

## AIRLINE CARRY ON FEES

Why would some airlines want to charge a fee for carry on bags? Especially when they claim they will reduce airfare by a corresponding amount?

First, the opposition from business travelers will be slight and they carry on more luggage, on average, than your average bear. And airlines don't care about us.

And, if the airlines can get people to travel lighter, or check their bags where the fees have been in place for along time, boarding and de-boarding can be quicker and easier on airline employees.

For you young folks, there was a time when air travel was more pleasant. Sometimes even fun. The "stews" were there to provide some service and meals were even served. The food was usually awful but the effort was there. When I flew from Minneapolis to Chicago, first-class of course because it was business travel (actually because my traveling partner was a heavy guy who was uncomfortable in the back with you guys), stewardesses (not flight attendants because a male was as unusual as an old or overweight stewardess), began to pour the drinks (alcohol, not soda, my friends) while the plane was still being boarded.

Ah, the glares from the common folk as they stood beside our seats because they couldn't move toward the back - other peons were trying to stuff their 42" American Traveler into the overhead bin - were priceless. I would offer them a sip but that made them even madder - or more envious, I never figured out which.

As soon as the plane left the runway and that awful "No Smoking" light was turned

off and a good share of the passengers had their Marlboro and Bic at the ready so they didn't take any time fumbling for the poison, food service began.

That's right, youngsters, food was served and it was hot! Not a choking-dry Kaiser roll with hard cheese and a thin slice of baloney. In fact, on many flights, before the food service began, the stews came around with hot face clothes so you could wipe your hands - and your face if you desired. Those little white babies were tossed at you with tongs (because they were too hot for a stew to handle a hundred of them without scalding her hands) and retrieved in the same manner on the next trip past your seat.

In first-class, of course, we could order off a menu. No, not really, but we were usually offered our choice of how the chicken was prepared. Often, the same choice was offered in the cheap seats.

On a flight of less than 45 minutes, between NO SMOKING illumination which would start and end service, a plane full of passengers were served a hot meal.

And while there was some inconvenience while people loaded the overhead compartments and tried to find a place for their hangerbags (ask your folks about those), we tolerated the less than perfection and got to our destination in a fraction of the time it would have taken to drive there.

People have to limit themselves to a carry on that will fit through a doggy-door wall device now and still airlines are complaining. There was always a limit of carry on pieces. Don't change anything and move on, you jerks. Not you, the airlines.

## Grizzlies seek host families



The Cheyenne Grizzlies collegiate summer baseball program is in need of host families for players during the 2010 season.

Host families provide a place for players to stay for June or July, or both, and provide a support network for these young men who may be far from home. It is a great opportunity to host a role model and make a friend for life. Host families receive season tickets for hosting.

Please visit the Grizzlies website ([www.cheyennegrizzlies.com](http://www.cheyennegrizzlies.com)) or call 631-7337 for more information.

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## Jessica Venable - child custody

Events are swirling around Jessica Venable right now. As reported in the last Herald, Judge Peter Arnold granted her reduction in sentence motion and Jessica is making application for entry into half-way houses in Cheyenne and/or Gillette.

While she was preparing, without legal help, a motion for a reduction in sentence, her world was crumbling around her insofar as custody of her three children were concerned. When she went to Lusk, it seemed the care and well-being of those children, one being a baby girl, was in good hands and Jessica could concentrate on her mental health and doing her time, as well as improving her life skills as much as possible while being held unjustly.

That peace of mind concerning her children came to an abrupt end when she was told by the caregiver she had trusted that she was going to adopt out Jessica's baby. The future of the two older boys was less certain but the caregiver did arrange for one of the boy's biological fathers, who Jessica said had not been a part of the boy's life before, to come into the picture. Jessica was concerned that the boy would not want that. What has happened there is uncertain because the communications between the non-biological caregiver and Jessica have virtually ended, according to Jessica.

Because of this being a juvenile matter, court records aren't open to public scrutiny and it is impossible to learn what

kind of maneuvering has taken place.

Under Wyoming law, it is highly unlikely that a back-door run can be made to terminate Jessica's parental rights without her being afforded due process and, at the least, notice. No notice has been given so the baby should not have been legally adopted by a friend of the caregiver yet. And, if it has, it should be easy enough to vacate when Jessica has representation. Which she now has.

A few days ago, a representative of an advocacy group stepped forward at the request of a cousin of Jessica's and will intervene in support of Jessica's parental rights to regain custody of her children and, in the interim, to remove the children from this temporary foster care and place them with a family member of Jessica's who has surfaced from up Riverton way.

Things move very slowly in the legal system and the advocacy person is establishing the confirmation she needs from Jessica to act on her behalf and is acquiring necessary paperwork necessary for the family member to take temporary custody until Jessica is out. She is also familiar with the terms and conditions under which the children were placed with the present caregiver and what the caregiver promised to do and not to do with the children in Jessica's absence. There was no authority to give away, or sell, Jessica's baby. Foster care is often a very profitable enterprise. But all they do is provide care - they don't assume ownership.

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