

Airlines should disclose complete ticket costs

Airlines are asking Congress to overturn a regulation requiring them to quote the full cost of a ticket, rather than just the fare, in advertising or when people go online.

In an over regulated world, it'd be nice to think that shedding at least one set of regulations would be a good thing. But we have to ask, why do the airlines want to deceive people into thinking their fare will be lower than it really is?

The carriers want to be able to advertise, or quote, just the fare for a ticket, which might be, say, \$400. However, the actual bill may be closer to \$495 with taxes and fees; the consumer won't know until they get to the last page of a website sale or read the fine print at the bottom of the page.

This is not something every airline did, even when regulations allowed it. Some independent websites showed both prices up front, while some made you wait to see the full bill. It was the same with airlines until the current regulations went into effect.

The airlines fought the regulation before the Department of Transportation issued it two years ago, but having lost that battle, took their fight to Congress. A House committee passed the bill out on a voice vote - no record of who supported or opposed it - after a reported nine minutes of discussion.

One representative called it "a gift to the airlines."

"It's misleading to the consumer," Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said to an Associated Press reporter. "It's just dishonest."

The airlines' hope, apparently, is that, in an era of rising ticket prices, people will be comfortable enough with the basic fare to commit to a sale, and won't be inclined to back out later when they see the full price.

The airlines argue that they should be able to advertise prices the same way hotels, rental car companies and even grocery stores do - sans taxes.

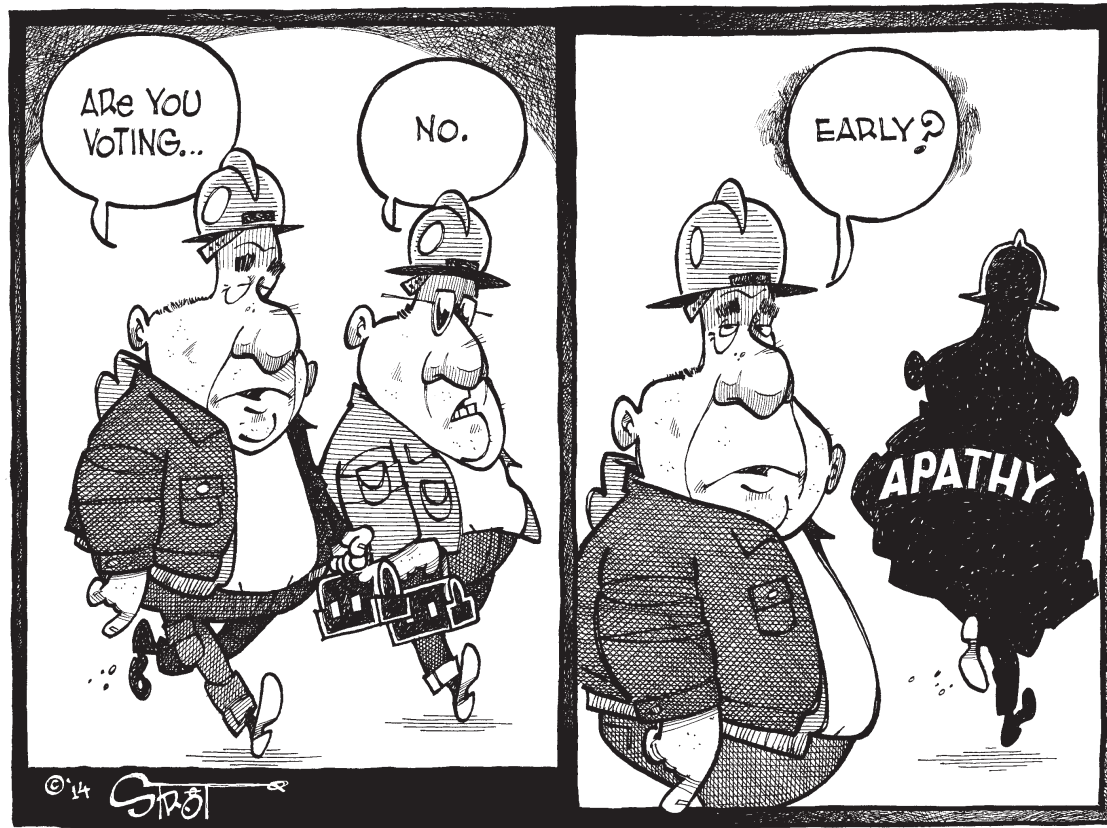
"Consumers are better served when they can buy airfares like they buy any other product," said Sharon Pinkerton, senior vice president of the group Airlines for America, which represents the carriers. "I think what's confusing is to have airfares treated differently."

Maybe that's true, though it seems more honest to disclose the entire price of a ticket, room or other service up front.

We wouldn't back a law to require groceries or department stores to post their prices "including sales tax," but it might be nice if they did so. It'd be nice if we felt the airlines weren't trying to trick us as they continually hike their prices, too. We'd prefer them to give us the bad news up front.

Most people don't travel by air that often, and many may not know what to expect. But if the airlines get the law changed, they'll certainly do whatever they think will be best for sales, not consumers.

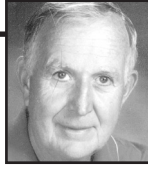
Our advice is, "buyer beware." Anyone who goes to buy an airline ticket, especially on a website, should know it'll cost a bunch more than the advertised price. - Steve Haynes



Legislative News

Make an Informed Choice

By Ward Cassidy



120th State Representative

The August primary is less than a few weeks away. There are several primary elections in the 120th district for state and national offices. November will be the month where political parties clash and the final winners and losers will be decided.

I will end my four years as a State Representative in November. I have enjoyed the many contacts I have made and the knowledge I have gained about politics in Kansas. My biggest disappointment about elections is that so many people don't vote and so many more don't know anything about the people they are voting for. This past weekend, I was at a conference where people from all over our state were present. I asked everyone I spoke with "who is your state representative and who is your state senator." Only two people actually knew. I spoke with a lady who was a graduate of an area high school, and she commented that she learned more about what was going on in Topeka from my

articles than anywhere else. She graduated from an area high school and still subscribes to their paper.

My point is that only a small minority of Kansans work diligently to not only vote but encourage others to vote their way. Only a small minority know what the major issues are in Kansas. In the 120th district, the most common email I received dealt with gun control and abortion issues. These are both very important issues, but there are many more that will affect the quality of life we have in North-west Kansas.

I would advise that post cards should not be the deciding factor on how you choose your candidate or how you vote on an issue. Post cards can come from anyone and say about anything they want. Recently, post cards have been used to make people fearful of an issue and have not presented the facts accurately. The recent post cards on the Renewable Energy Standards were made out to make people think they were funding wind energy, in

the state, out of their electric bills. There was a lot more to the issue.

Being a state representative is a very challenging job. Being a state representative from Western Kansas is even more so. I went to Topeka thinking I was a conservative Republican. Basic fiscal thought was to not spend more than the state was bringing in and to limit the size of government. The legislature is run by the far right; and when they limit government and spending, it hurts Western Kansas more than I liked. I ended up making concessions to save a few things that are necessary for our survival.

A final thought: the quality of life in Northwest Kansas is something we should very much appreciate and not take for granted. It is past time to forget old concerns and to concentrate on working hard to find ways to preserve our communities.

Casey's Comments

Local art show inspires

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

Most of us, being born and raised in the U.S.A., take freedom for granted. It is considered a "given" in our daily lives. But a visiting veteran has viewed a different world, and wants to educate others with his experience.

Folleh Tamba, a Staff sergeant with the Marine Corps, is displaying a collection of items at the 555 Collective on Benton Street in St. Francis. Using his background in art (he holds a Masters of Fine Arts from Columbia College in Chicago) he shows the horrors of

war, along with the brotherhood and sense of duty that his fellow soldiers carry into battle.

Born in Chicago in 1977, within months he was sent to the western coast of Africa to live with relatives. When his parents brought the family together again it was in Monrovia, Liberia in the middle of a vicious civil war.

Death and atrocities surrounded them constantly, until the day the U.S. Marines arrived and the brutality stopped. After returning to America and completing high

school and college, Folleh decided he wanted to make that kind of difference by enlisting in the Marine Corps.

After multiple tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Pacific, including combat injuries that brought him a Purple Heart, Folleh has many stories to tell.

While he and his art are in this area, the exhibit gives a rare look into the world of this proud American who knows that freedom comes with a price.

Ag Talk with Jeanne

Controlling Weeds in Wheat Stubble

By Jeanne Falk



Agronomy Specialist

Due to rainfall across our area, weeds are rapidly growing in wheat stubble. It is a good idea to control these weeds now, before they set seed. It is also a good time to control them with the recent rains because they are actively growing and will rapidly take up the herbicides.

Weeds growing now in wheat stubble fields, without crop competition, set ample seed -which will likely cause a problem in following crops. It is especially important to prevent seed production from happening on fields that will be planted to crops with limited options for weed control, such as grain sorghum, sunflower, or annual forages. It is especially difficult to control broadleaf weeds in sunflower and grassy weeds in sorghum that emerge after crop emergence. Preventing weed seed production ahead of these crops is essential. Seed of some weed species can remain viable for several years, so allowing weeds to produce seed can create weed problems for multiple years.

In addition, as we progress to the end of July and early August, the kochia and Russian thistle will begin to flower. This is because they are sensitive to the daylength and the shortening days trigger flowering. It is important to control these weeds before they begin to produce seeds.

If the field will be planted to

Roundup Ready corn or soybeans, producers may decide they can just wait and control any weed and grass seed that form now and emerge next season with a postemergence application of glyphosate in the corn or soybeans. However, with the concerns over the development of glyphosate-resistant weeds, kochia, Palmer amaranth, and waterhemp, it would be far better to control these weeds now in wheat stubble. That way, other herbicides with a different mode of action can be tank-mixed with glyphosate to ensure adequate control.

Producers should control weeds in wheat stubble fields by applying the full labeled rate of glyphosate with the proper rate of ammonium sulfate additive. As mentioned, it is also a good idea to add 2,4-D or dicamba (unless there is cotton or other susceptible crops in the area) to the glyphosate. Do not apply the growth regulator herbicides around cotton. Tank mixes of glyphosate and either 2,4-D or dicamba will help control weeds that are difficult to control with glyphosate alone, and will help reduce the chances of developing glyphosate-tolerant weed populations.

Often dicamba or 2,4-D tank-mixes with glyphosate may not perform well under the drier conditions of western Kansas, especially on kochia and Russian thistle; however this year with the improved moisture conditions, we

may find glyphosate tank mixes will work well. If drought and heat stress set in, however, utilizing Gramoxone with atrazine (atrazine is synergistic with Gramoxone) has been a more effective treatment than glyphosate/dicamba or glyphosate/2,4-D.

Several have asked about the addition of atrazine for residual weed control in fallow. Although atrazine provides residual control of weeds, it is best applied later in the fall. At this time of year, atrazine residual is quite short and will not provide adequate control of fall emerged weeds/winter annuals. An application of atrazine needs to be made in the fall (mid October through November), depending on the weeds being targeted. Also, keep in mind that atrazine antagonizes glyphosate - just the opposite of the synergistic effect of atrazine and Gramoxone. Do not apply atrazine with reduced rates of glyphosate.

If you have any questions, please contact the K-State Research and Extension Office or the K-State Experiment Station in Colby. You can also find information on Facebook at K-State Sunflower District Agronomy or on Twitter at @cropswithJeanne. Check out the K-State Sunflower District website at www.sunflower.ksu.edu and click on the 'Agronomy' tab.

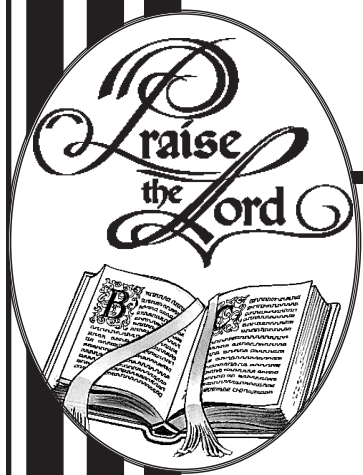
GOD SAYS He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth. Psalms 104:14

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