Birthday girl gives gifts

SV woman marks 55th birthday with 55 ‘Pay it Forward’ acts

Most people spend their birthdays celebrating themselves. Jackie Mauer is not like most people. Mauer, a Scotts Valley resident, recently turned 55, and instead of spending her big day focusing on herself, she and her friend, KT Gunn, boxed caps and spent Feb. 12 performing 55 “Pay it Forward” deeds throughout the community.

“As a member of the Rotary Club of Santa Cruz, I often hear the saying ‘Pay it Forward’,” Mauer said. “Since I was starting my 55th year of life, I wanted to work on doing something nice for others.”

Mauer and Gunn began by going to the Scotts Valley dog park and giving away clothes to those who needed them.

The day began with the two placing 55 teddy bears around downtown Santa Cruz and near the Boardwalk.

Another good deed the ladies performed was leaving a box of lemon tarts at the Scotts Valley dog park in memory of Mauer’s two dogs, with a sign asking others to enjoy them and to do something nice—like volunteering—a day with unconditional love, loyalty and happiness.

“On the day of life FEPs, we also left laundry detergent and softeners in three different laundry rooms with quarters in different areas to be found by surprise,” Mauer said. “We handed out long-stem red roses to random people, threw money in musicians collection boxes, left wrapped gifts on the hands of cars and smiled and hugged people. We went ... (text continues on page C5)