

TWAIN HARTE AREA



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2024

PIO: Leo Marroquin
Editor: Carol Hallett
Proof reader: Lise Lemonnier

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NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



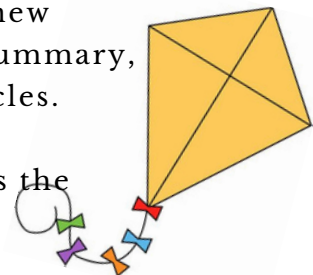
So, there's a reason we associate March with windy weather. It's a month often consisting of surges of warm air followed by equally powerful blasts of cold air. That's what makes March so windy.

March skies can be filled with kites. In history winning a kite contest was the symbol of a brave man. Kite flying in the sky recklessly and also flying everyone's dream at the same time. Kites symbolized freedom and courage.

The interesting fact about kites is they always fly against the wind, not with the wind. In life too, if we are just going with the flow or driven by the circumstance or situation, we will not be able to rise. It's true when things are against us or situations are more demanding we want to give up. I say be like a kite!

With all the windy conditions this month, March just flew by. We were still able to get a lot accomplished as you will see in the newsletter. Check out our new logo, changes to our container, training summary, wind damage, and the challenge coin articles.

Our team takes on the challenge and takes the wind head on!



We hope you enjoy this month's issue. Our goal is to provide information to the community, focusing on preparedness, safety and health. If you have a suggestion for future articles, please contact: twainhartecert@gmail.com for consideration of the topic by the board.



Powdered Sugar Snow in March

TWAIN HARTE FIRE DEPARTMENT CORNER

by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



310 HOURS TRAINING

Congratulations to Intern Operator Gage Pankey on passing his EMT exam.

THE STAFF

- Full Time Chief - 1
- Full Time Captains - 3
- Seasonal Engineers - 3
- Relief Captains - 4
- Reserve Firefighters - 4
- Intern Firefighters - 2



DEPLOYMENTS

All shifts have been putting in the hours on their shift-level training.

- Captain Dixon and crew built a Denver prop for an upcoming Firefighter survival class THFD is hosting.
- Two members of THFD took a Heavy Equipment Boss class provided by Cal Fire.



The THFD was involved in two in-county OES Strike Team deployments for storm preparedness. THFD provided one type three engine and one strike team leader.



26 RESPONSES

THCSD GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

by Tom Trott, THCSD General Manager



GM REPORT

March 13, 2024

ADMIN ACTIVITIES

- THCSD Median Household Income Survey
- Operator 1 Recruitment and Hiring
- TH Meadows Park Construction Management
- Senior Project and Eagle Scout Project Coordination
- Parking Lot and Pickleball Project Management
- Grant Management – Prop 1 and Prop 68
- FEMA Storm Damage Reimbursement Coordination

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 2/15 Office Parking Lot Stormwater Project
- 2/16 Board Orientation Facilities Tour
- 2/21 Integrated Regional Water Management
- 2/23 FEMA Storm Grant Coordination
- 2/29 County OES Storm Coordination

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Twain Harte Meadows Park

Budget: \$3,000,000

The majority of grading for the new, grant-funded community park is complete, as well as the pavilion and restroom foundations and some planting. The restroom is anticipated to be set this month. Planting and bioswale cobbling will continue if weather allows. Project completion is anticipated in early fall 2024.

Tennis/Pickleball Court Improvements

Budget: \$310,000

The sport grid surface for the pickleball courts expansion has been ordered and construction is anticipated in late spring. Coordination and contracting for the tennis court improvements is underway and construction to convert the tennis courts to a hybrid clay surface is anticipated in early summer.

Community Center Improvements

Budget: \$74,000 Fire / \$74,000 Park

Kitchen remodel, ADA bathrooms, flooring and exterior repaint is complete. Work to construct a concrete ADA parking space, path, and entryway has begun and will be complete this month. Front doors and signage will also be replaced in the next two months. Parking lot paving is anticipated to be complete by late spring.

Motor Control Center (MCC) Upgrade

Budget: \$185,000

Construction submittals to replace the MCC at the water treatment plant are finalized. Manufacturing delays have pushed construction out until the next low water demand month in September.

PLANNING PROJECTS

Water System Evaluation/Analysis

Budget: \$777,151

Hydraulic model, water loss analysis, condition assessment and identification of priority capital projects is complete. Design of Sherwood Forest water lines replacement is 90% complete.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SRF / BUDGET EARMARK - \$4.5M

TH Sewerline Project / Award: Summer 2024

BUDGET EARMARK - \$15,000

Sherwood Forest Water / Award: Summer 2024

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT - \$75,000

Structural Fire Turnouts / Award: Fall 2024

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT - \$24,000

Median Household Income Survey / AWARDED

PROP 1 STORMWATER GRANT - \$1.75M

TH Meadows Park / AWARDED

PROP 68 RURAL RECREATION - \$1.25M

TH Meadows Park / AWARDED

PROP 68 PER CAPITA - \$178K

Tennis & Pickleball Improvements / AWARDED

To learn more details, join us at our monthly THCSD board meetings.

DOORS ARE OPENING FOR US

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader

Dave Hallett, we refer to him as the "welding guy" took time to measure up, do a design, buy some metal and started welding stuff together. We had a real problem opening the door to the land-sea container.

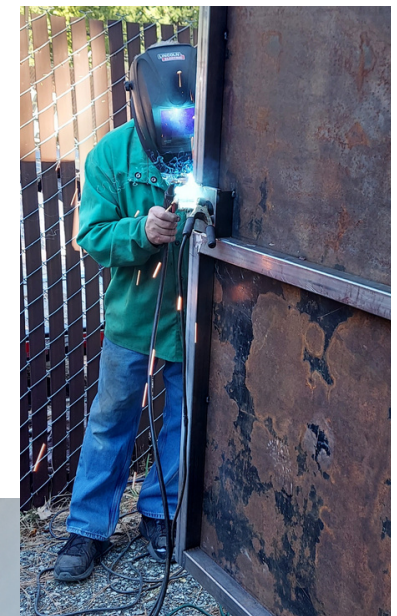


After the layout phase (he may have done a 3D model of the project... amazing), then he got to work. He had to grind off the old locking mechanism that was not working for us. In fact we could not even use this walk through door.

He precisely measured, marked and cut a slot for the striker plate. Sparks were flying. Then he filed it to make it perfect.



The sparks kept on coming as he removed a latch on the inside of the door that did not line up properly and we could not use. Now that he had everything removed he could start building. He welded on the striker plate, drilled a hole for the door handle, welded on a metal plate that he made a few more sparks and wah-la we have a working door with a lock box.



I make it sound easy but it was a lot of time, hard work, and dedication. We really appreciate the effort and care that went into this project. Dave did this to make our lives easier... I think I owe him a beer! Thanks to the "welding guy"!



NEW LOOK, NEW LOGO

by Leo Marroquin, PIO



Old Logo
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

When I started as the new PIO with THA-CERT I knew that I wanted to work on something that would make a difference. I always look at things from the visual side... so I took a look at the logo. THA-CERT was using the standard CERT logo which depicts tall buildings and little houses. It is meant to be generic so that anyone can use it but THA-CERT is unique.

This is something I wanted to do so that the program can stand apart and be easily recognized. Redoing the skyline graphics is something "big" city CERT programs do for that same reason. Of course, making changes to the official logo comes with a set of guidelines from FEMA. All these guidelines have been followed to create our new logo. Additionally, we now have a unique new look that can be used on printed material, wearables, etc.



New Logo
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

It was my pleasure working on the Twain Harte Area CERT logo.

CHALLENGE COIN

by Bob Schreiner, Logistics Section Chief



At the THA-CERT monthly board meeting, Fire Chief Neil Gamez recognized the members with a "Challenge Coin." Traditionally, these coins are given to thank members for their hard work and dedication to the job.

Presenting a coin is very personal, and the more senior the presenter, the more "value" the award is perceived to be. Coins given as awards for accomplishments are commonly given to the recipient during a handshake, passing from the giver's right hand to the awardee's right hand. It's also normal for the giver to briefly explain the reason for awarding the coin.

The tradition of challenge coins can be traced to World War II when American forces deployed to the far reaches of the globe, securing the nation's freedom. Soldiers back to World War I and the Civil War left for battle with a coin from home in their pocket and kept it after the conflict as a lasting remembrance of their wartime experiences.



Coins are as unique as the units that present them and vary in meaning to each individual who receives them. The challenge coin has different accounts of its origins yet remains a staple in first responder traditions.



The Chief honored us by giving each of us a challenge coin. I have already seen staff members lay the coin down to challenge another member. It is just another fun thing that we share!

TRAINING RAINED OUT!

by Margaret Lawrence, Training Officer

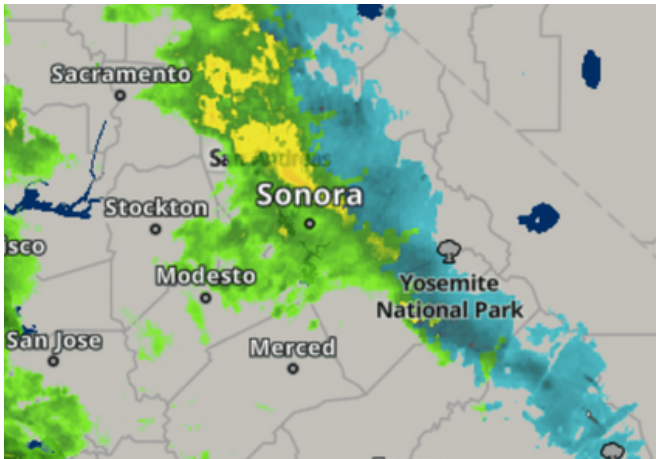


Well it seems like the weather can't make up its mind these days.

Sadly we had to cancel our Fire Behavior training in March due to rain, snow, and thunderstorms. It's hard to keep a fire going in these conditions. We will try and reschedule for later this year or early next year. This is such a valuable training for everyone and we really appreciate the THFD & CALFIRE for the support. We have amazing partners.

We are excited to be offering our CERT Basic training 20-hour class this April 19, 20 and 21. Please send a request to twainhartecert@gmail.com to reserve your spot today. This is extremely valuable training and is totally free. We have already received some reservations for the class. This class is limited to 20 students so enroll now!

We have no training in May, but June 29 we are bringing back our community CPR/AED training. Save someone's life by learning CPR and how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). More information on this class will be coming out soon.



New AEDs for THFD



**Your generous donation
helps to support our local
firefighters**

Make sure you are trained up!

This year our fundraising efforts are going towards replacing THFD AEDs and we plan to put additional AEDs in specific areas like Kennedy Meadows, Steam Donkey, Dodge Ridge, Mia's, Strawberry market as a few possible locations. The CPR/AED training that we are planning will augment our efforts and allow us to hopefully save more lives.



CALLS R US

by Mary Dearborn, Secretary



Twain Harte Area Community Emergency Response Team (THA-CERT) does much more than emergency response when requested to deploy. Tom Trott, the General Manager of Twain Harte Community Services District (THCSD) and Lauren Gerber were discussing the need to reach out to the community to get more local residents to respond to the Median Household Income Survey. They contacted Carol Hallett, the Program Manager of THA-CERT, to inquire if the team could assist in cold-calling our local full-time residents.

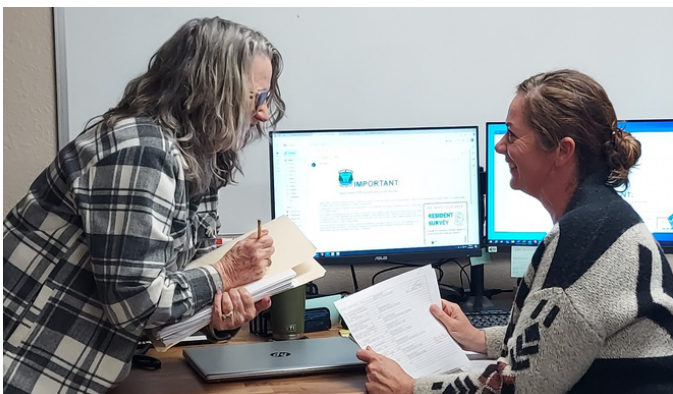
THCSD has applied for and received many grants over the years to improve our infrastructure, develop community projects, and increase our water source. Since we are not a town or city but a “census-designated place” it is harder to get grants. We rely on the fact that we are a “under represented” community. During the last census our status was changed but our community has not. This is the reason this survey is so important.



THCSD has and will continue to apply for state and federal funding opportunities to help subsidize the replacement of several miles of its aging drinking water and sewer mains. To determine our District's eligibility, the funding agency must determine the median household income of the THCSD service area. THCSD is working with the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (www.RCAC.org) to execute the survey. RCAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates in 13 western states and Pacific islands. They serve Indigenous and rural communities through training, technical and financial assistance, and advocacy.



The initial response of our local residents has been low and a large return rate is required for the survey to be considered valid. The majority of the responses that were coming in were from people that live elsewhere and have second homes in our area... this does not represent our district.



Carol worked with Lauren to develop a script to aid us in our correspondence. Four THA-CERT members, Carol, John Buckingham, Lise Lemonnier, and me, spent 20 hours calling over 400 residents over two days. Many telephone numbers were disconnected landlines. The team left many voicemail messages. For those residents we spoke with, many were unaware of the reason for the survey, and we were able to inform them of the community's need and the importance of their response.

The deployment was a success and THA-CERT fulfilled one of our edicts of educating our community.



AS THE WIND BLOWS

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



They say that March and April can be the windiest months of the year, well March had its moments! We had some violent winds this month evidenced by the debris all over the roads.



I was out for a morning walk (yes, I started walking again) and there was the top of a dead tree impeding the traffic of one lane on Golf Club Drive in Twain Harte. When you looked up you could see that two trees were missing their tips. The other tip ended up in the yard below. The debris was scattered everywhere.

I took a couple pictures and sent them to the fire chief to see if it was reported. He said that County roads had been notified. I continued on my walk.

As you can see it was hard for a car to pass with all the mess.



By the time I got back to the scene CALFIRE was there to the rescue. They made fast work of it and had the road cleared in no time. I am grateful for the corporation of our two fire stations in Twain Harte, the hard work they both do and the dedication to our community.

County roads did come many days later and cut the large log into smaller pieces.



LUCAS IS FINALLY HERE

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief

LUCAS is finally here! No, Lucas is not a new employee or a new volunteer, but a device that can help save lives. It is the Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS). This device provides external and automated closed chest compressions in cases when Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) would be needed.



THA-CERT volunteers worked hard throughout 2023 to raise the funds to purchase this device. Through that dedication and the generosity of the community we were able to purchase the device at the end of the year. It was on back order for a while and when it arrived, it came without the two battery packs it runs on. While we waited for the battery packs our firefighters got the specialized training that they needed to become proficient with the machine.

On the second week of March all the components were ready and LUCAS was put on the fire engine. In its first week of service Twain Harte Fire Department (THFD) received a call that reported an unresponsive person. The crew headed to the location and grabbed their gear including the LUCAS machine.



Utilizing the specialized training as well as the experience and knowledge that they have they got to work quickly. The machine does the work of a person doing CPR but without getting tired or missing a beat. So they had an extra person on scene, LUCAS. They also used an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and could spend time with the family because they had LUCAS to help. They were able to get a pulse as the ambulance arrived.

The way we learned so much about this was that during the Twain Harte Community Services District (THCSD) March board meeting THFD crew demonstrated the LUCAS machine for us. Captain Slater gave us a run down of the deployment and then his crew did a demonstration. It was obvious that they were proud to show us their skills.



Thank you to the volunteers that dedicated so much time in 2023 to help make the fundraisers such a success. Thank you to the residents, visitors, and community members that made such generous donations. Your help is very much appreciated by the Fire Department and this whole community. We now have a new tool to help us in case of medical emergencies.



With that major fundraising effort now successfully over, we are on a new mission. The AED devices, on the fire engines that help with defibrillation, are showing their age and need to be replaced. Please support our fundraising efforts and this year's drive to raise the money to update this life-saving equipment. We will also be placing AED strategically along the 108 corridor along with CPR & AED training.



Cheesy Green Bean Chicken Casserole



4-6 servings ⌚ 15 min prep
45 total time

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tbsp. butter
- 1/2 lb. cremini mushrooms
- 1 med yellow onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 c. low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 1/2 c. half & half
- 3 c. shredded Cheddar cheese
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 lb. cooked farfalle pasta
- 1 (10-oz.) bag frozen green beans, thawed
- shredded chicken
- 2 c. store-bought fried onions

NOTES

Quick and easy dinner. You could use store bought rotisserie or boil chicken with salted water till tender.

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350. Preheat a large (12-inch) nonstick (oven proof) skillet over medium heat. Melt the butter in the preheated skillet and add the mushrooms, onion, and garlic. Cook, stirring until softened, about 6 min.
2. Add the flour to the skillet and cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute. While stirring, slowly pour in the chicken broth and half & half. Bring to a simmer over medium heat and cook, stirring, until the sauce thickens, about 7 minutes.
3. Remove the sauce from the heat and stir 2 cups of the cheddar cheese into the sauce until melted. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Stir the cooked pasta, green beans, and shredded chicken into the cheese sauce. Top with remaining cup of cheese & fried onions.
5. Transfer the skillet to the oven and bake until cheese is bubbly, about 5 minutes. Ready to serve.

Recipe shared by: Carol Hallett

SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



I know it seems unlikely that we should have tornados and/or severe weather warnings but we have experienced winds of 95 miles an hour here in Tuolumne County. One year we even had a “micro burst” which is a mini tornado touch down in Twain Harte. On March 11, 2023 a tornado touched down shortly before 3 p.m. along Old Melones Road along the south end of New Melones Lake and west of Sonora and Jamestown, better known as Tuttle town.

With the tango of spring and winter weather going on, there seem to be more tornadoes popping up in and around the Central Valley. Being a Californian I honestly don't know what to do if a local tornado warning is announced on the radio.

So here are some steps to take:

- 1) **GET INSIDE** a building quickly if you are outside. Get as far into the building as possible.
- 2) **GET DOWN**. Go under ground (basement) if possible. If no basement go to the lowest floor possible away from windows.
- 3) **COVER UP**. Flying and falling debris are a storms number one killer. Use pillows, blankets, helmets, etc to protect your head and body. Lay flat on the floor.
- 4) **Take cover** in a window less bathrooms, closets, hallways or under stairs.
- 5) If you are in a vehicle **seek shelter** in a sturdy building off the road. Try to drive away from the path of a tornado. Avoid seeking shelter under a highway overpass.
- 6) **Be aware** of your surroundings and weather conditions via radio.

The weather “tango” is one dance I have not learned maybe we should take a class.



WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief

The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for March are:

Administration =	206
Training =	45
<u>Deployment =</u>	<u>25</u>
Total hours =	276



WHAT'S NEXT?

Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

<https://www.visittuolumne.com/events>

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

<https://www.twainhartecce.com/events>



Training



CERT Basic Training

Are you ready to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors when a disaster happens?

With the cooperation of the Twain Harte Fire Department we offer an opportunity for you to attend a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic training academy. This is a 20-hour training course that will include both classroom instruction and hands-on training. The trainers are subject matter experts.

When?

- April 19, 2024 1630-2030 (4:30 pm to 8:30 pm)
- April 20, 2024 0900-1700 (9 am to 5 pm)
- April 21, 2024 0900-1700 (9 am to 5 pm)

Where?

- Day 1 & 2**
18775 Manzanita Dr
Twain Harte
(TH Community Center)
- Day 3**
22192 Vantage Pointe Dr
Twain Harte
(THCSD Offices)

Training Includes:

- Personal Preparedness
- Organizing Resources
- Fire Safety/Utility Controls
- Basic Medical Operations
- Light Search & Rescue
- Basic Damage Assessment
- Final Simulation Drill

To register:

RSVP required
twainhartecert@gmail.com

Printing generously donated by

Tuolumne County Wildfire Preparedness
★ **TOWN HALL** ★

Please Join Us
Saturday, April 6th, 2024
9:00am to 2:00 pm

Mother Lode Fairgrounds
220 Southgate Dr,
Sonora, CA 95370

Learn how you can prepare for the upcoming wildfire season with informative sessions, educational booths, fun, and prizes!

For more information, contact Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services at (209) 533-6395, email at oes@co.tuolumne.ca.us or visit www.tuolumnecounty.gov/oes

Mark your calendar

PRESENTS

THE WORLD CLASS TWAIN HARTE OUTHOUSE RACES

June 1, 2024

Parade at 9:00 AM - Race 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Eproson Park, Twain Harte, CA
(AKA "Flushing Downs")

Firefighter Challenge-Perpetual Trophy
Wine, Beer & Margaritas
Local Food Vendors
Craft Vendors
Tot Pot Races

When It's Truly An Emergency

For more information:
twainhartecert@gmail.com
(209) 481-5790

For vendor information:
mountainmeadowproductions@gmail.com

This fundraiser benefits: Twain Harte Volunteer Fire Department (THVFD) & THA-CERT.

Who Let The Dogs Out ... In Twain Harte?

- Dog Parade & Family Day -
Saturday, April 20th
Downtown Twain Harte

Registration at 10:00AM Parade Starts at 11:00AM

Activities at Participating businesses to follow
For more details visit www.twainhartecce.com

Sponsored by The Twain Harte Area Chamber of Commerce
All proceeds from participation benefit local animal shelters

Download the entry form:

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/twain-harte-outhouse-race-2024>

Meetings

THCSD Board Meeting, 22912 Vantage Point, TH
<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>
Wednesday, April 10, 2024 9:00 am



Join the weekly:
Twain Harte Neighborhood Radio Watch
Wed: 7:00 PM Sun: 9:00 AM
FRSM: ch 18

THA-CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting
THCSD Brd Room, 22912 Vantage Point Dr, TH
Thursday, April 4, 2024 9:30 am

Not
My
Kid

MENTAL HEALTH TOOLS

EVERY PARENT
NEEDS TO KEEP
KIDS HAPPY,
HEALTHY &
SUCCESSFUL

WEDNESDAY
April 10
2024
5-8:30 PM

Sierra Bible Church
15171 Tuolumne Road, Sonoma CA
5-8:30pm
Free Tickets/Free Dinner
(CHILDCARE AVAILABLE)



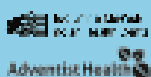
Choice of Two Breakout Sessions from the following:

Drug Awareness	Dr. Kim Freeman
Youth Mental Health	Bob White & Heather Albertson
Internet Safety	Brian Thomas
Science of Happiness	Rob Egger
Healthy Relationships	Alex Abarca
Bullying Prevention	Pam Orebaugh & Darrell Slocum

5:00-5:55pm	Check-in, Dinner, & Resource tables
6:00-6:20pm	Opening Remarks
6:30-7:05pm	Session #1
7:15-7:50pm	Session #2
8:00-8:30pm	Q&A



Lantern
of Light



To reserve your free ticket, dinner and childcare

Register at
NotMyKid.Life