

# On The Horizon

Southwest Oregon Regional Airport

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Welcome to On The Horizon, Southwest Oregon Regional Airport's newsletter. Our goal is to keep you up-to-date on airport activities, get to know our tenants better, and tell you more about airport operations. We appreciate any suggestions you may have regarding stories, updates, or questions we can answer for you. Feel free to reach out...David (david@flyoth.com)

## In Memoriam: Helen Brunell Mineau



Coos County recently lost a long time resident and proud member of the community: Helen Brunell Mineau. Helen was a founding member of the Coos County Airport District, the owner and operator of Southwest Oregon Regional Airport. She served on the Board of Commissioners since its inception in 2003 and was the Board Chair over the last few years. During her time at the airport, Helen oversaw the development and implementation of many projects including the new airport terminal, Air Traffic Control Tower, a 30,000 square foot commercial hangar, a new airport fire station, and a \$6 million apron expansion project.



Helen grew up on a dairy farm in Coos County, as her family were some of the first settlers in the area. She graduated from the University of Oregon and was a proud Oregon Duck. As one would expect, being the owner of Globe Travel

in North Bend for over 30 years, Helen had a deep love for traveling and exploring the world. When she wasn't traveling, she would always stay active, such as owning and operating a catering business with her sister Nancy.

The airport hosted a celebration of life event this past month. Around 125 people attended, sharing various stories and memories about Helen.

Additionally, a plaque was revealed that will be placed in the airport terminal, cementing her legacy. One thing is clear. The airport would not be where it is today if it weren't for her dedication, leadership, and passion over the years. Her desire for helping others while being involved with her community will leave an emptiness for the many that knew her. Forever Remembered.



# United Summer Flight Schedule

As the winter flying season at OTH comes to a close, the busy summer flying season begins! Last year's load factor was very high during the summer schedule, ranging from 70% to 90% depending on the month and route. Because of the continuing strong demand, daily flights to San Francisco will begin on April 16<sup>th</sup>, compared to starting in May of last year. This added month will allow incoming and outgoing travelers more options for travel days and destinations. The Denver route, which services the airport on Wednesdays and Sundays, begins on May 7<sup>th</sup> and will last through the end of September.



For the foreseeable future, the aircraft slotted to be used for all travel days is the Embraer-175. This aircraft holds up to 76 passengers, provides a first-class cabin, and is very spacious and comfortable. Another benefit to flying out of Southwest Oregon Regional Airport is free parking! There is no cost for passengers who fly out, so save on parking fees, gas, and time by flying out of OTH. Be sure to book your tickets today!

The schedule, aircraft, and times are subject to change due to a variety of factors, so be sure to check [www.United.com](http://www.United.com) for any additional information. As a friendly reminder, SkyWest recommends all travelers to arrive at the airport at least 90 minutes before scheduled departure, especially if bags are to be checked. There are strict checked bag "cut-off" times that the airline must adhere to in order to maintain the flight schedule and allow time for proper security screening.

# Airport Heights Park Revamping



Artist Rendering of Potential Park Sign

The Coos County Airport District (CCAD) owns a total of 619 acres, some of which is adjacent to the airport. Airport Heights Park is one of those properties. CCAD recently acquired responsibility for the upkeep and aesthetics of that property. We are proud to announce some exciting news for the community.

In order to move forward with our vision, in

conjunction with the Rotary Club of Coos Bay and North Bend, there will be positive changes coming to the park over the near future. The goal for everyone is to get the most potential out of the area for the community and its' residents. First off, safety is at the forefront of the agenda. We will be working together to bring the park into compliance, resolving ADA, basic functionality, and various safety concerns that are currently present at the park.





The airport will also be removing hazardous trees and other unsafe obstacles that could pose a risk to the public. Plans are preliminary; however, the beautification of the park will begin this summer. Stay tuned for more information!

Interested in helping? On April 22<sup>nd</sup> from noon to 3 p.m., in celebration of Earth Day, community members will help start the beautification process by removing invasive species, such as gorse and scotch broom, from the park and surrounding trail heads. This is one step towards making the park and trails a fun and safe place for everyone to enjoy!

## Apron Expansion Fence Line Installation

During the past couple of years, the airport oversaw a ramp expansion project on the west side of the airport near the dog park. After older buildings that outlived their useful life and other obstacles were removed, the



ground was leveled, compacted, and the appropriate concrete was poured. The next phase of this project is currently being completed. The expanded ramp area is being fenced off and will be available for use by the general aviation side of the airport very soon. The projected completion date for this



phase of the project is May 1. There are future planned phases for this area that will take place over the next couple of years. There will be a realigning of West Airport Way, adding approximately another 150' of more ramp space, and an additional perimeter fence line around that area as well. Part of the additional ramp space will be occupied by a new cargo facility for FedEx, who has Cessna Caravans flying in almost daily from Portland to bring in packages. Funds from the airport and the Connect Oregon program are planning to be used for this additional

expansion. Other possible aviation related buildings that may be built in the future include hangars, office spaces, and a maintenance shop.

## FAA and TSA Inspections Complete

Every year at OTH, we are required to have inspections by both the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The goal is to ensure both compliance and security for the airport and its' patrons. OTH successfully passed both inspections.



The FAA inspection took place in January and the TSA inspection took place in March. Southwest Oregon Regional Airport is known as a Part 139 operation. This is the same book of regulations as other commercial service airports, such as Eugene and Portland. Because we offer commercial flights through United, we must adhere to stricter regulations than General Aviation airports. The FAA inspector looks at the entire airport, from paperwork and the fueling

facilities to the runways and firefighting inspections. The TSA inspector deals primarily with the Airport Security Plan and how the airport complies with the approved TSA security checks and measures throughout the whole airfield. Working in conjunction with both agencies ensures OTH stays safe and secure not only for those who use the airport but the surrounding community as well.



## Annual Mass Casualty Table-Top Exercise



On May 10th, the airport will be hosting a mass casualty table top exercise. This FAA yearly requirement is very dynamic and provides a chance for discussions and walkthroughs of different scenarios. These mandatory drills include representatives from the various departments that would be involved if an actual emergency took place on the airfield. They include Bay Cities Ambulance, Coast Guard Sector North Bend, North Bend Fire, North Bend Police, OTH Personnel (Firefighters, Operations, Maintenance Staff), SkyWest, and TSA. Being able to stay up to date on the most effective procedures while giving suggestions and brain-storming will allow for the greatest chance of success should an incident or accident occur. Every year, a different scenario is acted out. This year's scenario is as follows: A United EMB-175 has an engine failure on takeoff and is unable to

stay on the airfield, coming to rest about 100 yards into the bay with a rising tide. This is a very complex accident scene that will allow individuals to visualize the proper way to handle the situation. This yearly table top exercise is a much smaller version of what the airport conducted last year. Every three years, the airport and other participating agencies engage in a larger mass casualty exercise, acting out an actual accident on the airfield. It is treated as a live crash scene and everyone physically tends to the accident as they normally would. As with any form of training the goal is to practice all types of scenarios, including catastrophic ones, so if an unfortunate event should ever occur, proper procedures and checklists would be followed.



Did you know JFK visited OTH in the late 1950s? Interested to see how the airfield looked 80 years ago? Be sure to stop by the terminal and check out the new cabinet display showing various historical pictures of Southwest Oregon Regional Airport!

No better way to get noticed than to advertise at Southwest Oregon Regional Airport! We offer static displays, digital media ads (in terminal TV's & website), and more! For additional information and pricing, please contact Robert Brittsan at (541) 756-8531. Or you can reach him by email, [robert@flyoth.com](mailto:robert@flyoth.com). Hangar space, manufacturing bays, and parcels of land also available.



**Southwest Oregon Regional Airport**  
operated by Coos County Airport District

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