GETTING FRESHMEN ON THE RIGHT TRACK

How local high schools prepare ninth-graders for college

By L.M. BROWN

SANTA CRUZ

For Perez, a 1995 Santa Cruz High graduate who sits inside the library of her alma mater with her two-year-old son, Alex as the pair plan his path to college.

As part of a preparation course for ninth graders and their families, the Pajaro match high school course offerings with entry requirements for four-year universities.

They want to make sure Alex knows the eight classes to take now to get into college after winning his diploma.

Flor finished high school two years ago and is now a sophomore at the University of California, Santa Cruz, majoring in health science and nursing at Santa Cruz State while raising Alex and his younger brother.

See FRESHMEN ON A3

About the project

The Sentinel looks at the high cost of a college education with three stories in this special report.

Today

As students enter high school, their search for college begins as well.

SUNDAY

A UC Santa Cruz student moves into the dorm and it's the first day to pay for college. Also, a new family caught in the interview process are girls who either finish through school.

MONDAY

The cost of college can begin: the first fee and the toll that is included in a family's best resource, the college, that we had to pay for college education.

NEW YORK CITY BALLET

"Nutcracker" to hit big, small screens

By JOSEPH WUESTER

NEW YORK — For so many Americans, it’s the first — and sometimes only — exposure to ballet. A holiday performance of “The Nutcracker,” that classic tale of a little girl’s dream-like encounters with battling mice and toy soldiers, is this year. Now, New Yorkers can enjoy the performance on television.

The New York City Ballet’s “The Nutcracker” will be broadcast on PBS on December 16. The company will perform the beloved holiday classic on stage at the Lincoln Center Theater.

The Nutcracker, a holiday favorite, has been broadcast on television for many years. This year, the performance will be televised on PBS as part of the company’s “Great Performances” series.

The Nutcracker is a traditional holiday ballet that tells the story of a young girl named Clara who receives a magic gift from her kind godfather, Drosselmeyer. The gift is a Nutcracker, a wooden toy soldier that comes to life and transports Clara and her siblings to a magical world filled with dancing toys, snowflakes, and other fantastical creatures.

The performance has been a staple of holiday programming for many years and has become a beloved holiday tradition for audiences of all ages. The Nutcracker is performed by the New York City Ballet, one of the nation’s leading ballet companies. The performance features a cast of talented dancers and a full orchestra conducted by music director Andrew Litto.

The Nutcracker is a joyful and heartwarming tale that celebrates the magic and wonder of the holiday season. With its colorful sets, enchanting music, and captivating performances, the Nutcracker has captured the imaginations of audiences around the world and remains a cherished holiday tradition for families everywhere.
STUDENTS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Safety nets set up to help with rising tuition do not catch everyone

By TOWN LUPIN

UCSC sociology major Ashley Bostick walks her dog, Kaya, along To Beach in Santa Cruz. Soni is paying for her schooling herself. Soni says that she is worried about losing aid: $12,000 in aid.

MORE INSIDE

& Rising college costs

& Shrinking middle-class

SANTA CRUZ — In 2009, Ashley Seerl graduated from her suburban San Francisco high school with a 4.0 grade point average and was about to become the first person in her family to go to college. She got into Humboldt State, UC Davis and UC Santa Cruz. She chose UC because it was a banana campus where she looked to build the city and campus, and was considering a major in the one-and-only community studies program.

The only problem was that her family, which owned a small business and was heav-
ily involved in local politics, was on the brink of bankruptcy and could not help her.

Before the 2000-2010 school year, Seerl’s freshman year, tuition rose 9.3 percent to $26,700. Despite not having any assistance from her parents, she believed in the value of a college degree. She got a job, worked several part-time jobs and took loans to cover the fees.

By the start of the sophomore year tuition had been raised twice, a total of 12 percent, and stood at $33,386. Just months earlier she learned UCSC was automatically shutting down the community studies program to new students in a cost-cutting move.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Sentinel looks at the rising cost of college education with three stories in this special report.

SATURDAY

An increase enters high school, their search for college begins as well.

A UC Santa Cruz student is in the thick of what to do with her major, and the financial aid plan she must figure out before she can even consider the middle key to getting the three kids through college.

MONDAY

The cost of college can bog down any one of the family to the point of being too expensive, and two local experts offer tips on paying for a college education.

RAISING TUITION

Undergraduate and graduate tuition fees at state schools and UC Santa Cruz have risen nearly 90 percent since the 2000-2007 school year.

UCSC: $12,550

UC: $12,620

State: $10,195

Community: $4,648

Private: $40,400

By ROD WIOLECKI

WART IN AFGHANISTAN

TROOPS’ STAY MIGHT CONTINUE PAST 2014, ENVY SAYS

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan on Saturday raised the possibility that the U.S. combat mission there might end in 2014 instead of 2015 under a new strategic framework that would have the U.S. and its allies begin pulling their forces out of the country in 2014.

The ambassador, Ryan C. Crocker, speaking at a U.S.-A. A. conference in the capital, said that U.S. military units would begin drawing down their forces in the country in 2014.

“He will have to ask for it,” he said. “I don’t know whether we will do it.”

The ambassador also stressed that the U.S. military would begin drawing down its forces in the country in 2014, a move that would have to be approved by Congress. The ambassador said that the U.S. military would begin drawing down its forces in the country in 2014, a move that would have to be approved by Congress.

He emphasized, however, that no such decision had been made.

While House officials said that Crocker’s comments were consistent with the previously stated position.

“The president made no commitment to the post-2014 period,” said a House aide.
Tuition at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>PER HOUR CREDIT</th>
<th>15 UNITS PER SEMESTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Nevada</td>
<td>Reno</td>
<td>$115.25</td>
<td>$1,738.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>$108.17</td>
<td>$1,622.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oregon</td>
<td>Eugene</td>
<td>$104.55</td>
<td>$1,568.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California</td>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>$97.76</td>
<td>$1,461.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While universities in states bordering Canada charge for tuition as well as the fees, the total cost of the 2015-2016 academic year is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>FLAT RATE</th>
<th>12 CREDITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Nevada</td>
<td>Reno</td>
<td>$3,708.00</td>
<td>$42,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>$3,045.00</td>
<td>$36,540.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California</td>
<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>$3,045.00</td>
<td>$36,540.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Research of university websites.

The effects of four years of college and university education:

- "It's a lot harder than I thought it would be. I thought the money was going to go further, but it's not." - Student A
- "I thought it would be easier, but it's not." - Student B
- "I thought it would be cheaper, but it's not." - Student C

The effects of four years of college and university education on students:

- Many students report feeling stressed and anxious.
- Some students report feeling overwhelmed by the workload.
- Many students report feeling isolated and disconnected from their peers.
- Many students report feeling inadequately prepared for their careers.

The effects of four years of college and university education on the economy:

- Many college graduates report feeling underemployed and undervalued.
- Many college graduates report feeling unable to find jobs that match their education and skills.
- Many college graduates report feeling unable to afford to pay off their student loans.

The effects of four years of college and university education on family income:

- Many families report feeling financially strained.
- Many families report feeling unable to afford to pay for their children's education.
- Many families report feeling unable to save for their own retirement.

The effects of four years of college and university education on the environment:

- Many students report feeling environmentally conscious.
- Many students report feeling environmentally responsible.
- Many students report feeling environmentally aware.

The effects of four years of college and university education on the future:

- Many students report feeling hopeful for their future.
- Many students report feeling excited for their future.
- Many students report feeling optimistic for their future.

The effects of four years of college and university education on the society:

- Many students report feeling more culturally aware.
- Many students report feeling more socially conscious.
- Many students report feeling more politically aware.

The effects of four years of college and university education on the world:

- Many students report feeling more globally aware.
- Many students report feeling more internationally connected.
- Many students report feeling more culturally sensitive.

The effects of four years of college and university education on the future of the world:

- Many students report feeling hopeful for the future of the world.
- Many students report feeling excited for the future of the world.
- Many students report feeling optimistic for the future of the world.
PARENTS COPE WITH THE STAGGERING TUITION COSTS

Advisers try to teach tools to plan for child’s higher education

BY JENNY GONZ
jgonz@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ — The numbers are mind-boggling.

The price tag for a year at San Francisco State University is rising to $22,986. At UC Santa Cruz, it’s $26,818, and private colleges cost even more than that.

Students are finding it necessary to spend up to 30% of their income on food and shelter, according to the American Association of Colleges and Universities. Today, that’s about 20.

The College Board reports 10% of students who got a bachelor’s degree from a public four-year college where they were enrolled with debt. The average debt: $22,000.

And it’s not just the students.

By JAYSON HICKS
jhicks@santacruzsentinel.com

Parents spend the financial implications of sending their kids to college during Steve Soper’s class on ‘How to Pay for College.’

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Soper project, a mini course in a college education with three stories in this special report.

SUNDAY: 4/5 Santa Cruz student knows how hard it is to pay for college. Now, he’s helping to teach others how to do it.

TUESDAY: The cost of college can boggle your mind and put a dent into a family’s bank account at the same time. Meanwhile, the local experts offer tips on paying for college.

BY THE NUMBERS

A BREAKDOWN OF HOW FAMILIES AND COLLEGE IN 2010-11

33 PERCENT GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
15 PERCENT STUDENT BORROWING
7 PERCENT PARENT BORROWING

30 PERCENT PARENT INCOME AND SAVINGS
11 PERCENT STUDENT INCOME AND SAVINGS
4 PERCENT RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

SOURCE: Sallie Mae

DUNGEOUS CRAB SEASON

Law limiting crab pots aims to help local anglers compete

By JASON KINNEY
jkinney@santacruzsentinel.com

The price surge for Bay Area crab fishermen against seafood distributors. The rise of this seafood staple is due to the lack of availability of the fishery's main species. The competition for local seafood and rising demand from California, Oregon and Washington that buy into our local market and dump some expensive crab every year.

Scott Valley High sophomores Ryan Miller and his mother Cindy Miller hear from a UCOLA college recruiter at a college fair held in the Cabrillo College gym.

GANG CRIME

Boy, 14, shot, killed

Watsonville teen found on Hwy. 152 turnout

By CYNTH KELLY
ckelly@santacruzsentinel.com

PASADENA VALLEY — A 14-year-old Watsonville boy was killed in an apparent gang-related shooting on Highway 152 near the base of Mount Madonna on Saturday night, sheriffs deputies said.

Deputies were called to a turnout on the 400 block of Heron Pass Road, which is part of the highway, about 8:30 p.m. A passerby reported seeing someone sitting on the ground there, according to the San Benito County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Don McGray.

Deputies found two shooting victims, who were transported to Watsonville Community Hospital, the sheriff said.

One of the victims died there, while the second, also a 14-year-old boy, was treated for gunshot wounds and released, Patrick said. The teens were friends who live in Watsonville, he said.

Deputies believe the victims traveled to the turnout with others, and that the others fled after the shooting, he said. He said deputies were still investigating whether the shooting occurred inside a vehicle, but said the crime was committed at the turnout, which is about three miles east of the county fairgrounds. It's extremely rare for a single shooter to shoot any time a person's life is cut short that young, and we're doing our best.

I reclaims my smile! How about you?

Get Dental Implants and Beautiful New Teeth in Just One Day!

Call for a FREE consultation with 3D CAT Scan (a $700 value)
855.650.0789

ClearChoice Dental Implant Center

Day area locations

Santa Cruz, San Jose, San Francisco & East Bay

Major credit cards accepted. Call for details.

ClearChoice Dental Implant Center

www.ClearChoice.com

MONDAY
DECEMBER 12, 2011

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY STORES
EXTRA, RI

COSTANADA MANAGER’S HANDS-ON APPROACH

SCRAMBLING
LOSS DM’S OAKLAND’S PLAYOFF CHANCES

PACKERS 44, RAIDERS 16 | SPORTS, BS

DEAL OF THE DAY
Cowbell’s Surfshop
50% Off
For Wetsuits (All Sizes)
Up to 6 p.m. Thursday
See Sign In Store for Details
Accountant Steve Shapiro, who teaches a class for parents on "How to Pay for College," says a major way to reduce the cost to help is to consider students' degree in four years. Taking AP classes in high school helps with obtaining that goal, Shapiro says.

Local athletes and their parents hear from Stanford grad and former NFL Football player Julian Jenkins on how to succeed in athletic scholarship. Other private scholarships also are available to the tennis team.

HOW FAMILIES PAY

Failing to pay college can be the same at online school, when you may be taking your free or very few that you have paid out of your pocket when you're paying for the school out of your pocket.

It's "a good idea to pay the annual tuition," said Shapiro.

One client who took the mark up in college for four years and eventually earned a master's degree in social work.

Moore invested in tuition for her daughter's degree in high school.

The forum recommends charging early with an estimate of the cost, then updating the number once the bill is due rather than as soon as possible when the bill can be as long as three to five years.

If your child wants some loans, he or she must be enrolled for four years. A financial aid officer can be used to compare the financing options with the financial aid officer of your school.

If your child wants some loans, he or she must be enrolled for four years. A financial aid officer can be used to compare the financing options with the financial aid officer of your school.

The number of high school graduates is much higher than it was last year, so there is more demand for private post-secondary institutions such as UC, Berkeley and UCLA, but the UC system is accepting fewer applicants, he said.

If "there is a long wait to the financial aid officer" and "it's much more important to be paying much higher tuition," he said.

Moore suggests students ask about the scholarships.

The scholarships totals will tell you what they were offered.

The number of high school graduates is much higher than it was last year, so there is more demand for private post-secondary institutions such as UC Berlin and UCLA, but the UC system is accepting fewer applicants, he said.

If "there is a long wait to the financial aid officer" and "it's much more important to be paying much higher tuition," he said.

Moore suggests students ask about the scholarships.

The scholarships totals will tell you what they were offered.

The number of high school graduates is much higher than it was last year, so there is more demand for private post-secondary institutions such as UC, Berkeley and UCLA, but the UC system is accepting fewer applicants, he said.

If "there is a long wait to the financial aid officer" and "it's much more important to be paying much higher tuition," he said.

Moore suggests students ask about the scholarships.

Halcon estimates that 50 percent of students actually pay that amount.

He recommends talking with your children about your possible plans for college and what you will have paid out of your pocket when you're paying for the school out of your pocket.

"It's a good idea to have that discussion," he said.

"It's a good idea to have that discussion," he said.

"It's a good idea to have that discussion," he said.

"It's a good idea to have that discussion," he said.

"It's a good idea to have that discussion," he said.

"It's a good idea to have that discussion," he said.