

Our City

I told them before they competed that half of life is showing up; the other half is what you do when you get there. Not overly profound I know but nonetheless, true. The East Magic Valley FFA District Leadership Career Development Events were held at American Falls High School last Wednesday and our students did exceptionally well. There are eight Chapters in our District with 12 advisors. Each advisor had the same opportunity to prepare teams and individuals as we did; yet when it was all said and done the American Falls members won eight of the ten events. In the days leading up to the events all but one of the ten events had multiple teams or individuals signed up. But, there is a difference between signing up and showing up ready to compete. The 30 members from American Falls did the latter while many of those from other Chapters failed to appear. Jaxson Burgemeister commented after competing in the Ag Sales event that, "They won by default." Which in of itself is true but seven other Chapters had the same opportunity. Four had actually signed up but only one showed up and competed. I don't believe I have ever seen Coach Jim Giulio not accept forfeit points in a wrestling match when his wrestler did what was necessary to be ready to compete. Half of life is showing up.

Twenty-seven American Falls FFA members will show up to compete at the State Leadership events next month at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls; the most ever from our Chapter. Fourteen will receive the State FFA Degree; the second most ever. My bet is that those who are competing will do just that to the very best of their ability. I need to thank once again those who choose to support our Chapter whether it be the 12 business and industry professionals who helped judge the events last week or the farmers who give so generously to our program making next month's State competitive events possible for more than half our members. It is no small thing that each of you choose to do; it changes lives in a profound way. Our members are so very fortunate to have you all as supporters; they can do no less than their best when they step up to compete. Thank you all for the opportunities you provide these great kids!

On the City side of things Spring is near and our departments are ramping up their related duties and I see progress even in the wee hours. As I walked our streets this past week admiring much of what has been done I met my goal of one million steps and 500 miles in 40 days. As I have, you too may have noticed the Street crew has been out sweeping and cleaning our streets where access is available; long-term parked vehicles still hinder their efforts as many citizens seem oblivious to the difficulties they cause. At the request of the new Street Superintendent Daren Dahlke, Sanitation, or the garbage truck, was moved to the Street department from Water and Waste Water this past week.

The Golf Course opened last week as weather seems to be warming a bit. As I was in visiting with Denny Howell yesterday, he informed me that he had switched from the previous broadband supplier to a new one in hopes that the system wouldn't fail during tournaments this year like it did three times last year. Like so many thing these days, much of what we take for granted is anything but commonplace when it is not available and it is needed the most. I hope the change provides a better service to those of you who take part in our golf tournaments.

If you have been out and about you may have noticed that our parks have been mowed and are being readied for warmer weather and more use. Willow Bay looks great by the way. The Park and Street crews have also been working together on a few projects around the campground as Tamby Gilley and her husband Anthony have been clearing the area around the docks from the willows and preparing for a productive camping season. Jeremy Peirsol, our Public Works Coordinator, informs me that we have a few senior project possibilities as the new picnic tables need to be painted and we need three new fire rings built. I will be passing that information on to Caroline Wight, who manages the Senior Project class at the high school.

In my walks out to Willow Bay this last week I stopped in and talked to Scott, the new concessionaire, a few times. He is in the process of trying to open the café; but is waiting on the installation of a “2 sink.” Apparently if your menu consists of fresh food and meat that is cut and prepared in-house, the Health Department requires the installation of a separate sink system than the one dishes are washed in. Which made sense once I thought about it. But, it also made me wonder at what and how food had been prepared in the past. Apparently according to the health code it had to have been pre-processed and prepped; not fresh. So as Scott waits for Lusk Plumbing to install the required fresh food sink, he remains anxious to open, but cannot. He has purchased a very large event grill along with two smaller ones, an upright mixer for making fresh breads and pastries, a meat and cheese slicer for the fresh sandwiches and two smokers where brisket and ribs will be cooked.

I am excited about the fresh food and other menu possibilities. I know Scott is wanting to open the doors in the very near future but we remain at the mercy of Seth Lusk’s very busy schedule. Once the sink is installed and Scott has the approval of the Health Department things will begin to move quickly at the Willow Bay Café. Half of life is showing up and Scott has done that. When you are good at what you do, like Seth is, sometimes it not always possible to be everywhere you are needed. With some luck and planning, hopefully he can get Scott up and running this week. I know both Scott and Tamby are in this for the long haul. I am truly glad they both decided to show up. I can’t wait to see what they do when given the chance to compete.

Until next week...