

Magic Valley

Fair rents hiked

By PATRICK MARCANTONIO
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS. — The Twin Falls County Fair Board hopes to bring in more money by increasing the rent on food concessions and in merchant buildings at fair time. During the rest of the year, the board will encourage groups to make more use of the grounds.

Effective this year, the annual fair will increase its income. The price hike was approved last Monday by the Twin Falls County Fair Board. The cost of a square foot for food concessions will rise from \$1 to \$1.25, Fair Manager Tom Shouse said.

Rent inside the merchant buildings and on the grounds will increase from \$130 to \$15 a space.

Those merchants who pay before May 10 will receive a discount on the rest, Shouse said.

Last year, the fair made about \$40,000 by renting space to 83 merchants and 29 food concessions.

Because one of the merchant buildings will become the new home of the dog exhibit, some merchants will be moved to the produce building west of the carnival. The current dog building will be torn down to make room for a much-needed stock show ring, Shouse said.

He didn't anticipate a decrease in the number of spaces available for merchants, however.

The fair board has decided to more actively solicit use of the fairgrounds during the rest of the year.

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Man killed while riding snowmobile

HANSEN. — A Paul man is dead following a snowmobile accident Saturday night in the parking lot at Diamondfield Jack Snowmobile Area south of Hansen.

A doctor at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center pronounced Eugene Buerkle, 45, of Paul, dead Sunday morning as the result of massive head trauma.

Buerkle and Fred Rice were riding snowmobiles traveling north on Rock Creek Road toward the park lot of the snowmobile area about 9 p.m. Saturday when the accident occurred, according to Twin Falls Sheriff's Office records.

Rice slowed down to pull into the parking lot through an entrance that had been cut in a snow bank to allow snowmobiles access to the lot, and Buerkle passed him, according to the report.

Buerkle braked suddenly to try to maneuver through the opening, but instead hit the ridge. He slid the machine shot over the embankment, falling to the parking lot, the report said. When Rice reached him, Buerkle was lying face down behind his machine and his helmet had been knocked off. Rice reported blood on the back of Buerkle's head.

Rice stayed with Buerkle while other snowmobilers who had been camping at the parking lot went for help. Nancy Stoller, a registered nurse from Rupert, was in the area and tried cardiopulmonary resuscitation on Buerkle unsuccessfully. There was no pulse when she reached Buerkle at about 10 p.m., according to Sheriff's Office records.

Campers broke into a Forest Service Ranger Station about a half-mile away to summon help. An ambulance from the town of Twin Falls and two Buerkle at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. He was pronounced dead when he reached the hospital at 12:30 a.m. Sunday.



Weldon Beck, Cassia County commissioner, reflects over his years in public service.

After 15 years' service, Filer fire chief hangs it up

By KAREN MAIN
Times-News correspondent

Ainsworth reassured the council he will stay said

or as a consultant for six months to a year, his resignation to help train new volunteer firefighters and organize the administration of the first department.

Reflecting on his years as a member of the Fire Department in Filer, the city's first department, and the Twin Falls City Mutual Fire Department, Ainsworth said, "The biggest thing is knowing that you're doing something for your community."

"I've enjoyed my time on the fire department," he said. "It's been a fantastic experience — both good and bad."

Once in a while, Ainsworth said firefighters are yelled at or "called a few choice words" when the fire trucks are a little slow to the scene of a fire, usually because the department was given the wrong directions.

"But 99 percent of the time, the fire chief said people are grateful that help has arrived," he said. "I guess that's what keeps you going."

There cannot be any other reason firefighters are willing to be awakened in the middle of the night to go out into sub-zero temperatures and endanger their lives to put out a fire, Ainsworth said in good humor.

The hours are really screwy — you never know if you're going to finish your meal or sometimes even a shower," he said.

The only benefit the job has to offer is that "we get to get up in the middle of the night," he said laughing.

Since the benefits are limited to late night experiences and the only money firefighters receive is reimbursement for their expenses, Ainsworth said he cannot figure out why he took the job as fire chief except that "it was the lucky one."

"I guess I was just the dumbest one in the bunch and I got hooked into it," he said laughing.

In his job, Ainsworth said he has found that the fire itself is probably the easiest part of the whole thing.

What is really time-consuming is training firefighters, preparing equipment and filling out paperwork.

"The paperwork is murder," he said. But Ainsworth said there is qualification on the job when he investigated a suspicious fire and is instrumental in seeing that an arsonist is caught and convicted.

As the fire chief is responsible for 14 to 18 stations, Ainsworth said "the first thing in my mind is always safety — to make sure no one is killed or hurt. Firefighting is the most hazardous occupation in the United States," he said.

But fortunately, Ainsworth said, in all his years of service there has never been a life-threatening situation at any of the fires in his jurisdiction.

"You just keep your fingers crossed every time," he said.

Wendell zoning planners try to protect dairy area

By TERRILL WILLIAMS
Times-News correspondent

WENDELL. — Residential Wendell will not expand into a dairy area, agree a group of volunteers who are now planning the city's future growth.

At the group's recent meeting, Art Rathburn, city planning consultant, described the 23 volunteers as "busy-beavers" who will only need about three years to complete a comprehensive plan which, he says, "traditionally takes 10 years."

High on the list of priorities for the group is improvement of the city water system, which is

according to a written policy, "shall be considered the highest priority for use of any city monies available over and above the regular budgeted needs."

However, after discussion in which one volunteer said the sewer system was at least of equal importance, the group changed "the highest priority" to "a high priority."

Also during the two-hour meeting, the citizens clarified city policies allowing city employees to answer fire calls as volunteer firemen.

City Superintendent Charlie Doty said he cannot always spare two members of his crew, especially when a water main is shut off until

the group concurred with Rathburn's working assumption that specified personnel may attend fires at the supervisor's discretion.

Rathburn, following the majority opinion of the group, had written that "these employees could only attend fires in the city."

After a discussion, the group directed him to change that policy to allow the employees to attend fires outside the city also.

In covering other topics, the consultant advised Wendell residents to start securing future water supplies now because, he said, water rights are becoming increasingly difficult to

vance, the consultant said; the city can save money by planning and budgeting for water and sewer systems toward that area. A detached or remote residential area makes demanding city services would cost existing users an unfair amount of money, he noted.

Rathburn said most of the policies being written for the city's first zoning plan are already followed by the Wendell City Council.

"We are writing down and trying to clarify existing policies so it's better written form," he explained.

The planning and zoning meetings are being held every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Fire Station. The public is invited.

Czech refugee takes a long, winding path to Glenns Ferry

By DIANA HOOLEY
Times-News correspondent

GLENNS FERRY. — You might say it was a long hard ride for Petre Mares to went his wife to Glenns Ferry.

A 26-year-old Czechoslovakian refugee,

Mares, who admits he is not a good swimmer, loves to live in the mighty Mur River to cross into Austria to find the freedom the West had offered.

That was a year and a half ago. He has been in Glenns Ferry for just three weeks.

With the help of the Idaho Refugee Com-

pany, Mares was put in touch with Health Electronic Manufacturing Company of Glenns

Ferry and given the chance he needed to live and work in America. He is an electronic engineer for the company.

After graduating from the University of Prague, Mares said he began plotting his escape. He read many books about the West, and he wants to help him because he was not the type

to practice free speech is not practical.

But Mares says the people there did not want to help him because he was not the type of political refugee.

But Mares says the people there did not want to help him because he was not the type of political refugee.

He says the two of them took a train to Maribor in the western portion of

Slovenia and then hiked 20 miles through woods to the Austrian border. Instead he hitchhiked to the Italian border, tried to cross there, but barbed wire walls and guard towers filled with armed police turned him back.

Stillundaunted, Mares hitchhiked his way to Belgrade, determined, he says, to exhaust every diplomatic channel available in his efforts to escape to East Europe.

Alone in Belgrade with no place to stay and little money, Mares was told again by his parents he was going on to Yugoslavia. He then purchased a tourist travel ticket, located a place to stay at a United Nations refugee camp outside Belgrade.

Mares says it was at this time he met a fellow Czechoslovakian who became his friend and together they plotted their escape to Austria.

He says the two of them took a train to Yugoslavia and then hiked 20 miles through woods to the Austrian border.

Now the only obstacle to his escape to a free country was the mighty Mur River, said Mares. Mares describes the river as the size of the Snake River, only more treacherous and wild.

"We didn't have a compass, only a watch, the sun and a very bad map," relates Mares, who with his friend dove into the Mur, fully clothed.

Mares says his friend was a good swimmer and went straight across the river.

"I went this way," Mares demonstrates using his hand to draw a wide diagonal in the air. "He says he was wet, cold, hungry and exhausted when he finally reached the other side.

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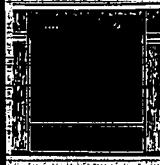
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