

PUBLIC FORUM

Move the fair!

Editor, Spectrum:

I am writing as a citizen of Washington County to express my personal opinion about the Washington County Fair. I am a resident of the "other side of the county" — Ivins. I want to say that I am all for a move of the fair to St. George, the main reason being that it would be so much easier for folks throughout the county to make their entries to the fair. To have to go to Hurricane to take items by the time-deadline, go back to enjoy the various activities and participate in the fair numerous times, and then to go back and pick up entry items is a lot of traveling around. To some the time and expense may be no object, but for others, it limits their enjoyment of the fair.

I think of citizens up in Enterprise, Veyo and Gunlock. That makes a lot of unnecessary travel. St. George is the center of activity in our area. All my life (I was born and raised here!) we've made our frequent treks to St. George for everything from schooling, shopping and banking to medical services, etc. It seems that with such a fine facility as the new Dixie Center (which we are all helping to pay for!), and the fact that the Hurricane High School will no longer be available, now is the time for a natural change. It would be a waste of taxpayers money to build another facility in Hurricane. I have nothing against Hurricane, they've done a great job, but I think as with everything else, we must grow and change with the times. (Let's face it, we old-timers are sometimes too resistant to change, but sometimes that change is truly in the best interests of the majority.) My hat is off to Cleo Atkin and Kurt Young for sticking by their convictions.

I feel that with the growth of the county and change in facilities we need a change at this time. Also, much talent could be tapped in the larger St. George area as far as leadership, and I truly believe that the distance involved with taking display items to-and-from has hampered many people in participating in the fair as much as they would like and otherwise could.

Is there a way the public could vote on this important issue?

Since it is the concern of All of us, I think it only fair that we the people should have a say in where it is put and not let a few people and commissioners decide the fate of something that will affect us all.

Maybe the fair could at least be given a trial-run in St. George to see if there would be a difference, and leave an opinion box in a nice conspicuous place where everyone could express their feelings — pro and con, then maybe we'd find out what citizens really want!

I think that would be a fair deal for all the county. If we're leaving it in Hurricane just to please their local businessmen, then I think it is being unfair to the county as a whole as well as stopping Hurricane from coming up with their own creative ways of promoting their own businesses. (How about an annual fruit festival?!).

These are my personal views. I wonder what the rest of our county residents are thinking?

Sincerely,
Norene R. Mackley
Ivins