

## What's happening

### Today

■ High school juniors and their parents to attend Davis High School's annual **College Night for Juniors** event in the Brunelle Performance Hall at DHS, 315 W. 14th St. The program begins at 7 p.m. and concludes at 8:25 p.m. The counseling staff and community presenters will address topics including California State University, University of California and Community College systems; scholarships and financial aid; private colleges and universities; college entrance testing; and special-needs admission issues. The event is open to all district 11th-graders and their parents. For more information, contact Julie Clayton at 530-757-5400, ext. 140, or [jclayton@djud.net](mailto:jclayton@djud.net).

### Sunday

■ Families are invited to participate in the sixth annual **Loopalooza**, a celebration of the city's 12-mile bike route. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., they can check in at any of nine stations along the route to obtain passports and enjoy fun activities that include a safety skills check, water games and more. Small prizes will be given to children who have at least three passport stamps, and the highly valued certificate of participation will be given to every child who completes the full 12-mile circle. Learn more at <http://www.davisbicycles.org>.

### Wednesday

■ Davis schools will celebrate **Bike to School Day**, a nationwide event organized by the National Center for Safe Routes to School, in partnership with the League of American Bicyclists, with the goal of getting communities across the country to ditch their cars and bike to school on the same day. In Davis, a root beer float party sponsored by Whole Foods awaits the school with the highest student participation. All schools using the Active4.me scan-and-notify system will be entered in the contest, with total number of kids scanning in on May 6 determining which school wins the party. Learn more at <http://www.active4.me>.

Schools that don't participate in Active4.me — like junior high schools — won't be left out of the fun. A separate contest, now in its fourth year, will involve counting bikes in the bike racks at all schools. The elementary school and junior high school with the highest percentage of riders, including both students and staff, will receive the golden wheel trophy.

### 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 them on the gym floor. The cost is \$5 at the door.

### Thursday, May 14

■ **Celebrate Davis!** — a festival sponsored by the Davis Chamber of Commerce that showcases why it's so great to live, work, play and shop in this community — runs from 4:30 to 9:15 p.m. in Community Park. Local businesses and organizations will host displays and booths; food and drinks will be available for purchase; and live musical entertainment will precede the evening fireworks. Participants are encouraged to bike to the park and take advantage of valet bike parking.

# Davis Cheer is LOUD and proud

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy  
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

The Davis Cheer Team found success early and often, placing in the top three at its first competition last year, followed by a second-place nod, and since then, nothing but first-place finishes.

Not bad for a program that only recently took root in Davis.

But a step back certainly would have been understandable during its most recent competition in Hayward — after all, their coach had to abruptly leave the team due to a family emergency.

Their parents and new coach Katelin Kennedy weren't sure what to expect when the two teams of girls — ages 4-8 and 9-15 — took to the floor in Hayward to perform the routines their previous coach had taught them, though Kennedy likely had a good idea.

"Before they even started, they were saying, 'We're already winners,'" Kennedy said.

"It was so cute. They had amazing attitudes."

And it paid off,

with both teams winning first place in the regional competition.

Davis Cheer is a program of Champion Youth, a nationwide nonprofit in multiple cities offering multiple sports.

Denicia Morris, 10, a North Davis Elementary student, has been participating in Davis Cheer for more than a year and now serves as a captain.

"It's a lot of fun," she said.

"The girls are all really sweet." What she likes most of all are those competitions, she said, before proudly showing off her recently won medals.

Davis Cheer is all about competitions, with each seven- to 10-week session followed by a competition against other cheer teams in Northern California featuring dance moves, cheers and stunts, including impressive lifts for such tiny girls.



Sophia Huitron, center, and her teammates on the Davis Cheer Team rehearse a routine during a recent practice at Willett Elementary School.

WAYNE TILCOCK/  
ENTERPRISE PHOTO

The cheerleaders practice weekly in the multipurpose room at Willett Elementary School and the program is open to any interested youths — including those outside of Davis. On a recent Wednesday, Kennedy was leading about a dozen of the younger girls through a 45-minute class before the older girls — more than 20 of them — had their turn.

It was the first class of the current session and many cheer parents were on hand as well to sign up new participants. They are always available to help out and, of course, to cheer for their cheerleaders during competitions.

Though the current spring session already has started, those interested are still welcome to sign up any time and can do so by simply showing up at the regular Wednesday classes. Students ages 4-8 meet from 6:15 to 6:55 p.m. and those ages 9-15 meet from 7 to 7:40 p.m. at Willett Elementary School, 1207 Sycamore Lane.

The cost is \$7 per lesson if paid in advance, \$8 if paid a week at a time, and scholarships are available for both class fees and uniforms.

For more information, visit [www.championyouth.org](http://www.championyouth.org) or call 800-956-6956.

## How are AP credits counted in college?

Baseball season is upon us, so I feel inspired to use some baseball analogies. Here goes: Right about now, high school juniors and seniors are rounding third and heading toward home plate. Several issues are weighing on their minds — college, finals, the nuclear deal with Iran, summer plans.

Although juniors and seniors are navigating different stages of the college admission process, surprisingly, many are asking me the same question. "How will my AP scores be counted for college credit or placement?" To understand this issue better, we first must understand the rules of the game.

"Placement" means a student may skip into a higher-level college course but does not earn units toward graduation for that skipped course. "Credit" means a student does earn units toward a college degree. Basically, college credits for AP exam scores allow a student to progress to graduation sooner or take a lighter load along the way.

OK, back to the question on deck. Even though there are similarities in the assessment of AP scores for college credit and placement, each college — and sometimes each department within a college — sets its own policy, so there is variation across colleges. Indeed, colleges may offer both credit and placement, or either one.

In general, there is a level playing field and most colleges



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do give college credit for an AP exam minimum score of 3 or higher. Some colleges, however, give credit only for scores of 4 or 5. Recall that AP exams are graded on a scale of 1 to 5.

So how do colleges "keep score" of the credits/placement earned in this context? Well, the UCs grant AP credit for scores of 3 or higher; but the number of credits granted depends on the exam subject. For example, for a score of 3 or higher on the AP chemistry and AP statistics exams, a student would earn eight units and four units, respectively, on the quarter system. The California State Universities follow a similar protocol but may award different amounts of credit.

Where the game plan is more convoluted is with some of the highly selective, private schools. Many will provide different amounts of credits for different scores — not just different subjects. Yale, for example provides only one college credit for an AP chemistry score of 5 but will provide college credits for either a score of 4 (one credit) or a

score of 5 (two credits) on the AP calculus BC exam. Then there are some colleges that do not provide credit toward graduation at all, such as Brown and the Cal Tech.

Bottom line is that the answer to your AP scores question is:

"It depends."

Thus, it is worthwhile to cover one's bases and do your research to understand the AP credit and placement policy of the college you will, or you want to, attend. A good place to go is the College Board's AP Credit Policy website, <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>.

What you will find for each college is a list of AP exams and the scores required to earn credits for those exams, how many credits are awarded for that score, and the equivalent course that would be skipped.

Oh, and remember that in order to receive credit or placement, you need to be a closer by ordering the College Board to send your official AP scores to the college of your choice. The 2015 AP exams will be available online in early July.

Usually, colleges will notify you after receiving your scores about what you have qualified for in terms of credit, placement or course exemptions. Contact your college of choice if you have any more questions.

## Da Vinci students hailed for watershed proposal

Their plan targets invasive plant species

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy  
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Three Da Vinci Charter Academy students placed in the top 10 of the Caring for Our Watersheds proposal writing contest.

Allison Farrar, Gracie Berry and Peter Carlip took ninth place for their proposal, "Removal of Invasive Plant Species." The students received a \$350 prize.

The contest — a joint program of Agrium and the Center for Land-Based Learning — challenges students to research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern and come up with a realistic solution.

"The purpose of the contest is simple," said Agrium program adviser Lindsey Methel. "Our goal is to encourage students to learn about their local watershed and be inspired to make improvements to the land, air and water."

"With community and school support, we have seen the creativity and determination students have for protecting and preserving the environment. It's inspiring when they turn their ideas into reality."

Nearly 400 proposals were submitted this year and the top 10 were presented to a panel of judges.

Any student who enters the contest is eligible for funding to complete the proposed project.

"Seeing students implement their projects is truly impressive. Caring for Our Watersheds not only encourages youth-led ideas, but helps make them happen," said Beth Del Real of the Center for Land-Based Learning.

### Fun facts about 2014 AP exams

- There are 38 different AP exams
- Overall average score of 2.89
- 4.176 million exams were taken
- 2.34 million students took AP exams
- 6 percent increase over previous year in number of exams
- English Language & Composition AP exam is taken the most

SOURCE: <http://MEDIA.COLLEGEBOARD.COM/DIGITALSERVICES/PDF/RESEARCH/2014/PROG-SUMMARY-REPORT-2014.PDF>

### Until next time

Regardless of the credit policy of the college, though, taking AP exams helps make a student a heavy hitter when it comes to the admissions process, so my suggestion is to take AP courses in your areas of strength and sit for the AP exam when possible.

Once you receive your scores, it is whole new ball game and you can start to piece together the credits or placement you may receive.

— 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; reach her at [jennifer.borenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org](mailto:jennifer.borenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org), or visit [www.therightcollegeforyou.org](http://www.therightcollegeforyou.org).