

Watch out for plane ticket 'switcheroo'

Since November, I've bought a bunch of plane tickets and every time I have to deal with the process, I end up angry and frustrated.

My modus operandi for several years has been to check the "cheapticket" sites like Orbitz, Travelocity, Kayak and Priceline, figure out their lowest prices, then either go to the airline Web site or call. Honestly, I usually get the cheapest ticket by going directly to the airline after checking the other sites.

I'm offering some advice for those of you who may be planning summer flights.

Most of my in-laws live in Illinois, so O'Hare International Airport in Chicago is where we're usually headed when we travel. And if we happen to be headed in other directions, nine times out of 10, we end up going through O'Hare anyway. In fact, even before I ever laid eyes on Paul Weller, it seemed that, even if I was headed for Atlanta, I had to change planes in O'Hare.

And I hate that airport. Never fails: fly to or through O'Hare and you're going to meet up with trouble.

I don't even want to think about the endless hours I've spent there, waiting to get on a plane.

On our most recent trip, on April 15, Paul and I flew to O'Hare, rented a car, and drove to Woodstock, Ill. to

meet our granddaughter, Maren, who, by the way, is the cutest, smartest, most above-average two-month-old in the history of humanity.

Anyway, when I started looking for tickets a month or so before the highly anticipated visit, I went through the usual agony of trying to find a decent price on a decent flight to and fro.

One thing I have noticed for some time now is that, when you click on a flight and decide you want it, by the time you go through the steps of selecting the flight to, then the flight fro, the dadgum price has changed on the whole shooting match. In order to get something remotely in the price range you started out with, you have to go back to square one and make concessions in times of travel or something else, like being willing to send yourself as cargo.

We got back from Illinois last Wednesday, and on Thursday, April 21, *The Wall Street Journal*, which Paul gets by home delivery, ran an article, "Why Online Fares Change Faster Than a 747." Paul showed it to me, I read it, and shook my head in agreement the whole way through.

Basically, the article, by Scott McCartney, says fare changes happen so rapidly because of computer systems and programs.

"Fare switches can result from several different prob-

lems," McCartney wrote, "such as incomplete synching up of different computer systems or travel sellers having stale information..."

Some sites even use "sophisticated programs that try to estimate which fares are available," the article continued. "When it's time to actually buy, the website then checks with the airline, and may find that an earlier price is no longer available..."

To minimize the "fareswitcheroo," the article advised: "Check multiple travel websites, including the airlines', before locking in a fare. Double-check prices by clicking through to book even if you don't want to book yet. That way you know the price is real. (Just don't enter a credit card number.) Be careful with close-to-departure shopping; prices fluctuate the most around two weeks before the flight. Be wary of monthly calendar views, which often contain estimated fares. They are basically guides, not real quotes. If you see prices jump, you might wait. Inventory management can bring the fare lower if there's no buying at higher prices."

The article warns that Travelocity has "a particularly inaccurate display for flexible searches.... A fare available only in winter, for example, may still be displayed if you ask for fares for June and July."

I hope this information is helpful to Personians looking for vacation flights. Be careful out there in plane ticket-buying cyber space, and, if at all possible, avoid O'Hare like the plague.



Phyliss Boatwright

Roxboro man arrested on fraud charge

Roxboro police arrested Jesse Rasu Brown, 43, of 45 Lee St. Tuesday on a felony charge of obtaining property by false pretense.

Brown is alleged to have sold a motorcycle that he was not the legal owner of in exchange for a scooter and cash.

Brown was held under a \$5,000 secured bond. He is scheduled to appear in Person County District Court on May 10.

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The Latest Agenda

MEETINGS

PERSON COUNTY AL-ANON meets Thursdays at 8 p.m. at Long Memorial United Methodist Church in Roxboro.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY (physical and psychological addiction) meets each Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at Westwood Baptist Church in Roxboro. For additional information, call Jim Fuip at 599-2078.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPPORT GROUP meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Reformation Christian Church, 623 S. Morgan St. All are welcome, including family.

The **RE-ENTRY PATHWAY 4 SUCCESS, INC.** takes applications Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its office on the third floor of The Roxboro Building at 203 N. Main Street, suite 306 or call 336-599-1912 for more information.

The **PERSON BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** will meet in regular session Monday, April 2 at 7 p.m. in room D-215 of the Person County Office Building on Morgan St.

The **ROXBORO GARDEN CLUB** will meet Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Rolling Hills Garden Center on Madison Blvd. The program is container gardening with plants or herbs with speaker Norwood Walker. Bring your own container or purchase a container and plants or herbs at Rolling Hills Garden Center.

ETC.

An American Red Cross **BLOOD DRIVE** will be held Friday, May 6 at the Semora Ruritan Club on Hwy. 119 South from 2 to 6 p.m. Call Tammy Carter at 336-234-7161 for an appointment.

Military Notes

Foote graduates from U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center

Coast Guard Seaman Kristen L. Foote, daughter of Sherri R. and Gordon S. Foote of Semora, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J.

During the eight-week training program, Foote completed a vigorous training curriculum consisting of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, physical fitness, health and wellness, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship.

Men and women train together from the first day in the Coast Guard just as they will work together aboard ships and shore units throughout the world. To reinforce the team concept, all recruits are trained in preventing sexual harassment, drug and alcohol awareness, civil rights training, and the basics of the work-life balance.

Foote and other recruits also received instruction on the Coast Guard's Core Values — Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty — and how to apply these values in their military performance and personal conduct.

Foote will join 36,000 other men and women who comprise the Coast Guard's workforce.

Foote is a 2010 graduate of Person High School.

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Heritage & Antique Machinery Festival

May 6th, 7th & 8th
Friday Noon ~ 9 * Saturday 9 ~ 9 * Sunday 1 ~ 5
Halifax County Fairgrounds * Hwy. 360 East * South Boston, VA
Behind South Boston Speedway, 1188 James D. Hagood Hwy.

* Admission \$5
* Food all day on the grounds

* Milk Cow
* Rides for the Kids
* Petting Zoo
* Korn Box

* Antiques
* Arts & Crafts
* Music

* No Alcohol Permitted

EXHIBITS
* Threshing Wheat
* Working Sawmill
* Rock Crushing
* Shingle Mill Demo
* Bee Keeping
* Forestry
* Mining
* Tobacco
* Wild Life
* Trapping
* Hay Baling

FEATURING
* Antique Tractors & Machinery
* Old Motorcycles
* Hit & Miss Engines
* Spencer Lumber Co. Steam Engine
* Antique Cars & Trucks
* Corn Shucking
* Corn Grinding
* Blacksmith
* Pedal Tractor Pull
* Quarter Scale Pull
* Primitive Craftsmen
* Antique Tractor Pull
* Moonshine Still
* Power Saw Demo

* Quilting
* Wood Carving
* One-of-a-kind Tool Collection
* Sheep Shearing
* Saw Mill

For information visit: www.halifaxcountyheritagefestival.org or Call (434) 572-6879
E-mail: bobconner@toughva.net or ccole@embarqmail.com
For Vendor Information (434) 572-2476 or (434) 349-3349
For Camping Information (434) 349-3066

Get \$5.00 off General Admission ticket at South Boston Speedway Sat., May 7 only by presenting wristband from Sat., May 7 Heritage Festival. Offer good for adults only.

Get \$2.00 off admission to Heritage Festival Sun., May 8 only by presenting ticket stub from Sat., May 7 Race at South Boston Speedway. Offer good for adults only.

For area information, visit www.gohalifaxva.com

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HOODWINKED 3D (PG)
Fri. 5:10 7:20 9:30
Sat. 12:45 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30
Sun. 12:45 3:00 5:10 7:20
Mon.-Thurs. 5:10 7:20

PROM (PG13)
Fri. 4:25 7:10 9:45
Sat. 1:25 4:25 7:10 9:45
Sun. 1:25 4:25 7:10
Mon.-Thurs. 4:25 7:10

FAST FIVE (PG13)
Fri. 12:00 am 3:50 6:50 9:50
Sat. 12:50 3:50 6:50 9:50
Sun. 12:50 3:50 6:50
Mon.-Thurs. 3:50 6:50

MADEA'S BIG HAPPY FAMILY (PG13)
Fri. 4:00 7:00 9:40
Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:40
Sun. 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon.-Thurs. 4:00 7:00

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS (PG13)
Fri. 4:25 7:10 9:55
Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:10 9:55
Sun. 1:30 4:25 7:10
Mon.-Thurs. 4:25 7:10

SOUL SURFER (PG)
Fri. 4:15 6:45 9:15
Sat. 1:15 4:15 6:45 9:15
Sun. 1:15 4:15 6:45
Mon.-Thurs. 4:15 6:45

RIO 3D (G)
Fri. 4:10 6:45 9:10
Sat. 1:10 4:10 6:45 9:10
Sun. 1:10 4:10 6:45
Mon.-Thurs. 4:10 6:45

HOP (PG)
Fri. 4:20 6:50 9:20
Sat. 1:20 4:20 6:50 9:20
Sun. 1:20 4:20 6:50
Mon.-Thurs. 4:20 6:50

SCREAM 4 (R)
Fri.-Sat. 9:20

Midnight showing of FAST FIVE Thursday, April 28

Midnight showing of THOR Thursday, May 5

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