

# 'Nutcracker' has some new twists this year

By Kristina McClellin

SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

Christmas is only 22 days away, and the 39th rendition of the "Davis Children's Nutcracker" is stirring.

This year's annual local tradition will see a few exciting changes. In a survey of past and present participants, it was suggested that different performing groups be incorporated. So, in keeping with the fanciful theme, the Hawaiians Dancers will be invaded by Pirates. The pirate ship is being constructed, the costumes are being designed and the swords sharpened.

Even with this change, the "Davis Children's Nutcracker" will remain the same classic tale of Clara and her precious nutcracker.

Rehearsals have begun in earnest and Clara, played by Bailey Bramer, is preparing to take the audience on a journey through the land of Snowflakes and Sweets with her Nutcracker prince, played by Braden Ingram.

On the journey, she will meet the Forest Fairy, played this year by Paige Carlock, and the Sugar Plum Fairy, played by Alicia Joo, along other "Nutcracker" characters brought to life on the stage by approximately 250 children ages 6 to 12.

Some of the characters exist only in our city's version — like the Hawaiian Dancers, Pirates, Gnomes and Dancing Flowers — adding to the charm and guaranteeing the uniqueness of this production.

A production with this many participants would not be possible without the help of approximately 75 volunteers, some of whom took the stage with Clara just last year. These young teens really embrace the season of giving by working hard to make sure the young performers learn their dances and have a fun time rehearsing.



FRED GLADDIS/ENTERPRISE FILE PHOTO

The Teddy Bears get into character during rehearsal for the 2012 "Davis Children's Nutcracker." Below, James Hayakawa performs as the Mouse King in the 2011 edition.

## Rec Report

Join us and be a part of this great Davis tradition. Performances start on Wednesday, Dec. 16, and will conclude Sunday, Dec. 20. The matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 19 and 20, begin at 1 p.m., while the evening performances start at 7 p.m. on weeknights and 6 p.m. on Saturday.

All performances will be at the Veterans' Memorial Theater, 203 E 14th St. Tickets will be available for purchase beginning Wednesday at 8 a.m. and may be purchased at the Parks and Community Services office at City Hall, 23 Russell Blvd. A maximum of six tickets is allowed per buyer.

We hope you can come share this long-standing tradition with us.

— Kristina McClellin is a community services supervisor with the city of Davis.



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