

Round about

People, places and things seen around Concord

Majors receive their own surprise during Salvation Army golf fundraiser



FROM LEFT, PAM, JOY, CLAY AND JASON Gardner. The family celebrated Clay's birthday with Jason's surprise homecoming.

Mike Dunn/The Concordian

Surprising his parents, Majors Pam and Clay Gardner of the Concord Salvation Army, Specialist Jason Gardner returned home Aug. 17 to celebrate his father's birthday at a golf fundraiser in which Clay was playing. Jason is currently stationed in South Korea.

"This is the kickoff fundraiser for our gymnasium project," Clay Gardner explained. "We're hoping to build a gymnasium in Concord. The Salvation Army has been playing basketball for at least 70 or 80 years in all parts of the country, but in Concord, we are playing basketball and we rent gymnasiums. We're hoping to build our own somewhere on the vacant corner."

The event attracted 73 golfers of varying levels of proficiency from throughout the Bay Area. Players included former Concord mayor and businessman Larry Azevedo and golf pro Dave Fowler of the Pleasanton Golf Center, who won the tournament prize of \$1,500 with a score of 68.

-Mike Dunn

Monument Crisis Center celebrates success

Marking its sixth year of service to the community, the Monument Crisis Center held an open house Aug. 19 showing off their heavily used non-profit warehouse and the process of food distribution and services.

"We are just really grateful to all of

Concord and the whole Contra Costa community for rising up to the occasion," said executive director Sandra Scherer. "Over the last year, we issued enough food to feed 74,000 people. We couldn't do that without the generosity of the community here."

According to Scherer, the group accepts all donations – "from one bag of groceries to money, diapers, fresh fruits and vegetables. We want it all."

During a recent time of low donations, Presidio Bank stepped in. "One of our board members was aware of this organization," said executive vice president Fred Ballard. "We made a \$25,000 donation to help fill the pantry up again with food."

The Monument Crisis Center is at 2350 Monument Blvd., Suite B, Concord. For more information, call 825-7751 or visit www.monumentcrisiscenter.com.

-Mike Dunn



Mike Dunn/The Concordian

THE PRESIDIO BANK donated \$25,000 last year to the Crisis Center. Fred Ballard, executive vice president of the bank, is shown here with Crisis Center executive director Sandra Scherer.

Neighbors meeting neighbors helps communities maintain safety alliances

Neighborhood alliances from Holbrook Heights and Sun Terrace had booths at the Concord National Night Out event on Aug. 4 at Todos Santos Plaza, along with a great mix of music by Rock My Soul.

Now in its 26th year, National Night Out is a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.

"It's a celebration of crime awareness and crime prevention and of our community and neighborhood partnerships, things of that nature," said

Concord Lt. Robin Heinemann. "We also let the criminals know that crime is not OK in our community. All the events are free for everybody and it's a great event."

The Canterbury Village neighborhood alliance had its own National Night Out event on Joan Court, complete with an ice cream social. Officer Bill Roche covered that group meeting, answering questions about safety and crime and all things in between.

-Mike Dunn



Mike Dunn/The Concordian

THE SUN TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD alliance booth at the plaza was manned by members Susan Metzger, R.J. Parker and Paul Poston.

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