

FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE



# Bi-Monthly Newsletter



## THE TAKE OFF

Can you believe it is already February? It feels like January just flew by. As this department continues to grow, so does our staff. Jose "Tony" Saavedra joined us as a new Line Service Technician. Welcome to the team Tony.

On January 17, 2023, two of our staff members were recognized by the Edinburg City Council - Line Service Technician, Daniel Wiley, and Administrative Assistant, Jarita "Rita" Hernandez. Daniel was awarded October 2022 Employee of the Month. Congratulations and thank you, "Wiley", for your excellent service!

Jarita "Rita" Hernandez was recognized by Council proclamation for her achievement as an Airport Business Magazine 2022 "Top 40 Under 40" recipient. Thank you, Rita, for your dedication and exceptional work ethic! Please check out Rita's interviews via the links in the Aviation News section below, including her remarks on The City of Edinburg's webpage.

The Aviation Advisory Board's first meeting of the year was held in the department's conference room on Thursday, January 12th. Board meetings are open to the public, and will be held in City Hall Chambers. Please check the Board meeting schedule below in the newsletter.

The Department of Aviation's terminal conference room will now be available upon reservation.

## 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](mailto:stxairport@cityofedinburg.com)



## Get to Know our Manager

Cassie Luevano is a proud Edinburg born native. Her career experience consists of working with many government officials' "state and federal" including representing the RGV all the way to the White House. Prior to her return to Edinburg, she was working for Governor Greg Abbott, traveling the many counties of Texas, serving thousands of Texans. This led to her serving her home City of Edinburg since July 2019. Cassie first landed at Edinburg Airport during a discovery flight the summer of 2009, after she had graduated from Edinburg high school. Since then, she has had an admiration and passion for aviation which led to her love for travel, airplanes, and air shows. Cassie enjoys rooting on her Dallas Cowboys, win or lose, catching the local RGV Vipers basketball team, spending time with her family and friends (which are many), playing some good ole' George Strait Classics, and watching the Blue Angels. Her goal for the department staff is to always strive for leadership, success and welcoming back pilots, passengers, and customers to Edinburg.

# UPCOMING FEBRUARY/MARCH EVENTS

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



## UTRGV MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

<https://goutrgv.com/sports/mens-basketball/schedule/2022-23>

<https://goutrgv.com/sports/womens-basketball/schedule/2022-23>



## RGV VIPERS SCHEDULE

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



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MARCH 6TH	OCTOBER 2ND
MARCH 20TH	OCTOBER 16TH
APRIL 3RD	NOVEMBER 6TH
APRIL 17TH	NOVEMBER 20TH
MAY 1ST	DECEMBER 4TH
MAY 15TH	DECEMBER 18TH
JUNE 5TH	

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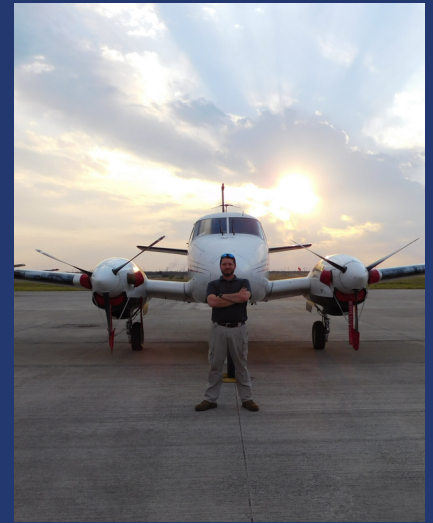
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## ORVP

The State's Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORVP) works to control rabies in coyotes and gray foxes in South and West Central Texas. This year, ORVP based their aircraft operations from South Texas International Airport using four Beechcraft Utes. Thank you, ORVP, for your mission and being our customer. It was our pleasure to have served you!

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/rabies/oral-rabies-vaccination-program-orvp>



# PILOT SPOTLIGHT



## Jerry Wiley

By Alexis I. Rodriguez

Mr. Jerry Wiley was born in North Louisiana and raised in South Louisiana, then attended bible school in San Antonio Texas. In 1969, he attended the Rio Grande Bible Institute in Edinburg, Texas, where he studied the Spanish language five hours daily, five days a week for nine months. Needless to say, he is fluent in Spanish. In 1994, Mr. Wiley decided to pursue aviation lessons. He studied with a private instructor, Mr. Truesdale, in Priness, Mississippi. He soloed at 5.8 hours, then with only 42 hours was able to obtain his pilot's license. When Mr. Wiley told me this, I was shocked. Mr. Wiley replied, "That's how bad I wanted to fly." When Mr. Wiley was still in training, a friend of his had told him he should buy a plane. Mr. Wiley had \$5,000 in his savings, but knew it was not enough money to purchase one. His friend had faith and told him not to worry, someone would buy him a plane. Mr. Wiley said, one day during a conversation with a widow whose husband had





## PILOT SPOTLIGHT CONT.

recently passed, she said to him, “God told me to give you this.” It was \$5,000. Mr. Wiley purchased a 1956, 182 Cessna for \$10,000. “I had a plane before I had my license.”

After he completed his license, he flew to Morelia, Michoacán in Central Mexico, and flew as a Bush Pilot Missionary for 15 years in West Mexico. “I had never seen mountains in my life.”

In 1989, Mr. Wiley moved to Tamaulipas, Mexico and joined other missionaries "Bush flying". Bush flying is the practice of landing and taking off from very short or unimproved, strips, runways, or even dirt roads. Mr. Wiley helped build churches and orphanages transporting doctors, dentists and other medical staff to assist the Cora and Huichol Indians. In 1994, the Wileys built an orphanage named Eagle's Nest in Soto La Marina, Tamaulipas, Mexico, which still operates today. “My life has been very interesting, moving to Mexico when I was 21 years old, then serving the Mexican people in many ways flying across their country, mostly to the mountains to transport supplies, food, clothing, building supplies, et cetera to the Huichol and Cora Indians. We helped set up a base with the Cora Indians to provide free medical attention”.

Mr. Wiley has been flying for the last 48 years, currently piloting Cessna 182 and 206, and a Piper Malibu. He reveals he'd stopped keeping track after logging 15,000 flight hours. Mr. Wiley's advice for pilots, present and future, “Fly high and fly fast.” “First and foremost, respect the weather. Do not take chances.”

Earlier in our interview, I had asked Mr. Wiley if there was anything he would like to comment or share with not just pilots but with everyone. He said he would let me know, that he'd get back to me. About five minutes later, Mr. Wiley walked up to my desk and said, “What an honor it has been to serve the Mexican people for forty-five years.”





## AVIATION NEWS

<https://www.aviationpros.com/airports/article/21276427/2022-airport-business-top-40-under-40>

<https://theedinburgadvocate.com/2023/01/edinburg-airport-staff-honored-as-top-40-under-40-winner-by-national-magazine/>

<https://www.aviationpros.com/podcasts>

<https://www.aviationpros.com/education-training/computer-based-training/press-release/21292953/aeroclass-with-continuing-aviation-staff-shortages-online-classes-help-training-experts-quicker>

WHAT DID THE FOOTBALL  
PLAYER SAY TO THE FLIGHT  
ATTENDANT?

-  
PUT ME IN COACH

## Aviation Board Meeting Schedule

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

March 9

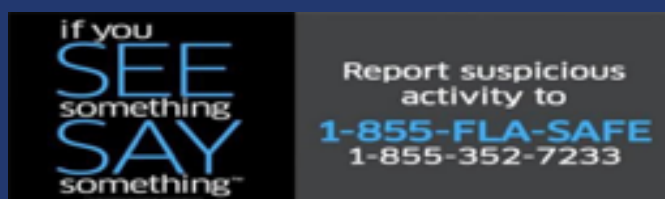
May 11

July 13

September 14

November 9

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