

## Annual music camp moves into Santa Teresita

The ribbon will barely be cut on the new Santa Teresita Youth Conference Center when the popular Center Stage Strings music camp will move in for its 2013 season.

The new facility is located at St. Anthony Retreat in Three Rivers. It consists of dormitory rooms, a cafeteria, a swimming

pool, basketball court, hiking trails, and so much more.

A community open house for the new youth center will be Sunday, June 2. Tours of the facility will be provided during the day-long celebration.

Center Stage Strings, a two-week music camp for young, gifted musicians, founded by

Danielle Belen, will begin its fourth year in Three Rivers next month. The camp formerly relied on host families throughout the community to house the students and a shuttle van to transport them to and from the Community Presbyterian Church, the former camp headquarters. Now the students will be able to share in an authentic "summer camp" experience as they reside, eat, and recreate together, as well as practice and play their instruments.

Evening performances will still be held at the Presbyterian church, but some of the student concerts will be performed in the St. Anthony chapel. There will be a selection of free performances and those that require paid admission.

"This year, the camp will remain two weeks long with approximately the same number of students, but the new dorm facilities will allow for us to investigate expansion in both directions in future years," said Danielle Belen, Center Stage Strings founder and artistic director.

Prize-winning violinist Nigel Armstrong, 23, will be the camp's guest artist this year. Originally from Sonoma, Nigel is a graduate of the Colburn School Conservatory of Music (where Danielle Belen is on the faculty) and is currently in the diploma program at the Curtis Institute of Music (Philadelphia). He performs throughout the world as a soloist and chamber musician.

The 2013 concert schedule for Center Stage Strings is online at [www.centerstagestrings.com](http://www.centerstagestrings.com).



FOR THE BIRDS: Building birdhouses at Camp Zap last weekend.

—SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Letters

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selves.

The guest speaker was Dr. Navarro, medical director for Family HealthCare Network's Woodlake, Ivanhoe, and Three Rivers facilities. He spoke to the kids about growing up poor in Farmersville but because of the support from good community people and teachers who advised him to stay out of gangs, he pursued a higher education. He decided to make good choices in his life and became a doctor.

The kids learned how to build birdhouses from retired Colonel

Ray Gomez. They used their creative skills to decorate cans using the bolts, screws, washers, and more during craft classes with Margaret Navarrete.

The kids also enjoyed water balloon contests, horseback riding and rock climbing.

Camp Zap thanks the Woodlake Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club, AmeriCorps, Ronnie "Starman" Rios, and all the other volunteers who are always available to lend their support to Camp Zap. We couldn't do it without them.

**John and Minerva Zapalac**  
Founders, Camp Zap  
**Lemon Cove**

## THE OTHER 3R SCHOOL



VAN BAILEY of Three Rivers, while living in Mendocino County part-time to work on a highway project, came across this car wash in Fort Bragg on a cold, blustery day, sponsored by Three Rivers Charter School to earn funds for a class trip to, you guessed it, San Francisco. "Maybe TRUS and Three Rivers Charter should become sister schools and visit each other," Van suggested.

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