

## TOP 5 KIDS

Leap Day is tomorrow!



1. One in 1,461 babies is born on Leap Day.
2. About 4 million people in the world are Leap Day babies.
3. Even decades have three leap years; odd decades have two.
4. Leap Day babies turning 18 don't legally become adults until March 1, unless it's a leap year.
5. Leap Day was added to the calendar in A.D. 8

HTTP://WWW.LEAPYEAR.DAY.COM,  
HTTP://WWW.MYSTRO.COM

## What's happening

## Thursday, March 8

■ It's a minimum day for secondary students and the city of Davis offers a **Day on the Green at Central Park** from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Teens are invited to enjoy free fun and entertainment in the park with teen activity directors. For more information, call the city at (530) 757-5626.

## Saturday, March 10

■ The Fifth Annual **Children's Summer Activities Faire** gets under way at 9 a.m. at the Davis Farmers Market in Central Park. The faire, which runs until 1 p.m., features information on youth summer programs from the UC Davis Department of Campus Recreation, the city of Davis Community Services Department, Davis Kids Klub, Memorial Union Games Area and more. The free event also features crafts and activities for kids. For more information, call Campus Recreation at (530) 754-5308 or visit <http://campusrecreation.ucdavis.edu>.

## Tuesday, March 20

■ **Learn how relationships evolve in young children**, what the challenges are and how to support your children in forming friendships during a program from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Center Club Room, 203 E. 14th St. For more information or to register for the class, contact Rossana Vigil at Child Care Services (530) 757-5695 or [rvigil@cityofdavis.org](mailto:rvigil@cityofdavis.org). The class, which is free of charge, is made possible by First 5 Yolo.

## Saturday, March 24

■ The annual **Yolo County Child Development Conference** takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. Keynote speaker is therapist Ronald Mah. The conference is aimed at parents, teachers, child care professionals and students interested in child development. Early registration, including lunch from Dos Coyotes, is \$40. Later registration, including at the door, is \$50. For more information and to register, contact Child Care Services at (530) 757-5695 or visit <http://cityofdavis.org/cs/childcare/conference.cfm>.

## Friday, March 30

■ The city of Davis sponsors a **junior high dance for all Davis students in grades 7-9**. The dance is from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. Tickets are \$8 and go on sale at the Community Services Department, 600 A St., on March 19. Those attending must have a medical release form on file. For more, call the city at (530) 757-5695.



By Anne Ternus-Bellamy

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

It's hard to imagine how anything good can come out of something as horrific as the murder of Andrew Mockus 20 years ago. A 14-year-old Holmes Junior High School student at the time, Mockus was killed by a group of Davis teens who beat him, robbed him and pushed him into the path of a moving train.

Stunned, the city responded by holding public forums to discuss the issues facing the community's youth and ways the city could do more to help. In the end, the Davis City Council adopted seven recommendations that grew out of the forums, including the creation of the Golden Heart Awards, which would honor local teens for the good that they do. The awards would be given annually in two categories: overcoming personal challenges and community service.

Many exceptional Davis teens have been honored since then, and last week's honorees were no exception. Five teens ranging in age from 14 to 17 were recognized by the council on Tuesday — two for their community service and three for overcoming personal challenges.

The awards, said Mayor Joe Krovoza, "are just one more extension of our commitment to youth."

And as in years past, they were well deserved by the recipients.

## Asha Byrd

It was about a year and half ago that 16-year-old Asha Byrd decided she wanted to start giving back to the community.

"I decided that I was very fortunate to have all the things that I have, and a loving family, and I knew there were families in Davis that didn't have that," said Byrd, a junior at Davis High School.

"I really wanted to start giving back," she added.

So she did.

Byrd founded a service organization, Active Youth for Education, with the goal of bringing life skills to disadvantaged individuals and families. Through the organization, Byrd has set up nearly a dozen educational classes for the Family Transitional Housing Program run by Davis Community Meals.

Topics include fire safety, nutrition and anything else program staffers recommend, including an upcoming program focused on job skills. Then Byrd goes out and recruits local professionals to present at the classes. Anywhere from five to 12 families usually attend, she said.

When she's not running her organization, Byrd also serves as Cool Davis' high school representative, assisting the environmental organization in numerous ways.

She was nominated for the Golden Heart award by several community members, including Jen Boschee-Danzer, Christine Granger, Lynne Nittler and Ann Crook.

In presenting the award last week, Krovoza said, "Asha, you represent the very best of Davis."

She's just happy to be able to do what she does.

"It feels really good to give back to the community and make a difference," Byrd said. "Even if it's a small action, it can go a long way. And I feel so grateful to have the life that I have. To be able to help others just feels good."

## Willie Hall

Since Willie, 14, began working two years ago with Team Davis — the local organization that sponsors athletic and other activities for people with disabilities — he has volunteered more hours than any young person in the team's history.

He has spent more than 120 hours, in fact, coaching basketball, softball and running, and he even coached Team Davis' bocce ball team that went to the Special Olympics.

An eighth-grader at Holmes Junior High School, Willie was nominated for a Golden Heart Award by Robin Dewey, the president of Team Davis, who said Willie's "maturity and competence, combined with his level of commitment to working hard at whatever he takes on, makes him an ideal candidate."

And while Willie agrees his two years working with Team Davis athletes has made him grow "maturity-wise," he also says it's just plain fun.

"I love being active and running and playing sports, so it's really fun for me," he explained. "And it's really fun to coach all the guys and play with them."

"My favorite thing is seeing all these guys grow and mature and get better and seeing how they really love playing these sports," he added. "It's a win-win."

But he also says the whole experience has changed him.

"I'm really experiencing a whole side of people that I've never seen before," Willie said. "And I definitely plan to continue doing this as long as I can."

## Hannah Gillis

Hannah, 17, was nominated for a Golden Heart award by her

mother, Mary Gillis, and three Davis counselors.

Described by her nominators as "an extremely compassionate person ... with great concern for people less fortunate than she," Gillis began struggling with depression back in junior high.

With the help of family, friends and counselors, she developed the tools and perspective needed to manage her depression and now, as a junior at the Davis School for Independent Study, is doing great. She earns good grades and even works part time at CVS/pharmacy.

Her nominators — including counselors Holly Lien, Marvie Paulson and Joanna Littell — praised Gillis for her ability to manage the challenges she's faced "even when they appear insurmountable."

For her part, Gillis is grateful for those "who helped me get through my depression" and offers some advice for young people going through what she did.

"Keep your head up," she says. "Even though it seems like it won't get better, it will. Just always reach out for help."

## Chad Prizmich

Prizmich, 16, is a tall, athletic kid who plays water polo and swims for Davis High School. He's never missed a day of school due to illness and always maintains good grades.

So it's surprising, to say the least, to learn Prizmich had his first open-heart surgery when he was in elementary school and a second open-heart surgery last summer. Born with a congenital heart defect, Prizmich said one of his heart valves doesn't close all the way when blood goes through, meaning less oxygen is moving through his body.

For an athlete like him, that's a problem.

"It made it hard to do things until I had the surgery," he said.

But just five weeks after his last surgery, he was back in the pool, playing water polo for both the high school and the local club team. He's been playing water polo for about five years and says, "It's really fun."

Prizmich was nominated by his aunt, Cari Hendricks, who said, "The challenges he's bravely faced have developed a unique strength and compassion that are sure to touch many lives."

Prizmich's future likely includes another open-heart surgery, probably in about 10 years. But he seems fairly nonplussed about it all.

In talking about his aunt's nomination during the awards ceremony last week, Prizmich insisted the nomination letter "made it sound a lot harder than it was."

## Jessica Roeckl-Navazio

When Jessica, 14, learned she would be receiving a Golden Heart award from the city, she turned to her mom, Margo Roeckl, and said, "I'm getting this just for being me?"

Her mom's response: "Yes, you're that special."

Jessica, now a ninth-grader at Harper Junior High School, was born with cerebral palsy, but as her nominators said, her large personality and happy disposition make her disability fade into the background.

"She's a hugely busy kid," her mom said, including therapeutic horseback riding, playing power soccer on the BORP (Bay Area Outreach Recreation Program) Bombers, playing piano and, of course, spending time on her iPad texting and messaging friends and watching shows.

She was nominated for a Golden Heart award by Harper teacher Ainsley Lindbergs, who said Jessica, without complaint, "radiates an acceptance of who she is, what she can and can't do, and who those around her are and what they can and can't do."

Said her mom: "She's my everyday hero."

Jessica is already a world traveler and hopes to return to Paris someday to study at the Louvre.

In addition to the five recipients of Golden Heart Awards, 16 other teens were honorees for community service and two for overcoming personal challenges.

Honorees for community service are **Alicia Demaree, Laura Daggett, Sarah Kolarik, Nicole Olichney, Sydney Maguire, Eliana Meyer, Tori Powell, Chelsea Sacramento, Evan Thomas Walker** and the seven girls who founded the Yummy Dummy Chocolate Company: **Risa and Sara Pesavento; Stream and Sedona Tuss; Rowan and Rachel Foley; and Bay Warland.**

Honorees in the personal challenge category are **Andre Foster and Johnathan Kobold.**

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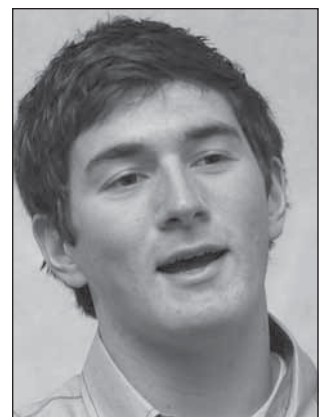
**BYRD**  
Davis High School student



**HALL**  
Holmes student



**GILLIS**  
DSIS student



**PRIZMICH**  
Davis High School student



**ROECKL-NAVAZIO**  
Harper student

## Korean students enjoy visit to Davis

SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

Ten high school students and two chaperones from Sangju, Korea, a sister city of Davis, visited town during the last week of January.

The visitors stayed with the families of Davis High School students and attended classes at Davis High. The also spent time touring Davis, bicycling on the bike loop,

bowling at the UC Davis Memorial Union, checking out the Farmers Market and visiting San Francisco.

The visit was organized by the Friends of Sanju committee and the Davis High School Cultural Exchange Club.

More than 70 people attended a welcome party at International House, Davis, on Jan. 27, including Mayor Joe Krovoza,

Davis Board of Education members Richard Harris and Sheila Allen, former Mayor Ruth Asmundson and the host families. The city of Davis gave visiting students and chaperones honorary citizenship.

The homestay program is an exchange between Sangju and Davis, so 10 Davis High School students will visit Sangju through the same program in June.

Davis and Sangju have been sister cities since 2004 and have been actively promoting exchanges. For the past two years, 20 Sangju elementary and junior high school

students have had language training and cultural experiences for three weeks at UC Davis and are planning to do same program in this summer.

Last year, the Davis delegation led by Harris visited Sangju to celebrate that city's festival. In the future, both cities are planning to build a cooperative system for globalization of the bicycle industry, develop a personnel exchange program and expand private exchanges to become substantial connections.