

Our City by M. Dan Hammond 5/5/19

Thank you to Mayor Beitia for the opportunity to write his column this week while he's in Washington D.C. He has been diligently taking care of his duties as Teacher of the Year for the State of Idaho. An honor he so richly deserves! Mayor Beitia is an Icon in FFA circles as well as in our own city! His FFA program has been one of the best in the state for several years running. This is of course a credit to Marc as well as the American Falls School District. The program has even gotten better since Randy Jensen became Superintendent! We now have 3 very competent Ag Teachers instead of one and we have a hugely successful alumni program with some very impressive results. The recent Donkey Basketball program was the best ever and the dollars donated through the harvest programs are reaching new highs! People love success and gravitate toward successful people and programs. We all want to be part of something successful and bigger than ourselves! It's a pleasure to be involved in the FFA.

As Mayor Beitia pointed out in a recent column, American Falls takes the prize for being one of the largest water users in the State. Keller associates recently completed a Water Facility Planning Study for the city. One of the main takeaways was this: Annual average use 513 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) is over two times greater than the Idaho average of 210 gpcd! Our Summer use is often over 1000 gpcd! We are pushing the capacity of the system as well as our water rights! We must take personal action to reduce the amount of water we use each day! This morning as I was driving to church I saw

water running down 2 different gutters because the sprinklers were missing the grass or the grass was too saturated with water and it was just running off. We must take personal responsibility to regulate the amount of water we use. Over irrigating our grass is unnecessary and extremely wasteful! Each household must take the responsibility to police themselves. A few years ago when we tried to pass the Sewer Bond, we included water meters, in the project. You, our citizens, vehemently opposed this idea and the bond failed. Here is the bottom line, we must conserve or we may be forced to resort to water meters. Please do your part! Please take it as a challenge to reduce your personal water consumption. It's the right thing to do!

There were other items outlined in the study that will take time and money to correct. First, we'll have to figure out where to get the money, but immediately, we can reduce our personal water consumption! Please get on this bandwagon ASAP, You can make a difference!

Today is CINCO DE MAYO, I'm sure there has been lots of celebrating. This weekend, May 12 is Mother's Day! Take the opportunity to celebrate your Mothers! They are such a great part of your life and do so much for each of us. We need to make sure that they know how much we love them! My Mother passed away in 2008 and I miss her every day and remember what she taught me and remember her great influence on me! Mother taught homemaking at West Side High School for several years and had great influence on lots of folks. Lots of changes over the years, they don't even teach homemaking anymore. I can't say that is a good thing, but whatever you

mother does, celebrate her! Tell her you love her, Take her to dinner, make a phone call! Do something special, you'll never be sorry! Until next week when the Mayor will return.....