

Briefs: Fresnan honored as Corpsmember of Year

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A 20-year-old Fresno man is among six people nationwide to receive the Corpsmember of the Year award from the Economic Opportunities Commission's Local Conservation Corps.

Alejandro Lopez was selected for his dramatic life change from a former gang member to an active participant of the Conservation Corps California Gang Reduction and Intervention Program, said Yahaira Garcia-Perea, spokeswoman for the local agency.

After serving a sentence for gang activity, Lopez started with the corps in 2007. Since then, Lopez has earned a high school diploma, has enrolled at Fresno City College and helps with fundraisers for local schools.

Service of six Valley women recognized

Six Valley women have been selected as the 2010 honorees for the Common Threads Award, which recognizes women for their agricultural, philanthropic and community service.

The recipients are Barbara Bigelow of Madera, Robin Rogers-Dale of Reedley, Judy Walt Jameson of Tulare, Sue Lafferty of Hanford, Jean Okuye of Livingston and Susie Snedden of Maricopa.

The honorees will be recognized at a luncheon April 16 at 11:15 a.m. at the University Courtyard Dining Hall at California State University, Fresno. A workshop on education, community gardens and philanthropy will kick off the morning's events in the university's Henry Madden Library.

For tickets, call (916) 928-2249 or (559) 278-4266.