

Our City

Sitting down to write this morning, I had a hard time thinking of anything new that I could share with you. I am not sure if old age is creeping up on me or if my memory is just dependent on electronic storage because when I look at last week's calendar on my computer I am not sure how I got it all done. As we get older, we are supposed to work smarter not harder; I am not sure I have the smarter part figured out as it seems to get harder to stay caught up.

Last Monday, after school and work, at the City Hall, I attended the annual spring planning meeting for the Power County 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale Committee; a group of awesome volunteers who like our School Board always put the best interests of our youth first. Numerous improvement projects were discussed and approved to be completed this spring at the fairgrounds and as you attend the County Fair next fall it will have a different feel to it as well. Historically, the "show" has been held on Thursday of fair week. Next year, it will be split with sheep and goats showing Wednesday evening, then on Thursday, the swine and beef will show. This was done out of consideration for the kids and the animals, which by the end of a typical show day, were beyond exhausted. I applaud the Committee for their foresight and willingness to change.

Tuesday was an all-day meeting of a different sort as I sat on the 6th Judicial District's Magistrate Commission charged with selecting a new magistrate judge. The Commission appointed Pocatello attorney, Aaron N. Thompson to serve as a Bannock County magistrate judge. Thompson will take the bench in March to replace the Honorable Rick Carnaroli, who was recently appointed as a district judge for the Sixth Judicial District. I certainly agree with another of my fellow commissioners Lonna Jean Conroy who stated, "Selecting Mr. Thompson from the field of laudatory candidates was a difficult, but smooth process." Thompson's selection is important to you because in times of conflict or absence for other reasons he may well take the bench in Power County for Judge Paul Laggis.

Following the Magistrate selection, I made my way to the Regional Idaho Fish and Game Office, where I met City Councilman Stuart Pankratz, for a public meeting to discuss possible fishing regulation changes in 2019. Most of what we heard was good news in terms of catch rates above and below the dam in American Falls. I say most because there are still instances of people fishing with bait and fish leaving the river during the catch-and-release season. The Fish and Game has been studying the impact of the catch-and-release season since its implementation; they will be sharing their results at the May 2, 2018 City Council meeting.

Wednesday morning started earlier than usual as I had some final preparations to get done for the Career Day at AFHS before our 7:00 am conference call with Senator Guthrie and Representatives Armstrong and Packer. If you have an interest in the continued funding of our local governing bodies and schools you may wish to contact our legislators as well and urge them to oppose House Bill 556 - Personal Property Exemption the County Option and House Bill 487A209 - Rerunning Bond & Levy Elections Prohibited. HB 556 has the potential to gut funding for our County, City and Schools while HB 487A209 will allow bond elections only once per year if they fail in their initial attempt. You may recall it took multiple tries to pass a bond for a new intermediate school and hospital; HB 487A209 will effectively kill any chance of bonding to the level of public support. In my conversations with our legislators, I believe

they too will oppose both bills, but it wouldn't hurt if they heard from you too; if you are inclined.

To the nearly 60 regional business and industry professionals who participated in our American Falls High School Career day, I sincerely thank you for making the time to share your insight and guidance with our students. No other schools offer such an opportunity. Like last year, several students came away from the Career Day with legitimate job offers.

I only got to last Wednesday and I am out of space, so much for my memory and brevity. Bid packets will be available for Willow Bay Café after this Wednesday's Council meeting. It appears that Governor Otter has signed the legislation that will allow us to rebuild Fort Hall from Harrison to the by-pass this summer. The sidewalk project from South City Park to Lee Street Park will be set for bid this Wednesday as well. Smarter? Nope, I am not catching up.

Until next week...