



**Southwest Oregon Regional Airport**

*Operated by COOS COUNTY AIRPORT DISTRICT*

# **NEWS BRIEF**

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April 29, 2025

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**Travel Demand Soars:  
Passenger Numbers Up Again**



The Southwest Oregon Regional Airport continues to see steady growth in passenger traffic, with numbers climbing 18% through the first quarter of 2025. This increase reflects a growing use of air travel and highlights OTH's role as a vital hub for the South Coast. Increased demand for air travel and the success of our San Francisco

and Denver routes are fueling conversations with carriers about additional service options. Starting **May 22, Denver flights will run daily**, providing more flexibility and connection opportunities for South Coast travelers.

- ◆ **San Francisco flights** provide year-round access to California's Bay Area and global connections via SFO.
- ◆ **Denver service** has proven especially popular, and beginning **May 22**, non-stop flights will operate **seven days a week**—up from the current 2-day, seasonal schedule.

**BOOK NOW**

# Free Wi-Fi Available Soon on United Express

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Say goodbye to airplane mode! Travelers flying United Express out of North Bend will be able to enjoy free, high-speed Wi-Fi on regional jets — thanks to United’s partnership with Starlink. This upgrade aligns with United’s mission to offer consistent service quality across its entire fleet — big jets or small. SkyWest’s first aircraft outfitted with Starlink was modified in Nashville. The Avionics Project



Team worked with United Airlines, SpaceX, AeroX and the FAA to complete the project ahead of schedule. The technology allows passengers to connect multiple devices, stream, use Zoom and Teams, and browse the web. The service is expected to be available on the Embraer 175 jets that serve OTH.

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## SkyWest OTH Team Named “Jet Champions”



For over a decade, SkyWest has used the Aero Lobby System for check-in, baggage, seat assignments, and upgrades. Last year, United began rolling out its next-gen platform — Jet — to streamline and modernize passenger services.

The team at OTH embraced the challenge and became one of the top five stations globally transitioning to Jet, ranking high in both adoption and performance.

As a result, the SkyWest team at the Southwest Oregon Regional Airport (OTH) was among the first five in the world to fully retire Aero and operate exclusively on Jet. United recognized the team with a celebration.

Kudos to our wonderful Skywest staff — your hard work, adaptability, and dedication to quality service continues to set the bar.

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# Federal Investigators Complete Onsite Review



Federal authorities have conducted their onsite examination of the HondaJet that ran off the runway and into the waters of Coos Bay earlier this month at Southwest Oregon Regional Airport.

Representatives from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Honda Aircraft Company concluded their inspection of the wreckage. Investigators and the insurer are now analyzing data to determine what led to the incident.

The 2019 Honda HA-420 HondaJet skidded off the end of Runway 23 just after 6:00 a.m. on April 7 and came to rest in about five feet of water, approximately 100 feet east of the paved runway surface. Emergency responders were alerted by a distress message sent from a cell phone onboard. ARFF personnel, local first responders, and the U.S. Coast Guard arrived quickly.



All four passengers and the pilot were transported to Bay Area Hospital by Bay Cities Ambulance. Three were treated and released the same day, while the others required additional



care and were discharged within 24 hours.

The aircraft was brought onshore by barge and crane doing work for the Port of Coos Bay later that morning. The airport resumed operations by midday, including a commercial United Express flight. Rodger Craddock, Executive Director of the Coos County Airport District, praised the swift and professional response: “From training to teamwork, this was a demonstration of what goes right when things go

wrong. We’re proud of the response and the partnerships that made it possible.”

The NTSB will issue its findings in the next several weeks, but it could take months to determine to complete the entire investigation. The insurance company has also been onsite. The wreckage will likely be stored in another location at the airport for up to two years.



- FLIGHTS DAILY TO/FROM SAN FRANCISCO (SFO)
- DAILY FLIGHTS DENVER (DEN) AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING
- ENJOY FREE PARKING & SHORT LINES

**BOOK NOW**

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# Commercial Air Route Development Stalls



Commercial Air Service at the Southwest Oregon Regional Airport continues upward trending and will likely exceed previous records of passengers through the airport. However, the development of routes, especially for small regional airports like OTH, has likely been shelved until next year. Volatility in the economy has shaken the industry across the states, and many airlines have put route development on hold. That is particularly true for small markets. But CCAD plans to continue to pursue options for travelers, including attending conferences to meet with airlines.

Executive Director Rodger Craddock says, even though the delay feels like a setback, there are still plenty of opportunities to meet with airlines and keep working on additional air service for the south coast. A Portland route will not likely happen this year. But negotiations with Alaska and other airlines that could provide service to Portland or sun destinations are ongoing. “It’s all about building relationships and trust, and showing value. We are doing that by continuing to grow passenger numbers. We also plan to attend conferences and meet with airline executives and route planners.”

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# Welcome to the Team



We're excited to welcome Adam Taylor as the newest member of our maintenance team at Southwest Oregon Regional Airport!

Adam is an experienced entrepreneur who operated a tow truck business in California and worked extensively in construction and maintenance, including new construction projects.

Recently, Adam made the move with his family to the Bandon area, bringing his skills, dedication, and strong work ethic to our team. He's also a proud father of four, with kids ranging from 20 years old to just a year and a half.

We're thrilled to have him on board!

Upper Photo: Adam working on the terminal vending area. Lower Photo: Building a protective shelter.



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## New Snack Options Available in Terminal

To meet the needs of our growing traveler base, new food and snack vending machines have been added at OTH.

Located on both the main floor and in the secure waiting area past TSA screening, the upgraded vending machines now provide more than just chips, soda, water, and candy bars. Passengers can grab sandwiches, protein packs, cheese snacks, granola bars, and a range of beverages ideal for a quick bite before



boarding or while waiting for friends and family.

The airport continues to look for a full-service concessionaire, but these upgrades are progress toward enhancing the passenger experience at OTH.

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# Park Master Plan Wins Board Approval



A major step forward in revitalizing one of the community's long-established parks has taken place. The Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club presented the completed draft of the *Airport Heights Park Master Plan* to the Coos County Airport District (CCAD) Board of Commissioners, which has approved the plan. It paves the way for the next phase of the park's redevelopment.

The master plan was developed by Portland-based landscape architecture firm Groundworkshop, which was hired by the Rotary Club to lead the planning process and gather public input. The CCAD-established Park Steering Committee, several community meetings, and a public survey helped shape the vision for the 13-acre park, located just east of the Southwest Oregon Regional Airport.

The result is a thoughtfully designed destination park that includes a wide range of features aimed at serving residents of all ages. Rotary Project Chair, Samantha Oswald says the project is a powerful investment in the well-being of the community. "It will enhance outdoor space, create inclusive opportunities, and build a park that truly reflects the needs and wants of the community."

The Coos County Airport District first partnered with the Rotary Club in 2023, when the two entities signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to begin working on revitalizing the aging park, which has served the area for over 60 years.

With the CCAD Board's approval of the master plan, the Rotary Club now moves into the fundraising and implementation phase of the project. The group will seek public, private, and grant funding to bring the plan to life in phases over the coming years.



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# Upcoming Meetings

**[Airport Park Steering Committee Meeting - May 8, 2025, 12:00 p.m., Airport Terminal](#)**

**[Coos County Airport District Budget Committee - May 14, 2025, 5:30 p.m., Airport Terminal](#)**

**[Coos County Airport District Board - May 22, 2025, 7:30 a.m., Airport Terminal](#)**

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# Available Jobs

## **Airport Operations Officer**

Responsible for maintaining day-to-day safety, security, and operational functions of the airport. **Read more:**

**[Airport Operations Officer  
Job Description](#)**

## **Airport Maintenance Technician**

Responsible for grounds, airfield, and facility general maintenance at the airport. **Read more:**

**[Airport Maintenance Tech  
Job Description](#)**

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