Customer Compliments

Alaska Airlines’ Michael Higgins was working the baggage drop-off line when a group with Make-A-Wish arrived. After extending a warm welcome to Wish Kid Marie, Michael was escorting the group to the gate for a Honolulu flight when he was struck by an idea: Why not ask PDX volunteer musician and Alaska colleague Anthony Cadiz to play Marie a tune on his ukulele?

When the pair arrived at the gate, Anthony dropped to one knee and introduced himself. “Aloha, I’m Anthony. Would it be okay if I sing you a song?” He sang Sea of Love, phone cameras recorded, eyes welled up with tears and a warm round of applause rang out. See the video at go.pdx.com/MakeAWish.

As Michael said, “Someone willing to do something so selfless for a stranger should be recognized – he seized the opportunity with great enthusiasm, kindness and empathy, and he’s one of the reasons our airport is a place people love.”

PDX PEOPLE

Celebration Starts Sept. 10

Are you ready for more PDX swag, treats and giveaways?! We’re kicking off our annual #PDXPeople appreciation celebration in mid-September, and no matter where you work at the airport, there’s sure to be an event happening nearby.

You’ll also have a chance to learn more about PDX Next, a series of five major construction projects. Starting with the closure of Concourse A this fall and culminating with the opening of a new main terminal in 2025, these changes are designed to make the airport more comfortable, convenient and uniquely-PDX than ever before.

Look for a prize wheel at all the #PDXPeople events, staffed with PDX Next representatives and stocked with exclusive t-shirts, trucker hats, koozies, canvas totes, sunglasses, pop sockets and more!

Tuesday, Sept. 10
Time: 6 to 8 a.m.
Location: Airfield
(Southwest corner, under the Concourse Connector)

Thursday, Sept. 12
Time: 3 to 5 p.m.
Location: Clocktower Plaza food cart area

Friday, Sept. 13
Time: 1 to 3 p.m.
Location: Upper outer roadway
PDX Next Gets Creative in Badging Office, Concourse A

You’ve likely spotted the new PDX Next identity, which pays homage to history – namely the classic #PDXcarpet – while pointing the way into the future. Now that new look is being applied to our first PDX Next creative campaign, aimed at making it fun for travelers and employees to say goodbye to Concourse A and hello to a brighter future on Concourse B.

First, mid-September will see a relaunch of the PDX Next website, which will shift from being a basic overview to a comprehensive insider’s look at what’s happening at your favorite airport. [The easy-to-remember URL remains the same: pdxnext.com]

After you check out the website, head over to the Badging Office, where you’ll find a newly installed button wall that encourages you to pick a pin emblazoned with your favorite feature of PDX Next. And don’t stop there: Head over to Concourse A to see how X really marks the (selfie) spot as we begin to prepare travelers and employees for the concourse changes to come.

Your Chance to be #PDXFamous

Are you comfortable on camera and want to help showcase PDX to the rest of the world? We’re putting out a call for employees, friends and family interested in participating in several photo and video shoots in support of PDX Next and future marketing projects. In order to reflect the diversity of the community we serve, we’re looking for participants of all ages, genders, ethnicities, body types and abilities. We just need a commitment of 30 to 90 minutes of your time and the support of your supervisor. Take a moment to fill out the casting form now: flypdx.com/CastingCall.

We recently held a picnic at Blue Lake Park to show appreciation for the many volunteers that provide outstanding customer service at PDX. From the VIPs that help travelers 365 days a year to the musicians that perform hundreds of hours of live music each week, the program has grown from just 13 volunteers in 1993 to a team of more than 100 today.

Craving savory samosas topped with cilantro and tamarind chutney along with a refreshing mango lassi? How about a flavorful daal tadka over a bed of basmati rice? Good news – Maruti Indian Restaurant Express is now open in Clocktower Plaza and offers vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options. Watch for another new food cart, Sumo Sushi, opening early this month!

Subscribe to PDXaminer online

Go to bit.ly/pdxaminer, fill out the simple registration form, selecting “News for Airport Employees” from the list of topics, and hit submit.
Did You Know?

Starting this month, C-TRAN is adding a new route between Fisher’s Landing Transit Center and PDX, operating in early afternoon and late evening on weekdays. More info on Route 67 at c-tran.com/servicechange.

Preparing PDX

Get Ready for the Pacific Northwest Megaquake

We know an earthquake will strike the Pacific Northwest. The only question is when it will happen and whether it will be as devastating as experts predict. On Oct. 1 and 2, we’ll welcome an extraordinary guest: TEDxPortland speaker Steve Eberlein. With a combination of stunning visuals, appealing science, humor and the power of his personal experience, Steve will deliver an informative, engaging and action-oriented 90-minute workshop to give you confidence to act in an earthquake, flood or severe winter weather.

Register for Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events

In light of recent mass shootings, you may be wondering how you’d react if faced with an active shooter event in your work area, the airport terminal or when out shopping. This fall, Port Police Sergeants T.J. Eriksen and Jeremy Hepp will offer two-hour Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event trainings, where you’ll learn how to avoid an attacker, deny access to your location and defend yourself.

Space is limited for these special classes, held at various dates and times. Register now at go.pdx.com/PreparePDX.

Preparing PDX

Our summer series wrapped up with tastings from Westward Whiskey and Deschutes Brewery in August. Thanks for coming out this summer and for supporting our PDX concessionaires all year long!