PDX Runway Run Takes Flight Sept. 24

With an airport that’s No. 1 for four years running, it’s only appropriate that we have a race to celebrate!

On Saturday, Sept. 24, we’re partnering with Hood to Coast Race Series on a one-of-a-kind opportunity to run or walk on PDX’s north runway. A timed 6K event, the PDX Runway Run includes a t-shirt for participants; Thai cuisine from Bambuza; coffee from Peet’s Coffee & Tea and Starbucks; custom cookies made by Flying Elephants; and the chance to see F-15 fighter planes and Port of Portland Maintenance’s heavy equipment up close.

Whether you’re interested in the race as a runner or a volunteer, we’d love to have your participation. Sign up to run or walk at bit.ly/PDXRunwayRun or claim a volunteer shift at bit.ly/PDXRunwayRunVolunteer – just be sure to do it before the deadline of Tuesday, Sept. 13. See you on the north runway!

Benefiting Boys & Girls Clubs
All proceeds from the PDX Runway Run will benefit Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area. Boys & Girls Clubs are located in underserved communities and are uniquely equipped to provide enrichment programs to youth while empowering them with a sense of belonging and security.

Customer Compliments
“I’ve been to dozens of airports and Portland is one of the only ones where I’ve noticed so many good local restaurants. It gives travelers a taste of the city, especially if they’re just there for a layover. Such a fun place to be…as if I needed more reasons to indulge in my wanderlust!”

Morgan J., Vancouver, Washington
Pet Relief Area Opens Post-Security

Service animals and their traveling companions have a new destination at PDX – a post-security pet relief area complete with artificial grass and a faux fire hydrant.

Located on the south end of the Concourse Connector, the new space helps enhance customer service for travelers with pets while situated away from shops, restaurants and waiting areas to ensure a pleasant experience for all travelers.

The space is ADA/wheelchair accessible and includes a tactile map; refuse bags; a sink, bench and cheerful graphics. While designed and intended for service animals, the pet relief area may also be used by others traveling through PDX with their pets. As a reminder, in the interest of pet safety and passenger comfort, non-service animals should remain in their carriers at all times while in the terminal.

We Asked, You Answered:
What’s the strangest thing you’ve seen at PDX?

Our city’s informal motto has long been “Keep Portland Weird,” so it’s no surprise that our PDXperts spot more than a few odd things happening around the terminal. Our Transportation Security Administration team is on the front lines for both safety and strangeness – here are a few things that have made them go “Hmmm…”

“I was screening luggage when this bag came through that looked like bones. Imagine my surprise when it started moving! When I opened it, it was a bag full of live crabs.”

Chris McLaughlin

“You know that expression, ‘everything but the kitchen sink’? This person was moving and they were taking everything INCLUDING the kitchen sink in their luggage.”

Francesca Baker

“I had a guy take off his clothes down to his boxers. He just wanted to make sure we knew that there wasn’t anything on him. It’s crazy how often people want to take off their clothes!”

Jeremy Alanis

Concourse C Heats Up with Portland Roasting

Portland Roasting’s Concourse C location is the newest spot in the terminal to satiate your jones for java. New coffee concessions will continue to land at PDX through the fall – stay tuned for updates!

Traffic Alert: Road Closure Coming to NE Cornfoot Road

Late September or early October will be the start of a 45-day motorized traffic road closure of NE Cornfoot Road near the intersection of NE Alderwood Road, adjacent to PDX. The closure is necessary to construct a new stormwater pipe under Cornfoot Road to prevent flooding at the airport and nearby properties. Be alert for detours around the work area.

Upcoming Events

9/20: Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
9/24: PDX Runway Run
Alleviate the current imbalance of passengers being served on the south side of the PDX terminal. Enhance operational efficiencies. Improve the level of service throughout the terminal. These are the primary objectives of PDX’s Terminal Balancing project, which will position the terminal to meet the needs of the future.

The recently approved project will design, plan and build a 6-gate, 750-foot extension to Concourse E on the north side of the terminal. This construction project will add needed gate capacity and allow airline movements in order to balance the terminal. Southwest Airlines will move from Concourse C to the newly constructed concourse extension on Concourse E. United Airlines will remain in place on Concourse E.

Over the next several months, the Terminal Balancing project team will continue to plan and design the project; the anticipated start of impactful construction is mid- to late-2017 with significant completion in early 2020. If you have questions about the project, contact Willie Wilcoxen at 503.415.6554.

PDX Celebrates 4-Peat with Parties, Contest

Our Customer Relations team recently took the PDX 4-Peat to the street – or, more specifically, the upper roadway. As a thank you to all the employees who provide outstanding customer service every day and helped PDX take home the title of America’s Best Airport from Travel+Leisure four times in a row, four separate celebrations were held at different times and locations to accommodate a variety of schedules. For more photos from the events, which featured a prize wheel, delicious food from our concessions partners and a chance for teams to come together in celebration, go to bit.ly/PDX4Peat.

Have a 4-Peat idea of your own? Send us your favorite famous foursome and you could win a four-pack of airport amenities including a food and beverage gift card for any PDX location, a merchandise gift card for any PDX retailer and a gift card for airport services such as a haircut, shoeshine or massage. It also includes one day of free valet parking at the terminal! Enter to win at flypdx.com/Contest/fourpeat.

Subscribe to PDXaminer online. Go to portofportland.com/PDXaminer.aspx; then click on “Sign Up Now.” Fill out the simple registration form, selecting “News for Airport Employees” from the list of topics.
Honors Keep Rolling in for Outstanding Airport

PDX has a bevy of new awards to add to our growing list of successes, including honors from TripAdvisor and the Air Line Pilots Association.

PDX made a clean sweep of the 2016 Travelers’ Choice Favorites awards for U.S. airports, based on feedback from the TripAdvisor community. Presented for the first time this year, the awards highlight the most popular domestic airports for shopping and dining, as well as the best overall medium/large airports. PDX took the No. 1 spot on each list based on findings from a survey of more than 114,000 U.S. TripAdvisor travelers.

The Air Line Pilots Association, International, recently presented PDX with the 2015 Airport of the Year Award for continued collaboration in partnering with pilots on important safety and construction issues. The airport has a long history of incorporating the expertise and feedback of pilots into projects ranging from nonstandard approach light spacing to airspace changes, and regularly shares information with pilots about the progress of various construction projects.

Of course, we wouldn’t have an airport without an airfield. In the last bit of good news, we passed our Federal Aviation Administration annual certification inspection with zero discrepancies – a perfect score for the second year in a row. Congratulations to everyone who makes these honors possible!

Donuts, Tamales and Local Gifts Heading to Terminal

In the not-too-distant future, you’ll spot Blue Star’s brioche-based donuts, Tamale Boy’s veggie-friendly Mexican fare and Tender Loving Empire’s artisan gifts in the airport.

Before the end of the year, Blue Star Donuts will land pre-security in the Oregon Market with all the flavors you love…and, yes, their Cointreau crème brûlée will make it through the TSA checkpoint. By summer 2017, Tamale Boy will be serving up banana leaf and corn husk tamales on Concourse D, with plenty of options for those with dietary restrictions. Around the same time, record label Tender Loving Empire – home to locally-sourced, handmade goods – will also spring up on Concourse D.

Watch PDXaminer for project updates and opening dates!

Citizens Learn from Airport Police Experts

Port of Portland Police Chief Jason Wallis recently graduated the first Citizen’s Academy class at PDX. Designed to give tenants, customers and employees the chance to learn more about the police department’s role at the airport, the eight-week class gave attendees a behind-the-scenes look at law enforcement and our public safety mission. Look for the next class coming this fall!