

Cascade lays off workers

Compiled from local and wire sources

SPOKANE — Cascade Airways has laid off 81 pilots and ground crew members — some employed at Walla Walla's City-County Airport — effective Saturday, said Mark Nilson, vice president for marketing of the Spokane-based commuter airline.

The layoffs are the result of recent cutbacks in service at the financially troubled airline, Nilson said today.

Cascade has filed for protection from its creditors in Federal Bankruptcy Court, and has cut service to several cities, including Boise, Pocatello and Idaho Falls. Airline officials have said the service cuts have been made to avoid duplication of flights offered by Seattle-based Horizon Air, which is attempting to purchase Cascade.

Nilson said 34 of Cascade's 122 pilots have been "furloughed" and 47 ground crew members were given notice they have been laid off.

Nilson did not release the exact number of Walla Walla-based employees who were laid off. "There were some pilot layoffs that would have been based there and mechanics, but I don't have the specific number," he said.

"The layoffs were essentially notices given out a couple weeks ago. There will be no additional schedule changes," Nilson said.

"I imagine this will be the end of our layoffs," Nilson said. "It depends pretty much on what the market does."

There may be some adjustments at each city still served by Cascade, based on the number of flights, he said.