



FRED GLADDIS/ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Leads in the 2010 edition of the “Davis Children’s Nutcracker” rehearse Thursday on the Veterans’ Memorial Theater stage. From left are Justin Reno (Nutcracker Prince), Abby McIntyre (Sugar Plum Fairy), Tarin McMorrow (Clara), Tessa Malone (Mouse Queen) and Lilia Jelks (Forest Fairy). In background are director Ann Smalley, left, and photographer Georgia McKenzie.

Don’t miss it

What: “Davis Children’s Nutcracker”

When: 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, Dec. 15-17; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19

Where: Veterans’ Memorial Theater, 203 E. 14th St.

Tickets: \$9.50 each; as of Thursday, all performances were sold out, but some tickets may become available as people’s plans change. Check the bulletin board at the Veterans’ Memorial Theater for updates

Info: City of Davis Community Services Department, 23 Russell Blvd.; (530) 757-5626; <http://www.cityofdavis.org/cs/nutcracker>

A holiday treat

250 kids are the stars of the show in Davis’ special ‘Nutcracker’

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Thirty-three years after the curtain rose for the first time on the “Davis Children’s Nutcracker,” there will once again be dancing cats, tumbling clowns

and mice battling toy soldiers next week at the Veterans’ Memorial Theater.

Some 250 Davis children ages 6 to 12 will take part in this annual Davis tradition, beginning with Wednesday’s opening night performance and concluding on Sunday, Dec. 19. As of Thursday, tickets for all six performances had sold out, though tickets often become available as people’s plans change. Check the bulletin board at the Vets’ Theater for updates.

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TREAT: Cast chosen by lottery

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This year, Tarin McMorrow stars as Clara, the young girl who receives a nutcracker doll for Christmas and dreams her way into an enchanted world of princes and mouse queens, waltzing flowers and sugar plum fairies.

Other leads this year are Justin Reno as the Nutcracker Prince, Abby McIntyre as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Tessa Malone as the Mouse Queen and Lilia Jelks as the Forest Fairy.

Once again, Ann Smalley returns as director — a

position she's held for 20 years now — aided by a fleet of more than 40 teen volunteers and leaders, most of whom performed in the “Davis Children's Nutcracker” themselves as youngsters. These days, in fact, it's not unusual to have a second- or even third-generation performer in the cast.

The “Davis Children's Nutcracker” began in 1977 and continues each year under the auspices of the Davis Community Services Department. All Davis children are welcome to apply and the 250 cast spots are awarded by lottery.