

RECREATION NEWS

'Nutcracker' due for weekend; Christmas Carol Sing Friday

By **BOB GARCIA**
Recreation Supervisor

The fourth annual Davis children's production of "The Nutcracker" is set to open Friday at 7 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Theater. Friday's initial performance will be repeated Saturday afternoon at 2 and again that evening at 7. The show is sponsored by the Parks and Community Services Department.

At last count, this year's cast included 135 children ranging in age from 4½ to 12 years old and — for the fourth straight year — they will be under the ambitious direction of Cultural Arts Coordinator Bob Bowen.

Each year in one short week of rehearsals, Bowen manages to instill a measure of order upon his throng of young performers and mold their talents into a delightful production. For many this will be their premiere stage appearance before a packed house that includes scores of beaming, nervous parents, relatives and friends.

This year's show will feature special effects and new roles.

The famous magic Christmas tree, which grows before your very eyes, will return and the clown dancers will perform the daring feat of shooting someone out of a cannon.

Also new to this year's production are little dolls which come to life under the Christmas tree and a group of gnomes which live in a dense pine forest.

A special gingerbread house, created and donated by Ann Ough, will be on display in the lobby of the theater at each performance. Raffle tickets to win the gingerbread house will be on sale and the drawing will be conducted after the Saturday night performance. The proceeds will be utilized to offset production costs.

Following Friday's show, a free Christmas Carol Sing will be held in the Veterans' Memorial Center (8:30 p.m.). This is the second year for this special event and the public is invited to join in and sing along with the local choirs. The second annual Christmas Carol Sing is sponsored by the city of Davis and The Davis Enterprise, with arrangements handled by Valley Artist Productions Inc.

Tickets for "The Nutcracker" are \$2.50 general and \$1 for kids 12 and under. Tickets may be purchased at the Parks and Community Services Office, 218 F St. Any unsold tickets will be available at the door.

Young and old alike will enjoy this holiday classic,

which has become a Davis tradition. Tickets are going fast, so plan on buying yours soon.

The Winter/Spring edition of the Parks and Community Services Department bulletin should be delivered to your door by this evening. Mail-in registration will begin immediately and continue through Dec. 26. Walk-in registration begins Jan. 5.

One copy of the bulletin per residence in the Davis Joint Unified School District is to be delivered. If you do not receive your copy, please call the Davis Handbill Delivery Service at 756-4552. Please do not call the Parks and Community Services Department, as we will not have copies for delivery.

A class in aeromodeling is now available for registration. The class is designed for anyone who is interested in radio-controlled airplanes and boats. Topics covered in the 12-hour course include materials, construction techniques and operation of models.

The class is scheduled for Wednesdays (7:30 to 8:30 p.m.) beginning Jan. 14; the fee is \$15. The instructor is Larry Hein, who is a member of the Davis Aeromodelers.

A four-day basketball clinic for boys and girls in first through sixth grades will be conducted the week of Dec. 29 in the Old Emerson gym. Children in first through third grades will meet from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and the fourth- to sixth-graders meet from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

No program will be conducted on New Year's Day. The fee is \$2.50 and is payable at the first meeting.