A holiday treat

250 kids are the stars of the show in Davis' special 'Nutcracker'

By Anne Terra-Ballaray

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 Thursday, tickets for all set performances had sold out, though tickets often become available as people's plans change. Check the bulletin board at the Veterans' Theater for updates.

"We thought we were close a few weeks ago," agency director and Davis Mayor Pro Tem Joe Krovoza said after the meeting. "We're ready to go. We're not getting what we want." It's the second meeting where closed-session negotiations went longer than expected and the odds of making of a deal seemed high. Nevertheless, no agreements were reached.

"We appreciate everybody's patience," said William Marble, agency chair and a Woodland City Council member. "We are continu- ing those negotiations in good faith with due diligence and in the best interest of our ratepayers at heart." The directors want to get the final agreement next week.

The former director of a UC Davis program that provides services to sexual assault and violence victims was arrested Thursday on suspicion of embezzling thousands of dollars from several program accounts.

Jennifer Beeman, 35, posted $450,000 bail at the Yolo County Jail shortly after turning herself in on an arrest warrant that charges her with five felonies: one count of embezzlement of public funds by a public official; three counts of misuse of public funds by a public official; four counts of falsly accounting and one count of fraudulently altering an account.

Reached by phone Thursday afternoon, Beeman declined to comment on the allegations but said she has been scheduled to be arraigned Jan. 7 in Yolo Superior Court. She plans to ask for a public defender to repre- sent her.

In a news release issued Thursday morning, UCD officials said a joint investigation by the campus Police Department and the federal Office of the Inspector General revealed that Beeman allegedly embezzled some tickets may become available as people's plans change.

TRAVEL NIGHTMARE

Davis woman's harrowing tale is a finalist in online contest

By Cory Golden

Friday staff writer

A few frightening minutes 20 years ago might pay off handsomely for Carmia Feldman. The assistant director of the UC Davis Arboretum is a finalist in a "Travel Guard North America's "World's Toughest Touroperator" contest. Grand prize: a $10,000 dream vacation.

Her travel horror story took place when she was a 24-year- old UC Berkeley junior, fresh from "the other side of the Pacific," in Cort Rice.

"The trip began when Feldman and a friend from the program arrived and missed the ferry from Balboa to Guatemala. The ferry was on strike for "every third day," as Feldman remembered it, but they spied a glitzy canoes taking up to create to Guatamala.

"When you're sort of young and stupid, you make bad decisions and the trip went south," Feldman said. "But the trip was probably the best thing that ever happened to me.

"They stole my backpack, and the tortoise — which could more than double water rates

EX-UCD STAFFER HIT WITH 9 FELONIES

Beeman arrested on embezzlement charges

By Lauren Kane

Friday staff writer

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