

Our City

I got a call from my friend Pete Cortez a few days ago asking if I wanted to get in a local fishing derby today. I pondered his invitation for a couple of reasons. The first is I wasn't sure I would have this column finished; and as you know, it is my Saturday morning ritual. The fishing was to start at 7:30 a.m., which is about the time I usually finish. My second reason was because I have an aversion to turning something that relaxes me into something competitive or work. I used to be a fairly good fly tier. When I was asked to tie professionally, I declined that offer as well. Of late I haven't been doing much of either and Pete's invitation offered an opportunity to at least get on the water; so I was ready to commit before another matter came up. This one needed my immediate attention, so I had to forego Pete's invitation.

As I mentioned last week, Lieutenant Governor Brad Little asked me about Magnida a week ago when I was in Boise. It is a subject that isn't getting a lot of attention but it seems to be on a lot of folks' minds. I get asked about it almost daily wherever I am. Yesterday a voice message was waiting for me at City Hall from Senator Crapo's office wanting to know the status of Magnida. The short answer I gave was, "I don't know." The rumor mill is amuck with tales of gloom and doom. But, as far as I have been informed, Magnida is still seeking financial close (securing all their funding sources) sometime in March. Beyond that, anything I could say would be conjecture.

I would say without any doubt that the February 18th City Council meeting will be lengthy. The Council will be receiving an overview of recent ground water law developments and its interpretations as possible curtailment looms. That portion of the meeting will begin at 5:00 pm. At 7:00 p.m., the regular Council meeting will be called to order and agenda item number two will be the public hearing on the proposed smoking ordinance for City parks and ball fields. To be clear, this is the time that you can briefly express your opinion on the issue to the Council. After the public hearing is concluded, the Council may wish to deliberate further and may or may not take action. If no action is taken, the second and third readings of the proposed ordinance will take place at the subsequent two City Council meetings with a vote taken at the third. There will be no more opportunity at a Council meeting for public input after the 18th.

I had the opportunity to attend a joint meeting between the American Falls Men's and Women's Golf Association Boards on Thursday evening. To my surprise their respective leaderships said it was their first-ever joint meeting. Tournament schedules were discussed and penciled in as the two associations worked with new City Golf Pro Denny Howell and Superintendent Cody Moldenhauer. The interesting part of the meeting for me was the discussions on course improvements and memorials. The group came up with some great suggestions for the ways each could be implemented and funded. Those ideas will take association action by the women and men and then forwarded to the Golf Committee for implementation. But, as I explained to the group, the City has every intent and interest in working with them to make their great ideas reality. I would welcome the opportunity to speak to their respective groups or collectively to answer any questions they may have and take constructive feedback on how we can make golf in American Falls something that more folks want to do.

I do plan to fish today. I hope to find Pete and his friends somewhere on the river after I fulfill my other commitment. It is supposed to be perfect today with winds up to 30 mph and a 50 percent chance of rain, although the rain doesn't look likely. How unfortunate, I know, I am an odd duck. Then again, that was a forgone conclusion.

Until next week...