

Recreation Division Highlights

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Thousand Oaks Community Center & McCrea Ranch

Speaker Presentation with Jeremy Arnold & Owen Renfroe

McCrea Ranch's first event of 2026 was a fast draw, welcoming a full house of more than 45 participants for a presentation by filmmakers Jeremy Arnold and Owen Renfroe. The duo showcased their 1998 black-and-white Western period silent film, "The Prospector", followed by a discussion and Q&A. The event concluded with tours of the lower buildings and a raffle, with prizes that included a signed movie poster and Jeremy Arnold's book. Join us February 14th for the McCrea Ranch annual Valentine's Day celebration, Trivia & Treats at the Ranch.



Recipe for Fun: Delicious Mini Donuts

One of Thousand Oaks Center's most popular classes does it again—and you dough-not want to miss it! Recipe for Fun introduces children to basic cooking and baking skills, including following recipes, measuring ingredients, kitchen safety, and most importantly, taste testing. Participants try a new recipe each week. This class featured creations such as classic powdered donuts, s'mores donuts, and Oreos donuts. Future offerings this session include Recipe for Fun: Chocolate Extravaganza and Silly Sandwiches.

Aquatics



On Saturday, December 27, more than 35 participants took a chilling plunge into the Community Pool for Aquatics' Annual Polar Bear Plunge. The event began with a leisurely jog around the beautiful California Lutheran University campus, followed by a refreshing plunge into the pool at CLU. Participants also enjoyed light snacks, hot cocoa, and winter-themed games and crafts.

Hillcrest Center for the Arts

Staff Update

The Cultural Unit's Recreation Supervisor, Brianne Anderson, completed the National Recreation and Park Association and International Festival and Event Association's Event Management School in January 2026. This two-year educational and in-practice program provides the opportunity to learn from a world-class staff who literally write the textbooks on event management, make connections with event and recreation professionals from around the country, participate in an intensive work project that applies the lessons learned, and obtain the Certified Festival and Event Associate designation. We are proud of her work and look forward to seeing how she implements what she learned within our unit and across the district.

Classes, Comedy, and Elementary Music at HCFA (Hillcrest Center for the Arts)

The "Comedy on the Hill" series continues to be popular, often selling out days after the tickets go on sale. The next showing will be held on Saturday, February 14 at 8:00 pm in the Community Room.

The Elementary Music Program is starting for spring 2026 and the students are all working towards this year's All District Music Festivals.



Show Wrapped at Hillcrest Center for the Arts

This year's Teen Drama program recently finished the run of the world premiere "The Descent of Dust and Shadows" on January 18. The cast brought their own spin to the fantastical adventure, with gravity-defying sets that impressed audiences and beloved characters that left audiences laughing, cheering for the heroes, and thinking about what their own wishes might be.



Upcoming Shows at Hillcrest Center for the Arts

YAE Team Up has taken over the theater for Seussical: The Musical, with whimsical set pieces and walls transforming the space into something straight out of a Dr. Seuss book. The show opens February 6 and runs for three weekends. If you want to feel like a kid again, this is a show you won't want to miss.

Tickets for all events are available at www.hillcrestarts.org by visiting the box office, or by calling 805-381-2747.

Thousand Oaks Teen Center



New Years Eve Bash

The Teen Center took its annual New Year's Eve Bash to a whole new level this year. Guests enjoyed free Chick-fil-A sandwiches and nuggets, along with a complimentary raffle featuring standout prizes such as an iPad, Apple AirPods, and a gift basket filled with teen-favorite gift cards. A mocktail soda bar and a 360° photo booth added to the fun, along with a variety of staff-led games and contests. A live DJ and band kept the energy high throughout the night.

Teen Center and Outreach staff promoted the event across all five middle schools prior to winter break, and students who scanned the flyer's QR code received free admission. The celebration concluded at midnight with a lively countdown, party favors, and a balloon drop featuring more than 500 balloons. More than 175 teens attended, making it a memorable night for everyone involved.



Dos Vientos Community Center

Conejo Cruise In

On Saturday, January 24, the Dos Vientos Community Center hosted the monthly Conejo Cruise In, welcoming car enthusiasts from across the area to showcase their impressive and unique vehicles. This popular event continues to be a great way to bring the community together and highlight local passion and creativity.

Archery

Our archery classes continue to be a hit. Two classes are currently offered each week, providing opportunities for all skill levels. Wednesday evening sessions are dedicated to youth archery, while Saturday morning classes are designed for adults. Both sessions focus on fun, skill-building, and proper technique, helping participants improve accuracy and confidence on the range.

Borchard Community Center

Rec Van Skate Program

On January 6, CRPD Skate Staff took skate programs on the road by bringing the Rec Van, mobile ramps, and supplies to Parque De La Paz. Staff set up a temporary skatepark and facilitated an afternoon skate session while promoting CRPD programs, the Rec Van, and sharing information about upcoming lessons and programs with the local skate community.

CVUSD Collaborations

On January 5, the Borchard Community Center resumed running recess recreation programs in partnership with Walnut Elementary School. Recreation staff led students in organized games and activities, providing structured and engaging play opportunities during the school day.

Winter session after-school programs began the week of January 20 at Cypress, Maple, Banyan, Earths, and Walnut Elementary Schools, serving more than 190 enrolled students. Classes offered include arts, martial arts, STEM, and more, providing engaging and enriching opportunities for students after the school day ends.

Bike Rodeo and E-Bike Safety Event

On Saturday, January 24, the Borchard Community Center participated in a Bike Rodeo and E-Bike Safety Event in collaboration with County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's office. Staff provided bike and e-bike safety education, shared information on e-bike regulations within parks, and facilitated crafts and bike-related activities for youth attendees.



Therapeutic Recreation



Winter Break Camps

The Therapeutic Recreation Unit hosted Winter Break Camps for teens at the Oaks Mall and for youth at the Old Meadows Community Center through January 2. While school was out, teens and youth had the opportunity to spend time with friends, build new friendships, and create lasting memories in a fun and supportive environment.

News Years Eve Bash

The Therapeutic Recreation Unit rang in the New Year a little early on December 27 with 75 friends. We danced, enjoyed baked goods generously provided by the National Charity League, shared New Year toast with sparkling apple cider, and celebrated the countdown with festive poppers. It was a wonderful way to close out the year and welcome the next!



Conejo Community Center / Outdoor Unit

ELOP Fun Friday

The Conejo Community Center and Outdoor Unit kicked off the new year with a Fun Friday event on January 9th for the ELOP program, featuring Specialist Captain Carl and his Tide Pool Animals. Students were thrilled to meet a variety of incredible sea creatures, including a mini shark and an octopus. They even had the chance to a pet starfish and hold sea slugs!



Bonkers For Bugs Hike

On Saturday, January 24, the Outdoor Unit hosted one of our popular Bonkers for Bugs hikes. Eight children and their parents explored the Oak Creek Canyon Loop, searching for crawling and flying critters along the way. The hike also included a hands-on craft, where participants created journals to document their discoveries. Children found a variety of insects, including worms, spiders, and beetles—and one very special guest made a surprise appearance when they discovered a salamander hanging out under a log!