

APRIL 2023 ISSUE



Bi-Monthly Newsletter



THE TAKE OFF

April showers, May flowers, the RGV I am sure would love to see some more rain. Since our last issue, the Department of Aviation has welcomed two new employees - Juan Ybarra as Line Service Technician, and Equipment Operator I Marin Alvarado. Welcome! Our line techs have exciting news to share – having completed their TITAN Aviation fuel training by mid-March, they will soon embark on National Air Transportation Association's safety curriculum! We look forward to a well-educated staff of line service technicians who will provide to our aviation customers the best service a Fixed Base Operator has to offer.

On March 9th, the Aviation staff joined other City colleagues attending the Edinburg State of the City Address. Mayor Ramiro Garza, Jr. addressed just how quickly our city is growing and what we have to look forward to in the future. The event was an absolute success thanks to hosts Mayor Garza, Councilmembers, and City Manager Myra Ayala.

The Aviation Advisory Board convened their second meeting of 2023 on Friday, March 10th which was held at City Hall Council Chambers. Just a friendly reminder, the Department of Aviation's terminal conference room is available by reserving it through our staff. Among those who reserve it is the Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association).

South Texas International Airport

1300 East FM 490
Edinburg, TX 78542
Office: (956) 292-2047
Fax: (956) 292-2016

<https://cityofedinburg.com/departments/airport/index.php>
stxairport@cityofedinburg.com



Get to Know our Administrative Assistant

Jarita "Rita" Hernandez started working for the City of Edinburg in May 2022 as our Customer Service Specialist, then months later earned promotion to Administrative Assistant in October. During Rita's short time with the city, she has brought fresh ideas, shown kindness and guidance.

By the end of 2022 she was a recipient of Airport Business Magazine's and awarded "Top 40 Under 40" recognition. For her achievements, Rita was recognized through proclamation by Edinburg City Council on January 17, 2023. Meanwhile, she continues pursuing her studies toward a degree as a paralegal. During her time off, Rita enjoys spending time with her children, barbecuing, dancing, crafting and shopping at Target.

Rita's motto is, "Always make someone smile." Thank you Rita for setting an example for all of us.

PILOT SPOTLIGHT



Chip Dunn

By Alexis I. Rodriguez

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Chip Dunn only a week ago. He flew in a few customers and we started to chat and he was open to a short interview. Mr. Dunn grew up in Macon, Georgia, "Home of the Allman Brothers, Little Richard, and southern rock." He started flying in 1973 when he was a teenager.

He could rent a Cessna 150 at the rate of \$12.50 an hour and the instructor only charged \$8 an hour. He said you could learn for about \$1000, but now it's about \$8,000. It took him a summer to get his certification, and over time, he got his ratings and experience.

His dad served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, and was stationed in Harlingen, Texas. His dad later entered the hardware business, so Mr. Dunn joined as well. He says it's a very demanding business, "You had to be there. You work all day, six days a week. It was hard to take any time off."



PILOT SPOTLIGHT CONT.



When Mr. Dunn was in college, he became interested in working for law enforcement. His roommate's father was a sheriff. Mr. Dunn eventually hired with the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, then his college roommate joined the department as well. Later in his friend's career, he was elected as Sheriff like his father. Mr. Dunn describes the family as, "good folks, I am glad I worked for them. They believed in doing the right thing for the people." After time, Mr. Dunn was selected to be a magistrate judge for nine years and also to attend the FBI National Academy. He says he met a lot of people from all over, which was an incredible experience. Three years later, he took an early retirement from the Sheriff's Department after 23 years. "I just always wanted to fly. I wanted to fly since my dad took me to see the Thunderbirds when I was 6 or 7 years old."

Mr. Dunn has been flying for 50 years and has 21,000 hours in the air. The first plane he bought was a Cessna 152. He has had his flight instructor certificate for the last 40 years, but does not teach much these days. He says aviation has changed a lot since he started flying, "The technology of everything, navigation, the aircraft itself, the expense..."

As of now, Mr. Dunn flies King Air, PC-12, and other charter aircraft. Currently he flies five days a week. Sometimes it will be every day for a few weeks straight, but he does not have too many overnight flights. Being so busy, he doesn't eat very well and usually skips lunch. However, he does make it home most nights for dinner. His wife is a great cook, which makes up for the missed meals.

I asked Mr. Dunn if there was any advice he would like to share with anyone going into the Aviation business. He had this to share, "Right now, they have all the co-pilots they need, but it gets your foot in the door. Commercial airlines can get you with a bonus depending on how bad they need people. I know a lot of people that do not like it. They get worked pretty hard. I like what I do, but for others it can be a struggle to get here. I like the personal contact. All the people I flew with today are pleasant and I enjoy it. If you have the will to do it, air traffic control is a good way to go. They train you and you can bid to work anywhere you want. They pay you very well and you can retire very comfortably."



Mr. Dunn's wife, who he said is a great cook, also is a great decorator. He showed me amazing home and birthday arrangements. Together, they have three grown children and six, wonderful, fun grandchildren. He spoke very highly and proudly of his family throughout the interview. Mr. Dunn, it was my pleasure to get to interview and hear your story.

UPCOMING APRIL/MAY EVENTS

If you are in the area and unsure what to do, look up our local sports teams calendar and cheer them on!



RGV FC SOCCER SCHEDULE

<https://www.rgvfc.com/2023-schedule/>



RGV VIPERS SCHEDULE

<https://riograndevalley.gleague.nba.com/schedule>



CONGRATULATIONS VIPERS! NEXT STOP, FINALS!



EDINBURG MUSIC FEST
APRIL 15, 2023

TEXAS FOLKLIFE'S BIG SQUEEZE
CONJUNTO SEMI-FINALS | GRUPO AZIDO 2 PM - 5 PM

CONCERT
6 PM - 11 PM

FRUTTY VILLAREAL
JERRY ALVAREZ & DANIELLA RAMIREZ
GRUPO SOLIDO
LITTLE JOE Y LA FAMILIA

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NO ENTRY FEE • FAMILIES WELCOME

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EDINBURG PARK & RECREATION CENTER
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FREE REGISTRATION FOR FIRST 40 VENDORS!

@cityofedinburg For more info call (956) 381-5631.

UTRGV & The City of Edinburg Present

THE WALL THAT HEALS
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER

A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

Thursday - Sunday
APRIL 20-23
2023

Ebony Hills Golf Course
Freddy Gonzalez Dr & 9th Avenue
Edinburg, TX.

A three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Washington, D.C.
MORE THAN 58,000 NAMES THAT MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE
OPEN 24 HOURS

Welcome Ceremony
April 20th | 10:00 AM

Colors & Taps
April 20th - 22nd
Colors | 7:30 AM Taps | Sunset

Candlelight Vigil
April 22nd | 7:00 PM

Closing Ceremony
April 23rd | 1:30 PM Closes | 2:00 PM

FREE TO THE PUBLIC GROUP TOURS AVAILABLE

For more information or to volunteer/assist:
@cityofedinburg.com/wallthatheals/

1906 S Closter Blvd.
Edinburg, TX.

NUTRITION & HEALTHY LIVING

Energy Bites

By: Love and Lemons Food Blog

Prep Time: 20 mins

Total Time: 20 mins

Serves: 18 bites

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups oat flour

1 cup walnuts

1/3 cup well-stirred creamy natural almond butter

10 soft Medjool dates*

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 tablespoons water

1/2 teaspoon sea salt

1/2 cup mini chocolate chips

Instructions:

1. In a food processor, place the oat flour, walnuts, almond butter, dates, vanilla, water. Pulse until the mixture sticks together when pinched. If it's too crumbly, pulse in more water, 1 teaspoon at a time.
2. Transfer the mixture to a bowl and stir in the chocolate chips. Use a 2-tablespoon cookie scoop and roll into balls.
3. Store extra energy bites in the fridge. They also freeze well. To thaw, leave them at room temperature until soft.

*If the dates are too hard, soak them in hot water for 10 minutes.



Work Challenge

Try to drink at least 42 oz of water during the work hours. Staying hydrated can help keep joints lubricated and it delivers nutrients to our cells. It can also help improve the quality of sleep, cognition and mood.



Aviation Inspiration



"Aviation is proof that given, the will, we have the capacity to achieve the impossible."
- Eddie Rickenbacker

AVIATION NEWS

NATA Updates Misfueling Training to Include Unleaded Avgas | Aviation Pros

<https://www.aviationpros.com/engines-components/aircraft-engines/electric-green-engine-technology/news/53042747/riga-airport-riga-airport-is-involved-in-an-international-study-on-the-impact-of-innovative-lowemission-aircraft-technologies-on-the-environment-near-airports>

<https://www.aviationtoday.com/2023/03/08/demand-for-airbus-h160-helicopters-continues-to-grow/>

<https://www.aviationtoday.com/category/business-ga/>

WHO BUILT AN AIRPLANE
THAT COULDN'T FLY?

-
THE WRONG BROTHERS

Aviation Board Meeting Schedule

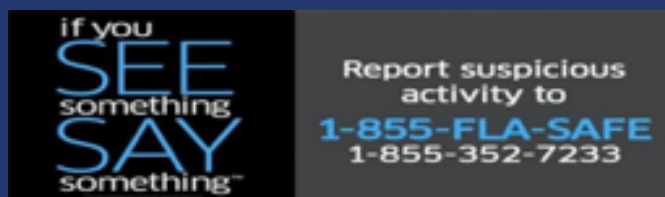
Bi-monthly schedule, 2nd Thursday of the
month at 2:00 p.m. 2023:

May 11

July 13

September 14

November 9



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MAULE MT-7-260 SUPER ROCKET



CESSNA SKYHAWK C172



CESSNA 182 CESSNA CHANCELLOR C41 ECLIPSE AVIATION CORP EA500



MOONEY M-20



PILATUS PC-12

WITH ALL OF MY APPRECIATION TO YOU
SINCERELY,
-ALEXIS I. RODRIGUEZ
CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST

