

A BUSINESS TRAVEL UPDATE FROM - [DAVISVILLE TRAVEL-420 SECOND STREET - DAVIS, CA 95616](#) - (800) 255-4567

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To Davisville Travel's clients and friends;

It has been 19 years that Judy Smith has worked for Davisville Travel. On August 19th 2005, Judy will retire. She will be missed by all of us! Please join us in wishing Judy the very best in all her future endeavors.

Lela Strickland has recently been hired to work in the corporate department. While new to Davisville Travel, Lela is not a novice in the travel business. Lela previously worked for many years for United Airlines. Many of you may have met her in the past at the Sacramento Airport. She can be reached by email: lela@davisvilletravel.com. Sharon Pugh and Jennifer Mendisco will continue to serve our business, university and state agency client's in the corporate department.

[Airlines](#)

Northwest Prepares Strike Contingency Plans

Last month, the National Mediation Board (NMB) released Northwest Airlines from mediated talks with the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) union, beginning a thirty-day "cooling off" period. Plans call for both parties to continue negotiating with the goal of reaching a new agreement by midnight August 19. Northwest says it needs to save at least \$1.1 billion in annual labor costs in order to restructure successfully. AMFA's share of this total is \$176 million annually. In preparation for any possible job action, Northwest has developed comprehensive contingency plans, including expanded vendor relationships and augmentation of airline staff to ensure that Northwest continues to operate reliably and fly its full schedule. Northwest remains in federal mediation with The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) and The Professional Flight Attendants Association (PFAA). In addition, it is continuing agreement negotiations with representatives of its other unions. For updated information regarding Labor Updates at Northwest, please visit the About Northwest section of nwa.com. (Source: Northwest Airlines)

Watch For Flight Delays

The nation's aviation chief warned last month that travelers could expect a "rough summer" for flight delays, largely because of a surge in air traffic. The Federal Aviation Administrator said that after a "good spring," flight delays shot up in July and are exceeding the number of delays in July 2004 by 31 percent. A flight is considered delayed if it reaches a gate 15 minutes after it is scheduled to arrive. Hurricane Dennis tangled air travel when it hit the Southeastern U.S. in July and sent thunderstorms across other parts of the country. On July 13, the FAA counted a record 3,657 delays, or about three percent of the day's 110,000 flights, the agency said. Bad weather, which is a major cause of flight delays, is something the industry has always had to contend with. This year, delays are a result of more people flying. (Source: USA Today)

More Space In Business on United

In today's struggling airline industry, some carriers are hoping to increase business by actually cutting the number of seats on certain flights. The concept is to create a roomier, more comfortable flight that appeals to business travelers willing to pay for the enhanced experience. Last December, United Airlines launched its Premium Service on six daily flights between San Francisco International Airport and John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. The airline also offers the service on seven flights between Los Angeles International Airport and JFK. Some of the airline's Boeing 757 planes were gutted, cutting overall capacity by 57 seats. The result is two more first class seats, a few less business class seats and reducing economy class from 125 seats to 72. (Source: San Francisco Examiner).

Delta Raises Highest Economy Fares

Delta Air Lines Thursday raised its highest coach fares \$100, indicating that domestic airfares finally have hit bottom and are rising. The 20 percent increase in the key business fare by No.3 Delta came the same day that discount giant Southwest Airlines said higher fares helped drive a 41 percent increase in its second-quarter profit. The two developments suggest that keen

competition in the industry is no longer the impediment it was to airlines' ability to raise their fares. Delta blames fuel price increases for having to boost its maximum coach fare within the U.S. (Source: USA Today)

Rail

Acela Back on Track

Amtrak's high-speed Acela trains are back in service after being sidelined since mid-April due to brake problems. As of Monday, August 1st, Amtrak was operating nine weekly Acela roundtrips between Washington, D.C., and New York, and three weekly Acela roundtrips between Boston, New York and Washington. Weekend Acela service is also back, with one new roundtrip between Washington, New York and Boston on Saturdays and Sundays and an additional roundtrip between Washington and New York on Sundays. As additional trains return to service over the coming months, Amtrak will update the Acela schedule. The new departures will gradually replace the Metroliners now in service. The Acela service was suspended this spring to accommodate the redesign, manufacture and replacement of brake discs after cracks were discovered. (Source: Amtrak press release)

Hotels

Guest Satisfaction Up

Room rates and occupancy levels may be up, but customer satisfaction with the hotel industry is up, according to the latest J.D. Power and Associates 2005 North America Hotel Guest Satisfaction Survey. The study, now in its ninth year, rates hotels on six criteria: check-in/check-out, guest room, food and beverage, hotel services, hotel facilities and costs and fees. Consumers appear to appreciate the value of new product and service offerings that many hotel chains are introducing. Food and beverage improvements and other hotels services appeared to drive guest satisfaction. Basics such as complimentary breakfast, in-room refrigerators and coffee makers, pillow-top mattresses and high-speed Internet access seem to count as much as innovations such as satellite radio or Internet check-in. (Source: J.D. Powers press release)

Davisville Travel and American Express is pleased to announce that the list of hotel chains participating Preferred Extras Program is getting longer! *ASK YOUR TRAVEL AGENT TO CHECK THE LIST FOR YOUR UP AND COMING BUSINESS AND LEISURE TRIPS!* (800) 255-4567



Spotlight on...

Business Travelers Taking Fewer Trips

Nearly half of employees polled said they travel less for business than they did a few years ago, according to a study by Robert Half Management Resources, a placement firm for senior level accountants and financial professionals. Twenty-one percent said they were traveling somewhat less frequently for business than five years ago; 27 percent said they travel much less frequently than five years ago. Fifteen percent said they travel more frequently. Many companies continue to scrutinize expenses, and use alternatives such as web casts and videoconferences, according to Robert Half Management.

At the same time, a Deloitte & Touche survey found that business travelers frequently extend their trips by tacking on a bit of vacation. More than half reported taking at least one combined business/pleasure trip last year and 70 percent brought a family member or friend. Fifty-four percent stayed at least one extra night at the same hotel. Most respondents said that they spend more on hotels when they travel for business than when they travel for pleasure, even among upper income groups. Twenty-three percent said their companies' travel guidelines have become tighter in the past year.

The study also found that most respondents spent more nights away from home for business travel (15) than for leisure-only trips (9.3 nights). Source: (Robert Half Management Resources, Deloitte & Touche press releases).

Davisville Travel is committed to providing you with useful information on the latest developments in the travel industry. The following information has been compiled from a variety of sources and is updated monthly.