

New member Westside Printing, LLC was welcomed into the Lake West Chamber of Commerce with a recent ribbon cutting. Westside Printing is a small business owned by Steve Kirk who has 15 years experience in the printing industry and is pleased to bring quality printing and design to the Westside of the Lake. The hours are 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. Pictured L to R: Steve Rasmussen, Vickie Adams, Liz Brown, Rob Hoff, owner Steve Kirk, Karie Maasen, Stanley Field, Beverly & Darrell Kirk, Steve's mother and father and his niece Ava.



Armchair Pilot

by Nancy Hogland

In April Frontier Airlines will begin offering non-stop service from the Branson Airport to Denver, Colorado. The airline it has added seven new destinations from its Denver hub, as well as increased frequencies to four destinations for the peak summer travel season. The additions will allow passengers to make connections with 50 additional flights. Tickets went on sale in February. For more information, visit www.flybranson.com.

While Frontier is adding flights, in an effort to "eliminate unprofitable flying," American Airlines is cutting them. By mid to late April, the carrier will drop St. Louis service to Atlanta; Austin; Des Moines; Indianapolis; Jacksonville, Fla.; Madison, Wisc.; Milwaukee; Minneapolis; Nashville; Newark, N.J.; New Orleans; Norfolk, Va.; Oklahoma City; Orlando; Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; Richmond, Va.; San Francisco; San Antonio; Washington, D.C., and Wichita, Kan. In response to the cuts, United Airlines added non-stop service from St. Louis to San Francisco.

According to a government report, body scanners should be in place in nearly half the nation's airports by late 2011. In February, the Obama administration announced a \$215-million proposal to acquire an additional 500 scanners, which look under airline passengers' clothing for hidden weapons. This year 450 units were purchased.

The FAA states that if portly passengers can't snap the seatbelt using the extension, they can't fly. But because of complaints by neighboring passengers, some airlines are adopting additional policies for passengers traveling with extra "baggage" they can't check.

For several years Southwest Airlines has required passengers who don't fit into one seat to buy two. However, if the flight leaves with empty seats, the second seat cost is refunded. JetBlue does

its best to accommodate customers free of charge but will charge if it has to, approaching the matter on a "case by case basis." It does not offer refunds.

Other airline policies:

·American Airlines may set limitations on the service it can provide for passengers weighing more than 250 pounds but does not automatically require purchase of an extra seat.

·Delta works to accommodate passengers with what they call "special needs" and, upon request and availability, will try to make sure the next seat is unoccupied. However, if the flight is full, obese passengers will most likely be asked to take the next available flight.

·Midwest asks passengers to state their needs in advance. If two seats are required to safely and comfortably transport the passenger, the second seat will be sold at the lowest possible fare and a refund will be offered if there are open seats at takeoff.

·United requires obese passengers to purchase a second ticket but allows them to obtain a refund on flights that are not full

During a January poll, travel website Skyscanner found that 76 per cent of people believe airlines should charge a "fat tax." Only 22 per cent of the 550 people questioned disapproved of extra fees for overweight passengers.

Those unhappy with recent hikes in fees charged for checked bags might be surprised to learn what some international airlines are charging. On Alitalia, which serves Europe and North and Central Africa, the first bag is free but the second runs \$50 (with an additional charge of \$50 for bags weighing more than 50 pounds) and \$200 each for any additional bags. On Mexicana, the first bag is free, the second costs \$40 and the third costs \$150. Air China allows passengers two free bags but the third will run \$165.



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