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COMMUNITY, A10



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TheBrightSide

POUR, SELL AND SHINE



STEVE GASSERT PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TWIN FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Twin Falls Police Lt. Steve Gassert stopped by numerous lemonade stands this year to encourage youth to do positive things. Kids were juiced up for a chance to look at the police cars and get a few stickers. **See more photos on Page A5.**

Twin Falls Police raise a cup to young lemonade entrepreneurs

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TWIN FALLS — The police department squeezed in visits to lemonade stands, giving a shout-out to youth for their entrepreneurial spirit and saluting them for doing positive things this summer.

It started with a Facebook post in June, when the Twin Falls Police Department recognized that some of the community's youngest entrepreneurs are "ready to pour, sell and shine."

That led to visits to multiple lemonade stands throughout the city, manned by kids selling lemonade to raise a little cash, sometimes to help pay for soccer camp or to send to a relative in the armed forces.

While it isn't unusual for police officers to stop at a stand to swig a refreshing drink and make a positive connection, there was an emphasis on it this year.

"I drank a lot of lemonade this summer," Lt. Steve Gassert said — so much lemonade, he joked, that he had to take an occasional break.

His social media posts encouraged residents to stop by the stands and urged other first responders to do the same.

The Twin Falls Fire Department was quick to respond.

"Nothing like some delicious ice cold lemonade after rope rescue training!" the Twin Falls Fire Department posted in early June, accompanied by a photo of firefighters stopping at a stand being run by three girls raising money for soccer camp.

Call loads prevented police officers from reaching all the lemonade stands, but multiple photos of smiling stops were posted on social media.

Kids were excited for the visits, Gassert said, and perhaps got notice beforehand that police officers might be stopping by.

And the kids were juiced up at getting a chance to look at the police cars and get a few stickers.

The efforts of first responders gained



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TWIN FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Twin Falls firefighters also stopped at lemonade stands this year as a way to salute children doing positive things.

praise from community members.

"This is one of the coolest things I've ever seen a police department do, ever," responded resident Jason Ramsey. "Very well done, ladies and gentlemen."

Gassert hopes for positive connections to continue in the community.

Another chance for young and old to reach out to first responders will come at the Magic Valley 9/11 Memorial at 6 p.m. Friday at the Twin Falls Visitor Center.

The National Night Out takes place from 5 to 7 p.m. at Twin Falls City Park and will

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feature demonstrations and a free dinner.

In a closing statement on social media last month, the police department urged youth to keep "chasing those big ideas — we can't wait to see what you do next."

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