

Enjoy holiday ice skating at Viejas Outlets

Skate into the holidays on Southern California's largest outdoor ice rink starting Nov. 5 at the Viejas Outlets in Alpine! The public is invited to be among the first to "test the ice" at temporary reduced prices when the nearly 10,000-square-foot rink opens at noon Saturday as one of the region's most popular winter playgrounds through Jan. 8, 2012.

"To be up here in Alpine . . . you feel like you're in a real winter wonderland," said Nancy Kennedy, Viejas Outlets marketing manager and ice skater. The popular shopping center just east of Alpine off Interstate 8 is also kicking off the year-end celebration season with a free official lighting of the huge Viejas Holiday Tree. It will be at 6 p.m. Nov. 11 at the ice rink. An extravaganza on ice with professional skaters and a visit from Santa Claus will entertain everyone who attends the San Diego area's biggest holiday tree lighting.

A "Beat the Madness" shopping event starting at 10 p.m. on Nov. 24 will feature discounts of up to 70 percent at favorite brand name stores at the Viejas Outlet Center. Keeping the big rink cold enough for a 10-inch-deep ice surface takes a special system under the ice and "two really big air conditioners . . . called chillers," Kennedy said. As part of being environmentally friendly, the big holiday tree is artificial. Kennedy said it's decorated with thousands of new LED lights that require little power. Reduced ice skating prices from Nov. 5 through Nov. 9 are \$5 for children 12 and under and \$8 for ages 13 and older. After that prices will be \$10 for children and \$12 for ages 13 and older. Prices include 90 minutes of skating time and skates. For ice rink hours and more, visit www.ViejasOutletCenter.com or call (619) 659-2070.

