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Aviation Accident Investigator  
Aviation Safety - WPR

**Date:** August 24, 2022  
**Subject:** WPR22FA148, Email Correspondence  
**Contact:** Joann Lofton, Spouse of accident pilot

The following is the information provided by the pilot's wife in an email on August 23, 2022, to an NTSB Transportation Disaster Assistance Specialist:

### **DALTON'S MOTIVATION**

Before I chronicle our conversations, I'd like to explain Dalton's desire to purchase this aircraft. A longtime friend and business colleague (Gary Keran) had purchased a Taylorcraft and personally refurbished the aircraft. Dalton arranged for an aviation colleague of his (Chris Rounds) to inspect and certify the Taylorcraft. Dalton, Gary, and Chris met in Natchitoches, LA, one weekend in October 2021 while Chris inspected and certified the Taylorcraft. After that weekend, Dalton began searching for a Taylorcraft. He was hoping to find "a project" – something to reconnect him with his love of aviation. When we saw the ad for this Taylorcraft, we were both excited. He was No.2 in line to look at the aircraft, and when he got the call that he was next, he immediately made reservations and left for Afton, WY the next day.

### **DOCUMENTATION AND DAILY CHRONICLE**

If you review Dalton's first note regarding the Taylorcraft, there is reference to "fly or trailer." When he departed Kerrville on April 6, we discussed these two options. If he felt the aircraft needed to be transported back via trailer, he would commercial back to Kerrville and we would travel back to Wyoming and trailer the aircraft. We agreed that if he inspected the aircraft and was

comfortable flying it back to Kerrville, he would hire an instructor to fly it back and that he would purchase insurance.

I spoke with Dalton several times that morning and wired the funds to Jesse Clark around 11:00 am that morning. On Thursday evening (04/07/2022) at 5:39 pm, I returned Dalton's call from earlier that day (4:57 pm) and spoke for about 10 minutes. Earlier that day, Dalton met and flew with Landon Lucas, a young CFI pilot that Jessie Clark recommended. Landon was Jessie's flight instructor. Jessie also referred Dalton to Karen Lewis at Hallmark to purchase insurance. Karen confirmed that Dalton, Jessie, and Landon were all present for the call to her and Jessie introduced Landon as his CFI in their conversation and would be CFI for Dalton. The insurance policy issued by Hallmark specifically states restrictions and requirements for my husband and responsibilities for Mr Lucas. Although Dalton had flown a vintage jet (L-39) in the past, he was unfamiliar with a Taylorcraft, and did not have a current medical. Dalton needed instruction and a PIC to accompany him on his flight to Kerrville. Lucas verbally agreed to ferry the aircraft back to Kerrville and provide instruction for \$250 per day, plus expenses and an airline ticket back to Wyoming. According to Dalton and my conversations, Landon was aware of his role in transporting this aircraft back to Kerrville and providing instruction.

On Friday, April 8, 2022, I spoke with Dalton throughout the day (6:17 am, 11:23 am, 2:54 pm, 8:26 (LM) and 9:41 pm) as he and Landon traveled their first day. Dalton typically called me each time he stopped to check in. When I spoke with him at 9:41 that night, they stopped in Cortez, CO for the night. He was excited about the day and looking forward to coming home. He also asked that I check flights for Landon to return and said he talked to Landon about spending an extra day in Kerrville to provide instruction.

On Saturday morning at 8:46 am, Dalton called me to say they were having difficulty starting the aircraft and he had called a mechanic to check the engine. During our conversation, he cut short when the mechanic arrived. He said he would touch base when he could and to hold off on getting an airline ticket because they were behind schedule and may not make it back to Kerrville until Sunday. That was the last time I spoke with him.

I have screenshots of texts with Jessie where Landon refers to Dalton as his STUDENT. There are three articles I can forward as well with one referring to Dalton as his co-pilot. The most recent article, states: "Though Landon is a flight instructor for Afton Flight Services, he wasn't providing instruction to Lofton on the flight that crashed in New Mexico. "[Lofton] more or less had me

along to help start the airplane," he said, "because the starting procedure for that airplane... it's one person asked to stand outside the airplane and spin the propeller and get their hands out of the way right away as the propellers spin up - as the engine starts and the propeller starts to spin while you're outside the airplane. It's really a lot safer to have somebody inside the airplane who's sitting on the brakes and could stop that airplane."

Hallmark Insurance tells me Lucas' attorney is claiming that he was a passenger. Dalton was a 40-year veteran whose expertise was in safety, standards, and training for international corporations. He knew what was required for him to relocate the Taylorcraft back to Kerrville and he did so "according to the book," and in good faith.

Each page I attach has notes to explain the purchase. There are purchases that show up on my credit card statement that I do not have receipts for but are relevant to this case. If I can provide anything else, please let me know.

I appreciate your assistance and your prompt response to my emails.

The following figures were information embedded in the email and formatted for visual ease:

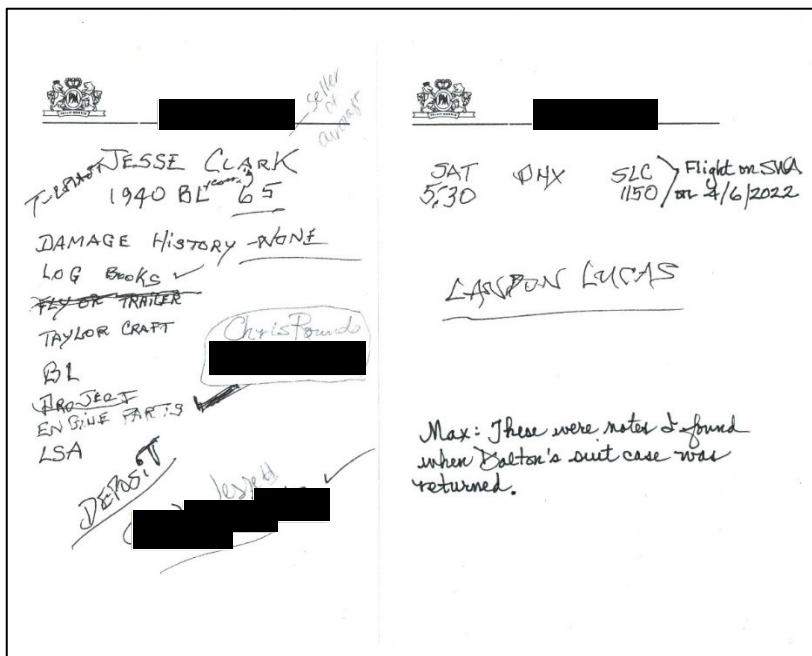


Figure 1. Notepad annotations by accident pilot regarding Taylorcraft Airplane

www.citicards.com Page 2 of 5

**Transactions**

Trans. date	Post date	Description	Amount
<b>Payments, Credits and Adjustments</b>			
[Redacted]			
Total Paym [Redacted]			
<b>Purchases</b>			
<b>Air Travel</b>			
Standard Purch			
[Redacted]			
04/09	04/09	FMN ATLANTIC FARMINGTO 505-3252867 NM	\$41.09 - Fuel
Total Air Travel			\$299.07
[Redacted]			
[Redacted]			
04/09	04/09	DAYS INN OF CORTEZ CORTEZ CO	\$76.53
04/09	04/09	DAYS INN OF CORTEZ CORTEZ CO	\$76.53
Total Lodging			\$422.77
[Redacted]			

thankyou from citi

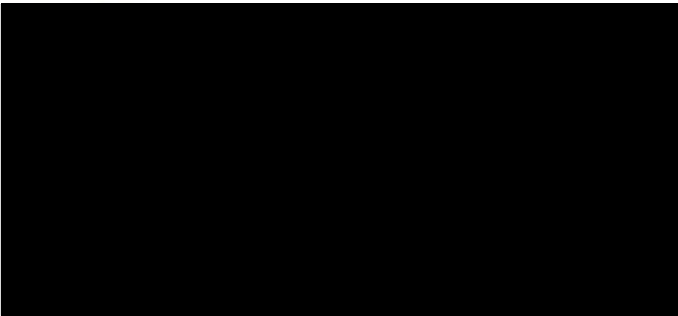
» Visit [thankyou.com](http://thankyou.com) to redeem points or see full rewards details

Bonus Points may take one to two billing cycles to appear on your statement. Please refer to the specific terms and conditions pertaining to the promotion afor further details.

*Lofton - Lodging*  
*Lucas - Lodging*

Figure 2. Credit card statement reflection flight transactions page 1

Purchases, cont'd



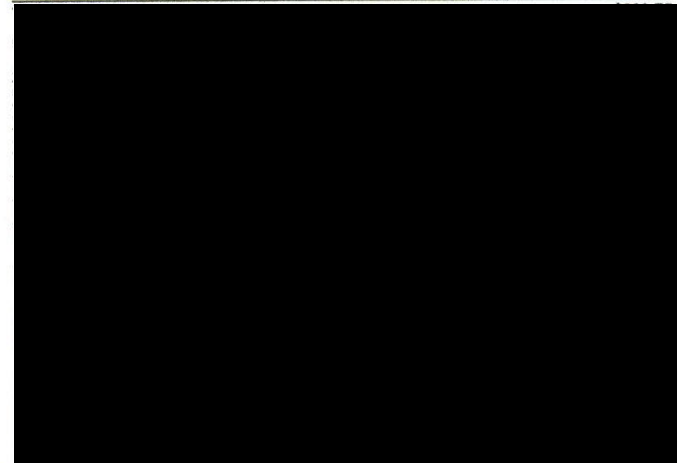
04/07	04/07	BROULIM'S AFTON	AFTON	WY	\$30.42
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- Batteries / 9V - AA



04/06	04/06	ALLTRANS	307-733-3135	WY	\$47.00
04/09	04/09	SQ *CORTEZ CAB/DURANGO	Cortez	CO	\$28.75

- Lofton - Shuttle from SLC to <sup>to</sup>  
- Lofton/Lucas - Cab from Days Inn to Cortez Airport



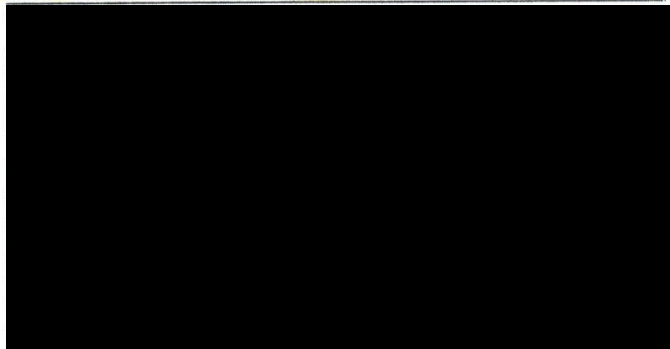
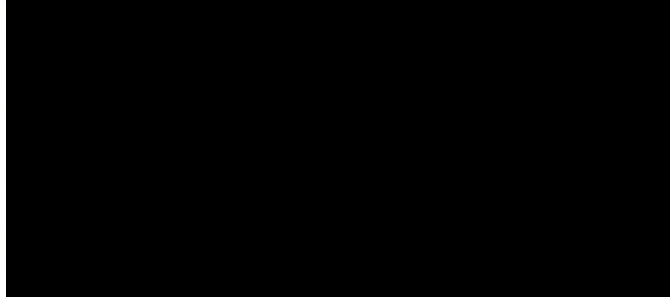


04/07	04/07	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SEAFO	AFTON	WY	\$62.99
04/07	04/07	TST* Colters Lodge	Afton	WY	\$18.70
04/08	04/08	TST* Giovannis Italian	Rangely	CO	\$34.56
04/08	04/08	TST* Colters Lodge	Afton	WY	\$30.20

- Lofton/Lucas - 3:25pm Dinner  
- Lofton - Breakfast  
- Lofton/Lucas - Lunch  
- Lofton/Lucas - Breakfast

Figure 3. Credit card statement reflection flight transactions page 2

Purchases, cont'd

Trans. date	Post date	Description	Amount	
04/08	04/08	FIESTA MEXICANA RESTAU CORTEZ CO	\$30.29	- Loftos/Lucas - Dinner
				
04/07	04/07	AFTON FLIGHT SERVICES, AFTON WY	\$37.62	- FUEL
04/08	04/08	SWEETWATER CO. AIRPORT ROCK SPRINGS WY	\$30.45	- FUEL
				
04/09	04/09	ARROW WEST AVIATION MOAB UT	\$1.14	
04/09	04/09	COLORADO NORTHWESTERN RANGELY CO	\$42.72	- FUEL
04/09	04/09	ARROW WEST AVIATION MOAB UT	\$47.10	Fuel
04/09	04/09	CORTEZ FLYING SERVICE CORTEZ CO	\$51.62	- FUEL
04/09	04/09	CORTEZ FLYING SERVICE CORTEZ CO	\$70.00	- Mechanic - Check Engine
				
04/08	04/08	CITY OF KEMMERER KEMMERER WY	\$46.28	- FUEL
				

Your annual percentage rates (APRs) and periodic rates may vary. (D) and (F) indicates a daily periodic rate. (M) indicates monthly periodic rate.

Figure 4. Credit card statement reflection flight transactions page 3

The Valleen Cafe and Steakhouse  
355 Washington St  
Afton, WY 83110

Server: LEXY L  
Check #2  
Ordered: Table 11  
4/1/22 7:34 AM

Input Type: C (EMV Chip Read)  
MasterCard: xxxxxxxx1509  
Time: 8:08 AM

Transaction Type: Sale  
Approval Code: 52549F  
Payment ID: dMXRpPPNc114  
Application ID: A0000000041010  
Application Label: MasterCard  
Terminal ID:  
Card Reader: BBPOS

Amount	\$14.70
+ Tip:	4.00
= Total:	18.70

X \_\_\_\_\_  
DALTON P LOFTON

Breakfast - Lofton - 4/1/2022

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**Suggested Tip:**  
 18%: (Tip \$2.65 Total \$17.35)  
 20%: (Tip \$2.94 Total \$17.64)  
 22%: (Tip \$3.23 Total \$17.93)

Tip percentages are based on the check price after taxes.

You've earned 7 points for this purchase. Redeem them by signing up for our rewards program. By providing your contact information, you are agreeing to participate in the rewards program and be contacted by the restaurant.

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Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Copy \_\_\_\_\_

Ask about our rewards program!

Figure 5. Receipt of breakfast transaction 4/7/2022

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SEAFO  
 492 S EAST HAVEN ST  
 AFTON, UT 84003  
 801 885 2122

Merchant ID: 0047      Store #: 4009  
 Term #: 0003      Ref #: 0034  
 Server ID: 7

**Sale**

XXXXXXXXXXXX1509  
 MASTERCARD    Entry Method: Chip

Amount:	\$	54.77
Tip:	\$	8.22
Total:	\$	62.99

04/07/22      15:25:15

Inv #: 000031    Appr Code: 16637E  
 Transaction ID: 0407MPCZC6II1  
 Apprvd: Online    Batch#: 000155

MasterCard  
 AID: A0000000041010  
 TSI: E800  
 TVR: 0000000000

Customer Copy  
 THANK YOU

*Early dinner Lafton/Lucas  
 Night before departure*

Figure 6. Receipt of dinner transaction night before departure flight



The Valleon Cafe and Steakhouse  
355 Washington St  
Afton, WY 83110

Server: Tauna B  
Check #2  
Ordered: Table 2  
4/8/22 6:45 AM

Input Type: C (EMV Chip Read)  
MasterCard: xxxxxxxx1509  
Time: 7:42 AM

Transaction Type: Sale  
Authorization: Approved  
Approval Code: 28139E  
Payment ID: j7ysXfMggcm  
Application ID: A000000041010  
Application Label: MasterCard  
Terminal ID:  
Card Reader: BBPOS

Amount: \$25.20  
+ Tip: 5.00  
= Total: 30.20

X \_\_\_\_\_  
DALTON P LOFTON

Suggested Tip:  
18%: (Tip \$4.54 Total \$29.74)  
20%: (Tip \$5.04 Total \$30.24)  
22%: (Tip \$5.54 Total \$30.74)  
Tip percentages are based on the check price after taxes.

You've earned 12 points for this purchase. Redeem them by signing up for our rewards program. By providing your contact information, you are agreeing to participate in the rewards program and be contacted by the restaurant.

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Customer Copy \_\_\_\_\_

Ask about our rewards program!

Powered by Toast

*Lofton/Lucas Breakfast  
4/8/2022 Date of departure*

Figure 7. Receipt of breakfast transaction the day of departure

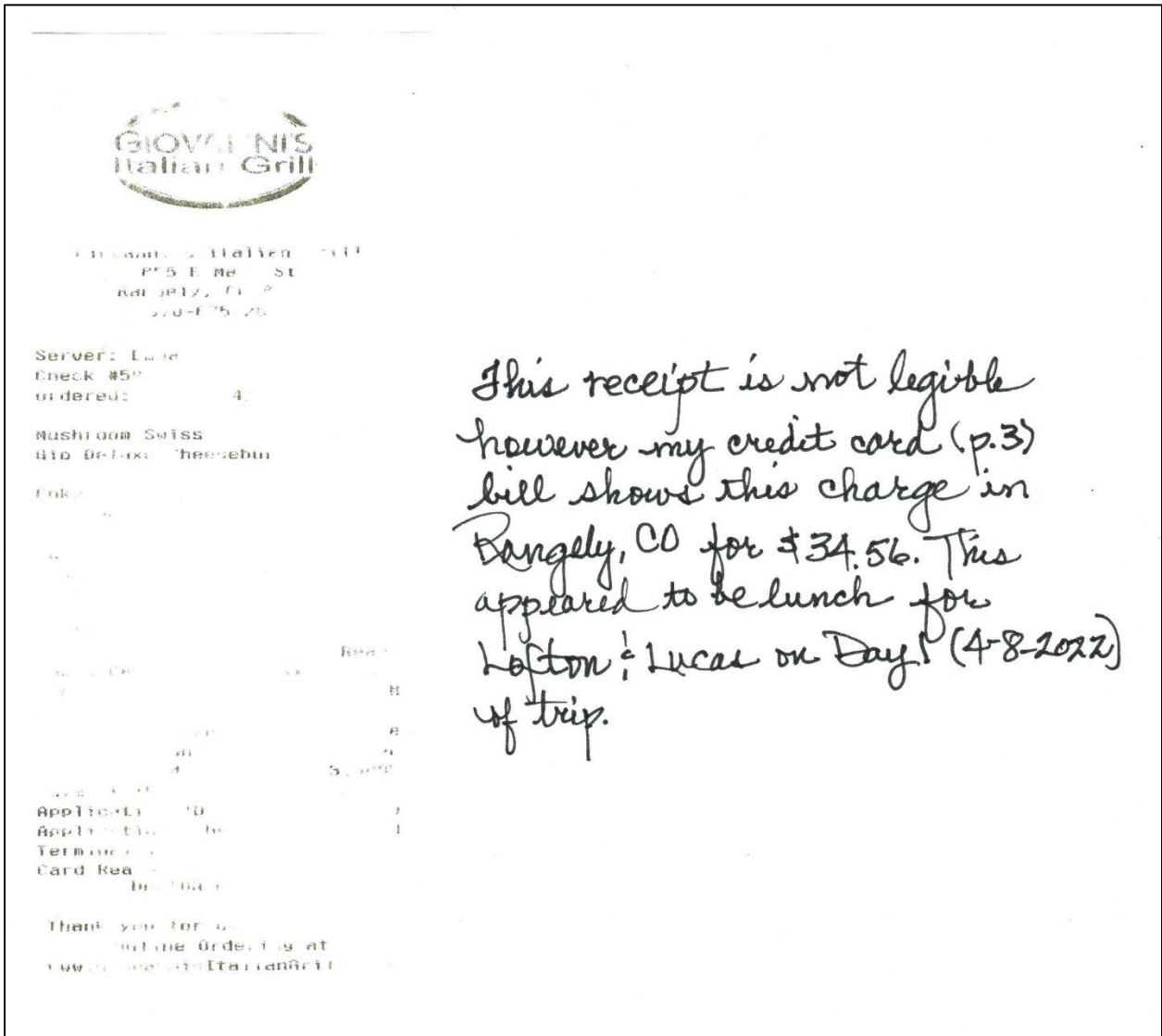


Figure 8. Receipt of lunch transaction on leg 1 of cross country flight

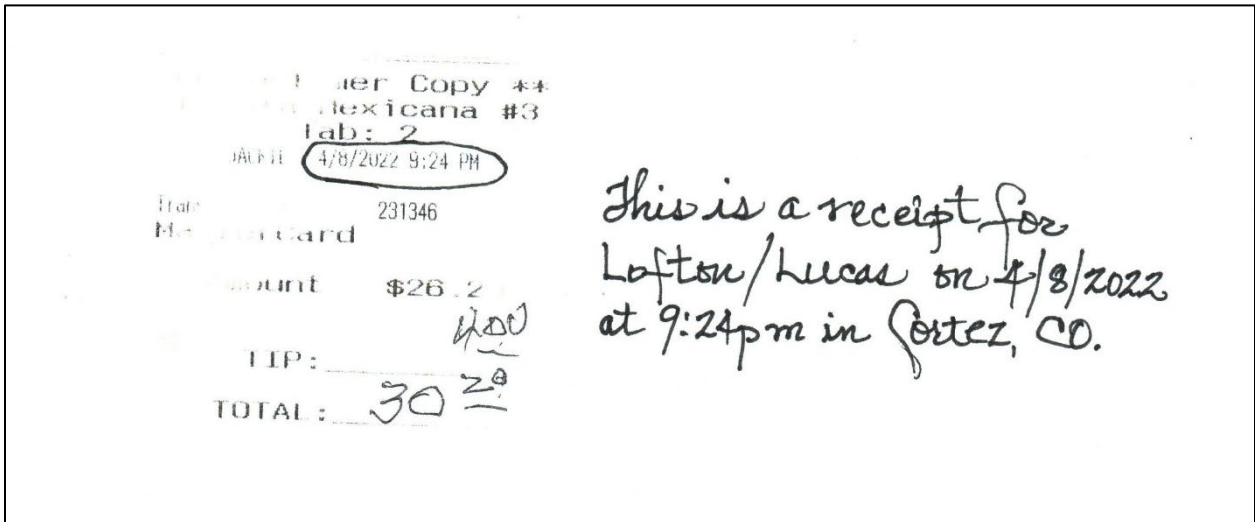


Figure 9. Receipt of dinner transaction on 4/8/2022

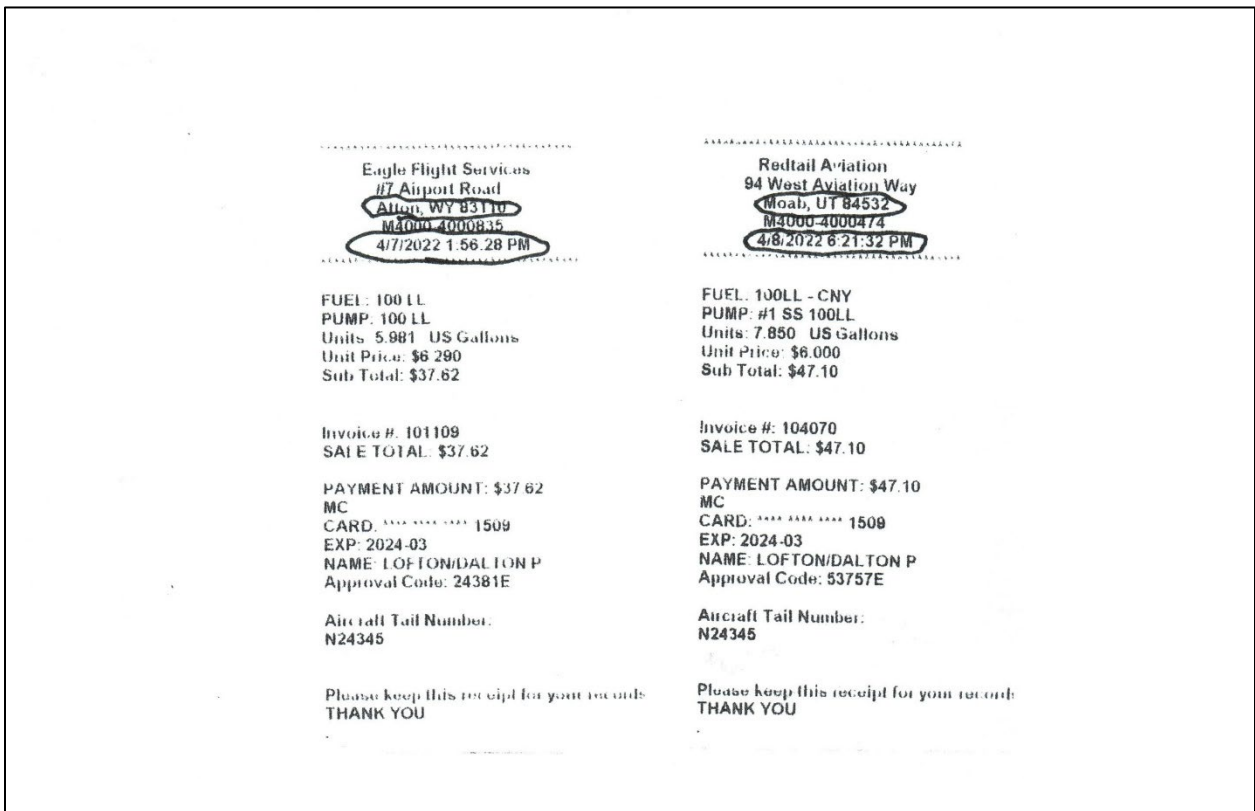


Figure 10. Fuel receipts from 4/7/2022 and 4/8/2022

# Broulim's

141 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET  
AFTON, WY. 83110

PHARMACY HOURS  
MON-FRI 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
LUNCH 1:30 - 2:00  
SAT 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM  
307-865-5550

115  
NON FOODS

DURA 9V BATTERY 4133311601 You Saved	4.99 T
DURA 9V BATTERY 4133311601 You Saved	4.99 T
DURA AA BATTERIES 4133370464	18.99 T

SUBTOTAL 3 28.97  
TAX 1.45  
TOTAL 30.42  
DUE 30.42  
\*MASTERCARD\* 30.42

EPS Response Desc APPROVED 11:53:40  
04/07/2022 Entry Method: Chip  
MasterCard CARD #: XXXXXXXXXXXX1509  
PURCHASE - APPROVED  
AUTH CODE: 16569E

Mode: Issuer  
AID: 80000000641010  
TUR: 0000000000  
IAD: 0110040032200000000000000000  
000FF  
TSI: E800  
ARC: 00  
TC: E2AE211615D500BA  
HID: 000420 IIG: 001 SEQ: 047219

Total: USD\$ 30.42

CHANGE DUE .00  
TOTAL SAVINGS 3.80

YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US.  
PLEASE VISIT  
BROULIMS.COM/SURVEY  
TO LET US KNOW HOW WE ARE DOING.  
PLUS, YOU CAN ENTER TO WIN  
A \$50 WALLET CREDIT FOR PARTICIPATING.  
THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING WITH US TODAY.

04/07/2022 04 115 11:53 AM  
04-1535817

Valley Auto Supply North

PHONE 15744 4/7/2022  
CASHIER: ADDIE 10:34 AM  
WALK IN 3565

CASH WALK IN  
SHARES FOR YOUR BUSINESS  
AFTON, WY

REF# 6060

1 SGO SWISS GLASS CLEANER SPRAYWAY GLASS CLEANER DRO DRYER	5.49 T
1 SGO 32992 PRO TOWEL SHOP TOWEL	5.09 T


SUBTOTAL 10.58  
TAX 0.53  
TOTAL DUE 11.11  
CASH 21.01  
CHANGE 9.90

\*\*\*\*\*  
YOUR ASSISTANCE IS APPRECIATED \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for Your Business

Glass Cleaner  
Paper Towels

Keep cockpit  
windows clean



37440000033650000000065782

Batteries?  
(Maybe for Landon's  
GPS)

Figure 11. Receipts of flight support transactions (batteries and glass cleaner)