## commentary

### from other pens...

# Airport would benefit from new lottery bill

**The Iola Register on the money for Wichita airport lottery:** Please pass the lottery money, Wichita politely asks.

Rep. Carlos Mayans stuck an amendment in the bill extending the Kansas Lottery which directs \$4 million a year to subsidize airfares at Kansas airports.

Wichita has the only Kansas airport worth mentioning. If the state would subsidize airfares, the reasoning goes, then a low-fare airline might come to Wichita again.

There might be a germ of an idea there...

So why is it that Rep. Mayans wants to take the lottery money from all of Kansas to subsidize airline tickets in Wichita and boost the Wichita economy rather than ask Wichita's moneymen to belly up to the table and support their home town?

Believe it or not, there is a rational answer to this question.

Rep. Mayans proposed the amendment...because lottery money is "free money." Since the lottery players gave it to the state of their own free will and expected nothing in return for it, legislators don't feel the need to justify how it is spent...

But, to be blunt about it, it is both selfish and lazy for Wichita to ask the Legislature to provide all of the money from a statewide source to fund a chancy project which would benefit such a narrow set of interests — if it worked at all.

The Senate should strip the Mayans amendment from the lottery bill and Wichita should ask its own taxpayers how much they would like to chip in to make (business) air travel cheaper from the local field.

#### Parsons Sun on lottery renewal:

Although some say they expect the House-passed version of the state lottery extension to get Senate approval ... the House bill needs to be stripped of its amendment.

Yes, the bill does provide for a six-year extension of the lottery, which is required for it to continue past July 1, 2002. But attached to that was some questionable baggage that needs separate discussion.

Most serious is the designation that \$4 million in lottery revenues go to a new program to lower airfares from Kansas airports....

With an already impaired revenue stream coming in this year, it is folly to vote to spend more money while reducing the source of revenue from which it would come.

Kansas airports, especially those in the western two-thirds of the state, may deserve a little boost to help make their airfares more competitive with major metropolitan areas outside the state. ...

... To recommend reducing the Keno revenue as much as \$8 million to \$10 million — with a net loss to the state of nearly \$3 million — is ridiculous. ...

Also in the amendment is a prohibition for retail outlets to charge lottery tickets to a credit card ... it also prohibits advertising the lottery on the Internet. ...

As badly as the Senate may want to get this bill fast-tracked, the House has given it a poor piece of legislation. It is up to the senators to strip it of its baggage.

#### <u>where to write</u>

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts,** 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774

**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran,** 1217 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 225-2715

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676 State Sen. Stan Clark, State Capitol Building Rm. 128-S, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7399



# Farmers — rode hard and put away wet!

Wheat prices have gone down 8 percent in the past month on reports of poor planting conditions in the U.S.

These fancy guys say it had harmed the quality of the U.S. winter wheat crop. Hump, it was France who's wheat crop was to poor to mill into flour.

If they think that the 2001 wheat crop is a bunch of horse pucky they would buy a corporation in North Korea.

The buzz word in 1996 was a balanced budget and they wanted American farmers to do the whole thing. The Agricultural Market Transition Act, didn't control monetary policy it didn't control export licensing—import fees, and it sure didn't cost less money.

They said agriculture needed Freedom to Farm to break down the Berlin wall of world trade. Well it would be easier to find a skin head on Wall Street, than a free trader, in that pioneer village along the Potomac.

It was all about what the free food pentagon (big five food processors) wanted then—and the same holds true for the next farm bill. It's going to be another wham bam thank you Ma'am.

One has tapped farmer price supports dry by transferring it to the food stamps and Women, Infants and Children programs. Then there is the free food-industrial Complex (food processors).



They will scoop up what is left of price support appropriations to subsidize their crony consortiums.

Now children should not go hungry in America, and there is nothing wrong with turning a profit but, if we put these guys in a padded cell with two bowling balls they lose one and break the other.

This Agricultural Market Transition Act — otherwise known as Freedom to Farm — is a horse that has been rode hard and put away wet. So this Icabod Crane freedom to farm bill needs another camel to ride. You know what a camel is? It's a horse by congressional committee.

If you had your brains removed, you would know that one and one half a percent of the people cannot keep this computer in every pot economy from crashing. Even the statue of liberty Alan Greenspan may be seeing the head lights of this on coming train wreck. However he is delusional if he thinks a cut in interest rates, will help.

Japan has been trying that for a decade and if a prime rate of one half of one percent interest rate has not made them rich then you better check with Snoopy first.

These fancy guys are just now learning what unsold inventories, (surpluses) are like. Is it possible to export their surpluses would that be a violation of the constitution?

Whether it is Donald Duck imports from China or money from New York City hedge funds who invest their money in China—it is exporting their surpluses and they don't need an export license to do it either.

This irrational exuberance (imports from China) is a big siphon hose on present current accounts deficits, and they are not sustainable.

So why not trade with Fidel, everyone else is. He might be more capitalistic than he would have the world think. While farmers are paying \$450 dollars a ton for Anhydrous he is trading sugar for fertilizer.

We do have a sugar surplus don't you know! It doesn't make sense. We use the Food for Progress exports to the very same countries that once bought our \$5 wheat. And President John F. Kennedy said our Watergate president was nuts?

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# Actions to take if you fall victim to identity theft

#### Dear Kansas Consumers:

Last week I provided you with tips on how to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft. Although consumers are more aware of



services such as telephone or cellular service that were fraudulently opened or tampered with. If you feel someone is using your Social Security number to obtain employment, that is a federal crime and needs to be reported to the Social Security Administration at 1-800-269-0271.

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SHERMAN, COUNTY

Nor'West Newspapers Haynes Publishing Company times the precautions are not enough. If you find that you are a victim of identity theft, here is what you should do.

First, contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus - Equifax at 800-525-6285, Experian at 888-397-3742 and TransUnion at 800-680-7289. Tell them that you are a victim of identity theft. Your file can be placed on "fraud alert" and a victim's statement can be placed in your file asking that creditors call you before opening any new accounts or changing your existing accounts. Ask for a copy of your credit report, which will be provided free if the report is inaccurate due to fraud. Your request must be in writing. Review this report carefully and submit any discrepancies to the agency, asking that the discrepancies be removed from your report. By law, the agency must attempt to verify the information within 30 days of your request. Be sure to ask that the inquiries made by the companies opening accounts for the thief be removed from your report, as inquiries alone can affect your credit score. Follow up with the credit reporting agencies a few months later to insure that the changes have been made.

Second, contact the creditors of any accounts that were tampered with or fraudulently opened. You may do so initially by phone, but always follow up in writing to protect your rights under the federal Fair Credit Billing Act. Immediately close accounts that have been tampered with and open new accounts with new personal identification numbers (PIN) and passwords. Remember not to use easily available information like your birth date, social security number, telephone number, etc., as passwords or PIN numbers.

Third, file a report with your local police or the police department in the community where the identity theft took place. Remember that identity theft is a felony in Kansas. With the Internet, a thief can steal information from you long distance. If the thief made a change of address on one of your accounts, this address will help you determine whether to file a report with another police department.

Depending on the type of identity theft, you can take other measures to get control of the situation. For example, if you suspect that the thief stole your mail, you can contact your local post office for the phone number of the nearest postal inspector. If your checks have been stolen or misused, notify for forged checks. Remember, you are not responsible for forged checks so you should not have to pay a stop-payment fee for stolen checks. You also can contact the major check verification companies to request that they notify retailers not to accept those checks. You may choose to close that bank account and open another one, password protected. If you feel like your investments have been tampered with, immediately report it to your broker or account manager and to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Close any accounts for

More helpful tips on where to go and steps to take if you are a victim of identity theft can be found in a brochure prepared by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) called "ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen To Your Good Name." For a copy of the brochure visit the FTC web site at www.consumer.gov/idtheft, or call the FTC toll free number at 1-877-438-4338 or my Consumer Protection division at 1-800-432-2310 to request a copy.

the thief made a change of address on one of your<br/>accounts, this address will help you determine<br/>whether to file a report with another police depart-<br/>ment.Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this pub-<br/>lic service to help you avoid becoming a victim of<br/>consumer fraud. Although some of the details have<br/>been changed, the cases appearing in this column<br/>are based on actual complaints. For further infor-<br/>mation or to file a complaint, please write Attorney<br/>General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Di-<br/>vision, 120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas<br/>66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-<br/>800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and sub-<br/>ject of your inquiry with the receptionist and an<br/>agent will return your call promptly.

### berry's world



"WHAT'S THE MATTER ? HOW COME YOU'VE CRAWLED UNDER THE RUG?"

