

What's happening

Wednesday

■ The city's annual **Teen Job Skills Workshop** takes place from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Theater, 203 E. 14th St. Learn how to apply, interview and get a job with the city of Davis Community Services Department or another employer. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

■ Learn how to deal with head lice and prevent future breakouts at a parent information program sponsored by Davis Parent University and the Patwin Elementary School PTA. Rebecca Fowler, an experienced health care worker from Napa Lice Patrol, will discuss prevention and treatment techniques. The event takes place from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Patwin Elementary multipurpose room, 2222 Shasta Drive. The event is free and open to the public. Contact Shelley Dowling, Patwin parent education representative at sdowling@davisca.com for more information.

■ Parents are invited to take a tour of the **Davis Waldorf School**, 3100 Sycamore Lane, at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday. The tour, which will last about 90 minutes, will feature an overview of Waldorf programs, methodology and curriculum. Visitors will take a peek at several classrooms and observe sample lessons from preschool through eighth grade. Specific questions will be answered and refreshments will be served. RSVP with your name and the date of tour you would like to attend and the name, current grade and date of birth for all children you are considering enrolling to 530-753-1651 or office@daviswaldorf.org.

Ongoing

■ The Davis School Arts Foundation reminds K-6 educators that the **Elementary Art Show at the Davis Art Center** is coming up. Art by Davis elementary school students will be displayed for the entire month of March and will be featured in the Second Friday Art About on March 14. On Sunday, March 16, the Young at Art Festival takes place at the Davis Art Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The deadline for art submissions is Friday, Feb. 28. For more information, email dsaf@dcdavis.ca.us

■ **Applications for Sutter Davis Hospital Auxiliary scholarships** for the 2014-15 academic year are now available. Residents of Yolo County and Dixon who intend to pursue a human health-related career may apply. High school seniors, college students, Sutter Davis Hospital campus employees and change of career/re-entry applicants are eligible for consideration. Application materials are available at the high school scholarship offices and at the hospital information desk, 2000 Sutter Place. The deadline for submitting the application — including a personal essay, official transcript of academic work and letters of reference — is March 31. For more information, leave a message for the scholarship committee at 530-759-7485.

■ **Tickets for the 2014 Davis Grad Night Celebration** are still available for purchase online through the Davis Grad Night website at <http://groups.dcn.org/davisgradnight/tickets>. Scholarship tickets are also available through school counselors. Tickets are \$90, which covers the cost of all activities, food and drinks for the entire evening.

Carrie Juchau inspects the broccoli field at Harper Junior High School. The lack of rainfall has necessitated irrigation of the field this winter.

COURTESY PHOTO



Volunteers needed for Harper's broccoli harvest

SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

The Harper Harvest Project, an innovative school garden-to-cafeteria program, will bring together Davis community volunteers to harvest 2,400 broccoli plants in February. For the first time in the Davis school district's history, fresh produce will be sold to the district's lunch program from Harper Junior High School's on-campus school farm.

This project is a collaborative effort between Davis Farm to School, Harper and the Davis school district's Student Nutrition Services.

The Harper Harvest Project benefits all children attending a Davis public school and unifies diverse interests and objectives in Yolo County. The entire community is invited to join in and support the school lunch program by helping harvest the broccoli each Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. on Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28. Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather.

To volunteer, sign up at <http://bit.ly/1czuChC> or contact Carrie Juchau at cjuchau@djsud.net for more information.

The Harper Harvest Project represents a milestone for school nutrition programs throughout the state and demonstrates the multiple benefits of such cooperative relationships. This



collaboration helps create a sustainable program that will bring fresh produce into the school lunch program, reduce costs for the district, and, for the first time, school gardens will be reimbursed for the quantity of produce they provide.

"More than half of the produce in Davis school lunches comes from Northern California growers," said Dominic Machi, director of student nutrition services for the school district. "The partnership with school gardens will bring even more locally grown food to the cafeteria."

For the project's next phase, Machi has ordered carrots and 600 tomato plants from Harper for marinara sauce that will be made at the Davis central kitchen.

The success of the Harper Harvest crop, and the garden's expansion as a whole, is attributed to the care and attention given by students, staff and volunteers under the direction of Juchau, Harper's garden and recycling coordinator. UC Davis greenhouse manager Garry Pearson was instrumental in starting the project and students from UCD assisted with germinating the seedlings.

"Volunteers from UC Davis, Woodland Community College, Harper Junior High, Davis High School and Montgomery Elementary helped plant 2,400 broccoli and 400 lettuce seedlings," Juchau said. "The lettuce was harvested throughout the winter, and the first crop of broccoli will be ready on Feb. 7."

Yolo Farm to Fork's goal in creating and expanding this project is to allow more schools to use their land to grow produce for school lunches and support their garden programs at the same time. Schools can effectively use this model to become self-sustaining enterprises while districts can benefit by serving premium fresh, local produce at lower costs.

Harper teacher Doreen Lee shows her foods class students how to prepare stir-fry with the first broccoli harvest of the winter.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pence seeks teens interested in public art

SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

The Pence Gallery announces **Teens Take Charge**, a free, teen-driven program designed to explore, create and celebrate community through public art.

Over the course of four months, participants will learn about the diversity within public art and how it contributes to a community, while developing strong skills in leadership, public speaking and collaborative event planning. At the end of the program, participants will create a free-standing public art piece and organize a one-day community celebration of the arts.

The Pence Gallery is looking for 15 to 20 teens to participate in this program. Participation is free and all Davis teens with an interest in the arts are eligible. Applications are due by Sunday, Feb. 9, at midnight. Participants will be announced by Friday, Feb. 14.

Teens Take Charge participants will:

- Plan and execute a one-day arts festival, celebrating local art;
- Meet with public artists and visit their studios;
- Create a free-standing public art piece;
- Visit public art sites and community art centers in various communities;
- Meet with staff from local museums, arts centers and arts commissions;
- Explore how public art contributes to community, transforms space and communicates messages;
- Create a unique digital record through video, blogging and images;
- Socialize, collaborate and get to know other teens interested in the arts;

■ Learn how social, environmental and political issues can influence artists;

■ Gain leadership skills, develop résumés and strengthen college applications.

Who can participate in Teens Take Charge?

■ Davis teens ages 15 to 17 with an interest in public art;

■ Teens with experience or interest in art (music, painting, sculpture, fashion, website development, photography, graphic design, video, drawing, etc.);

■ Those interested in developing event-planning, program management and leadership skills.

To apply, send answers to the following questions to Shoshana Zeldner at Shoshana.ariel@gmail.com. Each answer should be 300 words or less:

1. Tell us about yourself (grade, interests, hobbies, etc.). Why do you want to participate in Teens Take Charge?
2. What interests you most about art and community?
3. What will you uniquely contribute to this program? (This can be certain skills, your attitude, background, etc. Be creative.)

Selected participants will meet Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; April 5, 12 and 26; May 3, 10 and 31; and June 7. They also will attend the summer event on June 28.

Questions? Contact Zeldner at Shoshana.ariel@gmail.com or Natalie Nelson at penceartdirector@sbcglobal.net or 530-758-3370. The program is funded by the city of Davis Community Services Department.

Applied early but didn't get accepted? Here's what you do

The new year is underway; a chance for fresh horizons and new endeavors. For high school seniors who applied early to colleges, now might be a time to rejoice ... or to regroup.



With about 450 colleges and universities offering some sort of early admission plan, a sizable and growing number of students are taking advantage of this opportunity.

Some of these early birds have started off the year with good news. That college they've always dreamed of attending (and therefore applied early to) has extended an offer of admission. Many have even been offered merit aid. These fortunate ones are done and know where they will be going to college. To this subset of students I offer my wholehearted congratulations. It's reassuring when the process works.

But other students haven't had such good news. They've either been deferred or denied. This can be crushing news coming at a really bad time, right during the holiday season and possibly during finals. What a downer for starting the new year.

So, is it worth it to apply early? Whether to apply early is a very personal decision that depends on many individual characteristics. In a prior column (Sept. 24, 2013) I addressed the differences between regular decision, early admission and early decision. (See the information box for the pros and cons of applying early.)

If you do apply early, what should you do if you don't get accepted? This is a salient topic for many seniors. Let's

start with the worst-case scenario: denied. Often, schools will cite a reason for denial such as competitiveness of the applicant pool or impacted major. Unfortunately, you don't have any control over the applicant pool, but if the major is the cause of the denial, then consider another major going forward.

In this scenario, it is time to go back to the drawing board and find other schools you like (which have deadlines that have not yet passed), and critically assess your chances of acceptance. Check out average grade ranges and test scores to get a sense of where you stand. Put your best effort into the remaining applications, make sure to go through a thorough editing process and watch deadlines.

Now, let's walk through the other scenario: deferral. This situation is not the end of the world and should be viewed optimistically, although it can be a bit tricky.

First, what does it mean? Deferral means the admissions office was not ready to make a final decision about you yet. The school has postponed its decision and would like to compare you to the applicant pool at the regular decision time. You are in a holding pen.

Should you simply wait for regular decision time and hope you get lucky then? No, be proactive! It can make a difference.

Here's what to do if you are deferred:

■ Respond promptly to any requests made in the deferral letter and submit any additional information requested.

■ Email the admissions officer who is in charge of your file or your area. This information is usually on the school's website. Explain how interested you are in his or her school and why. Be specific. What about the school intrigues you? How did you learn about it? When did you know you wanted to go there? Have you visited?

■ Ask if there's anything in your application that you could explain further that may have caused them concern. Be brief and diplomatic. Remember, this is a really busy time of year for admissions officers.

■ Next, consider submitting additional letters of recommendation as a way to provide new opportunities to distinguish yourself. Try to ask someone other than a teacher. Ask your coach or your boss at work, or possibly a rabbi or pastor. This can help round out your profile and show more dimensions of your personality.

■ Even if not requested, send any new grades, test scores or awards that portray you in a positive light such as a high score on a science test, a student-of-the-month award or an impressive grade on an English paper.

■ Maintain and work to improve your grades. When decision time rolls around, you want to show improvement.

Keep in mind that some schools are more amenable to this type of outreach than others, so you may not be able to send in additional information. Schools will let you know specific policy in this regard. By and large, though, it is always looked upon favorably to try since it shows you are proactive and enthusiastic.

Until next time: As usual, I want to end on an upbeat note by reminding everyone that there is a right college out there for all students. Although the admission process may be arduous, remember that in life it is more about the journey than the destination. Enjoy the ride.

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

To apply early or not to apply early

Pros

1. If you have a school that you're dying to go to.
2. If it is critical for planning purposes to have an answer early.
3. If you think you will be more competitive by signaling to the college that you have your heart set on attending that school.
4. If you think you may increase your likelihood of acceptance when you are compared to the early applicant pool.

Cons

1. You may not have all test scores and grades hit their peak for review.
2. You may not have the time to put your best foot forward within the compressed application process timeframe.
3. You may be so discouraged by a negative outcome that it could undermine motivation for rest of the application process.