

Cascade dumps Medford service

MEDFORD (AP) — Cascade Airways decided to stop service to Medford due to a drop in traffic, not because of its anticipated sale to Horizon Air, an airline spokesman said Tuesday.

“The primary reason for pulling out of Medford service is mainly just due to the financial matters,” said Tom Clark, director of stations for the airline based in Spokane, Wash. “After the United (Airlines) strike our traffic fell off substantially and we determined we could use the equipment elsewhere much more effeciently than we were doing.”

Cascade had been offering four flights per day from Medford to Portland and Seattle before the last flight to Portland left Monday.

Horizon Air, based in Seattle, announced two weeks ago it intends to buy Cascade. Horizon also offers flights out of Medford.

Clark said Cascade had not shut down service to any other cities, and plans currently called for the two airlines to continue operating separately after the sale was approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The manager of the Medford-Jackson County Airport said Cascade left without warning while still owing money for landing fees.

“They didn’t have the courtesy of first informing me they were doing this,” said Gunnar Katzmar. “They surreptitiously closed the — took the furniture out at 5 o’clock in the morning. We got wind of it through other sources and the last flight left here at 20 minutes after 10 (Monday).

“We then locked the doors,” he added. “They owe us some money, however it’s covered by a performance bond

so we’re not that concerned about it.”

Katzmar said there should be no shortage of service, with United Airlines and Horizon Air still flying out of the airport serving Southern Oregon.

Four people were employed full-time and three part-time at the Medford operation, Clark said.

Full-timers with enough seniority to bump other employees would be able to transfer to other cities at the company’s expense, Clark said.

Pocatello, Idaho Falls lose air flights

POCATELLO (AP) — Cascade Airways, which has served Pocatello since 1980, plans to discontinue flights here Aug. 25, the airline’s local manager Bruce Ellin said Tuesday.

The pullout, which also will affect Idaho Falls, will cost at least five jobs in Pocatello, Ellin said.

The cutback is linked to a proposed takeover of the Spokane-based commuter service by Horizon Airlines. Terms of the sale have not been made public and are subject to U.S. Department of Transportation approval.

Company officials announced two weeks ago they had reached an agreement with Horizon to sell the financially-troubled airline.

Ellin said a similar pullout is planned for Idaho Falls, but he had few details.

“The termination is regionwide,” he said. A cutback in commuter service for Boise is planned later this month, he added.

The pullout will leave Horizon Air and SkyWest Airlines as the only providers of commuter service to Pocatello.