

Airlines cut ticket prices on holiday season flights

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Only 61 shopping days left 'til Christmas — and only a few days left to get a discount air fare to your vacation destinations.

Northwest Airlines is cutting domestic fares up to 40 percent for holiday travelers. Trans World Airlines and Southwest Airlines also are offering sales.

Northwest tickets must be purchased by Friday for travel between Nov. 12 and Jan. 14 for all states except Hawaii. Tickets for travel to Canada between Nov. 24 and Jan. 14 must also be purchased by Friday.

Discounts vary depending on travel dates and are not available on certain popular days, including Nov. 23 and Nov. 26, and Dec. 23 and Dec. 26.

Major airlines historically have matched major fare sales on competitive routes.

TWA is offering up to 30 percent discounts on travel from 15 U.S. cities to 10 European cities.

The best TWA prices are available on mid-week departures and must be purchased by midnight Tuesday for travel between Oct. 25 and March 15. The discounts are not available between Dec. 21 and Jan. 4, and other restrictions apply.

Southwest on Saturday began offering \$39 one-way fares for travel within California. Sale tickets require a 21-day advance purchase and must be bought by Nov. 10 for travel through March 2.

■ ET ALS

MEETINGS

Campus No on 13 will discuss organizing on campus today at 5:30 p.m. in EMU Room 337. For more information, call 346-2749.

OSPIRG will meet tonight at 7 to discuss recycling on campus in EMU Suite 1. For more information, call 364-4377.

Japanese Student Organization will meet today from 5 to 6 p.m. in EMU Century Room D. For more information, call 484-1307.

Returning Students Association will meet today at 4 p.m. for an organizational meeting in EMU Room 27. For more information, call 346-4305.

MISCELLANEOUS

Academic Advising and Student Services will sponsor an emergency and safety training for students and employees with disabilities today from 4 to 5 p.m. in EMU Cedar Rooms C and D. For more information, call 346-3211.

Pacific Islands Studies and Knight Library will offer a workshop by Robin Paynter, the Pacific Islands reference librarian, today from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Knight Library reference desk. For more information, call 346-1521.

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WHEN: WEDNESDAY, OCT 26, Noon - 1 PM
WHERE: EMU - CEDAR ROOM C

IDAHO

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political action. From school-board elections to national Republican Party politics, the so-called "religious right" is making its presence felt throughout the country.

In Idaho, Walton has jump-started a new political coalition. His opponents have responded by doing the same. Now homosexuality, which most Idaho residents would be happy to ignore, is the state's hottest issue.

Idaho boosters like to call this "the last best place," and in many ways the state is a vestige of what the nation used to be: mostly rural, white and middle class.

It's a family values kind of place — a good place, Kelly Walton believes, to fight for the soul of America.

Turn off Interstate 84, head south on Highway 30, and you'll know you're in Heyburn (pop. 2,714) when you see a big billboard in a cow pasture. It says, "Prepare To Meet Thy God."

Drive another mile, past the grain bins of Western Seed, and you'll find a small cinder-block office. This is Walton Inc., a family-run construction business, and inside is Kelly Walton.

He is 38, soft-spoken and unfailingly polite.

He also is capable of stirring up the strongest of emotions. Opponents brand him a mean-hearted, homophobic zealot. The governor recently called him one of Idaho's "voices of hatred and intolerance."

Walton shrugs off the criticism. "It takes a lot of guts to share the truth sometimes," he says.

Two years ago, most Idaho residents had never heard of Kelly Walton.

He came here from California in 1975 at age 19, moving with his parents. He stayed until 1979, working in his father's construction business, then moved to Oregon with his newlywed wife, Miriam.

He became active in the Oregon Citizens Alliance, a group dedicated to opposing gay rights and fielding conservative Christian candidates. But in 1990, Walton returned to the family business in Idaho, saying he was burned out on politics.

By January 1993, he was back in the fray. Two months earlier, Oregon voters had rejected an OCA-backed initiative that labeled homosexuality "unnatural and perverse." Now Walton, with OCA chairman Lon Mabon at his side, was announcing the formation of the Idaho Citizens Alliance.

Its first goal: to put an anti-gay rights initiative on the Idaho ballot.

Things moved slowly at first. The family business contributed more than \$50,000 last year in cash and in-kind contributions to help Walton tap the public sentiment he believed was out there.

In May, Walton and ICA Executive Director Bill Proctor drove around Idaho for two weeks, speaking in churches and restaurants, asking shopkeepers to put initiative petitions on their counters.

Walton says he found widespread agreement for his message that homosexuality is unhealthy and immoral. The proof, he says, is in the numbers.

By July, 1,200 volunteers statewide had collected 38,510 valid signatures, well over the 32,000 needed to put the measure on the ballot.

Walton believes supporters include even some people who publicly oppose Proposition 1. That's because criticizing homosexuality is politically incorrect, he says, "but they'll get behind that curtain and vote yes."

It is 7 a.m. in Boise, and Brian Bergquist is arriving at the No On 1 Coalition headquarters for an interview. First, however, he must figure out how

to turn off the alarm system.

As coalition chairman, he also has gotten threatening phone calls, including one from a man who said he intended to blow Bergquist's head off.

With the alarm off, Bergquist leads the way into a low-rent suite of rooms. It's hard to say which is uglier, the dingy brown carpet or dingy brown paneling. Bergquist looks around proudly. Donated, he says.

Gay activism bloomed late in Idaho. Boise's first gay-pride march was in 1990, and across much of rural Idaho, a gay or lesbian still has two basic lifestyle choices: in the closet or out of town.

Bergquist was one of the first activists here willing to go public. But just as Walton lacks the brimstone of a cable-TV preacher, neither is Bergquist an in-your-face activist.

He is 36, soft-spoken and unfailingly polite.

"Just saying you're a gay or lesbian is a pretty radical thing here," Bergquist says.

The low-key approach has worked well. The No On 1 Coalition raised more than \$183,000 in donations from July through September, compared with less than \$20,000 raised by initiative backers.

The coalition enjoys support outside the gay community. Nearly every elected official in Idaho, Democratic and Republican, opposes Proposition 1. The attorney general called the measure unconstitutional.

But the voters' dilemma remains: Is Proposition 1 needed to keep homosexuals from gaining special rights, as Walton argues? Or will it deny them basic civil rights that are supposed to be enjoyed by all, as Bergquist argues?

It's a toss up as to how voters will lean, says Gary Moncrief, political science professor at Boise State University. Homosexuals won't win any popularity contest in Idaho, but there's also a strong tradition here of minding one's own business.

"Idaho is generally considered one of the most conservative states outside the South," Moncrief says. "On the other hand, there's a sense of individualism and dislike of government intrusion."

Nationwide, conservative Christian soldiers are marching into politics.

The Christian Coalition, founded by evangelist Pat Robertson, claims more than 1 million members. Its influence in the Republican Party was evident in September at the group's annual conference, which featured four 1996 presidential prospects: former Vice President Dan Quayle, former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander.

Religious right activists reportedly control or dominate nearly 20 state Republican parties. Christian groups are sponsoring hundreds of candidates for school boards, city councils and state legislatures. Homosexuality has become a rallying issue for them.

In Idaho, it's almost irrelevant whether Proposition 1 wins or loses. Each side vows to continue the fight, building coalitions and exercising newfound political strength.

Proposition 1 has led many gays and lesbians to get involved politically for the first time, Bergquist says. "People are realizing there's a price they pay for invisibility," he says.

Walton, meanwhile, already is looking ahead to other issues the ICA may tackle: tax reform favoring families, perhaps, or school vouchers so parents can get their children out of public school.

Idaho, he says, has not heard the last of Kelly Walton.

"I'm at the helm of a ship, and I've got my eyes on the horizon," he says. "They can slam me as hard as they want, but I'm going to keep on, steady. It's never been my intention to give up."

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