz, Kap Pandey, Benton Harshaw and Max Hagelthorn; and front row, from left, Kairi Sageshima, Trevor Rinzler, Kate Gieschen, Sachin Kumar and David Yu. Not pictured are Morgan Metler and assistant coach Claire Rapp.

Widman, who has coached the team for four years, said, "I am so proud of all that my team has accomplished."

"But mostly," she said, "I am proud of their team spirit. They have come together to support each other in some pretty incredible ways, and have mentored each other in the various forms of speech and debate."

"As I've seen so much growth this year individually, it has also been amazing to see their accomplishments recognized on a state and national level."

The showcase and silent auction will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Brunelle Performance Hall at DHS, 315 W.

14th St., and attendees are welcome to come early to browse the auction items.

Proceeds will help send the following students to the state tournament next month: Kate Gieschen (thematic interpretation), Andres de Loera Brust (impromptu and parliamentary debate), Logan James (parliamentary debate), Sachin Kumar (impromptu), Claire Michael (original oratory),

Matt Corey (Lincoln Douglas debate), Varun Kota (congressional debate), Trevor Rinzler (original prose and poetry), Morgan Metler (parliamentary debate), Kairi Sageshima (parliamentary debate), Benton Harshaw (humorous interpretation), Camila Ortiz (dramatic interpretation) and Max Hagelthorn (humorous interpretation).

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

College open houses are worth attending

As Atticus Finch of "To Kill a Mockingbird" so lovingly explains to his daughter, Scout, "You never really understand someone until you consider things from his point of view ... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

Sage advice for many instances in life; and even more so when trying to discern which college is right for you. If you have the time and money, going to a college's open house is very valuable.

Most colleges — but not all — welcome newly admitted students with some kind of informational open house that's intended to help students make their acceptance decisions.

On the agenda is usually a welcome speech by the college president or dean, a campus and dorm tour, a Q&A session with current students and workshops on financial aid. Several colleges offer overnight options and chances to sit in on classes.

Typically, these events happen before a student has to commit to a school; most are in April, although some were in March, and parents are invited to attend as well. Unfortunately, many are on the same day, so it is helpful to figure out ahead of time which ones to attend. The Davis High School counseling office should have the most current list of open house schedules, and you can find them listed on each school's website.

What to consider

Open houses are different than campus tours and preview days in the fall. It is a chance to really "try on" the college. So what should a student look for and do at an open house?

■ **Social/emotional fit.** Connect with the other prospective students in attendance. Are these students with whom you would enjoy going to class, sharing a dorm room and just hanging out? Also, ask questions of current students to



learn as much as possible about the social life and emotional well-being of the student body.

■ **Academic options.** Attending open house is an opportunity to learn more details about academic requirements and expectations. You may have a chance to meet with faculty and sometimes an adviser or a counselor, which will help you better understand how the college could further your academic interests.

■ **Learning support.** If you need accommodations for learning challenges, open house is the ideal time to meet with people from the student disability center to learn about which services are appropriate and how and when to set those up. Discussing longer-term considerations such as counseling needs and medication management also may be helpful in deciding whether the school is a good fit.

■ **Parent education.** Open houses not only provide parents a chance to get to know the college, but also to learn important information ranging from financial-aid intricacies to how to ease the transition for students to more independence. Many parents I work with find these sessions to be extremely useful and reassuring.

■ **Take care of business.** Many colleges have admission counselors available for questions during an open house. If you decide the college is the one for you, there are often options to submit an acceptance form and register on the spot.

Tips

Here are some little tips to make the day go smoothly.

Take pictures and exchange contact information with other prospective students who may be helpful to know in the future. Since the majority of time during an open house is often spent outdoors walking around, bring sunscreen and wear comfortable shoes and layers. If the tour includes seeing the dorms, bring a measuring tape to measure storage possibilities in the rooms.

As you "try on" your new potential schools, enjoy the excitement that comes with charting your course to the next stage.

— 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

Upcoming open houses

These schools are popular with Davis students:

- **Saturday:** UC San Diego
- **April 10 or 17:** Willamette University
- **April 11:** Chico State, Sonoma State, University of Arizona, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, University of San Diego
- **April 16-18:** Cal Poly
- **April 18:** UC Berkeley

Davis with her family. Reach her at jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org, or visit www.therightcollegeforyou.org.

Planting seeds



COURTESY PHOTO

The Davis Future Farmers of America and the Davis High Agriculture Department will hold their annual plant sale on Friday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. The sale will take place in the Davis High greenhouse on Oak Avenue. Plants include everything from zinnias to tomatoes and range in price from \$2 to \$15. All plants to be sold were grown and cared for by DHS students and all profits from the sale will be returned to the students to fund their future plans and goals. For more information, contact agriculture teacher Ellie Michel at emichel@djud.net.