

Ely Air Lines -

Fast Company

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

Air racers are known for speed, precision, and mechanical skill. Apparently, also remarkably good at finding places associated with aliens.

For sixty years, the National Championship Air Races were held in Reno, Nevada, just a couple of desert mountain ranges away from Area 51, where generations of conspiracy theorists have searched the skies for evidence of extraterrestrial visitors.

For decades, race fans could spend the morning watching airplanes and the afternoon driving toward Area 51 looking for secret aircraft. Now, they can watch airplanes and spend the afternoon shopping for alien-themed refrigerator magnets. Because last year, the races moved to Roswell, New Mexico, home of perhaps the most famous alien story in American history.

In July 1947, something crashed on a ranch near Roswell. Personnel from the nearby Roswell Army Air Field recovered debris. The local military base initially issued a press release stating they had recovered a "flying disc." Within a day, the Army reversed course and said it was merely a weather balloon. That reversal is what fueled decades of speculation.

Some people believed the government covered up a spacecraft crash where alien bodies were recovered. Government officials later explained that the debris actually came from a highly classified Cold War project called Project Mogul, which used high-altitude balloons to detect Soviet nuclear tests. Because the project was secret, officials in 1947 could not reveal its true purpose. That secrecy helped the mystery grow, making Roswell famous because of something that suppos-



edly fell out of the sky.

Today, the town embraces that reputation wholeheartedly with alien museums, UFO-themed businesses, an annual UFO festival, and enough little green men to populate a small galaxy. One year, when Charlie Grabein returned from a vacation to Roswell, he couldn't wait to hand me a souvenir he got for me. It was an "Unofficial Spaceship Pilot's License." To date, it remains my only type rating not recognized by the FAA.

Pilots may be among the most skeptical people you'll ever meet, but we're also among the few who regularly stare at the sky for hours at a time. We see weather. Sometimes meteors. Or satellites. Often, military aircraft.

Not unusual, Starlink trains. Or Venus. And every now and then somebody sees something they can't identify. Which is literally what a UFO is. But think about it. Before satellites, before drones, before Starlink, there were plenty of things in the sky that ordinary people couldn't easily identify.

Many UFO sightings near Area 51 turned out to be U-2s, SR-71s, and other aircraft so advanced they might as well have come from another planet. But every pilot has seen something that made them look twice. Usually, it turns out to be Venus. Venus has probably caused more UFO reports than extraterrestrials.

Whether the skies hold secret aircraft, little green men, or nothing more mysterious than a fast airplane and an active imagination, one thing is certain: Air racers continue to operate in some of the most suspiciously extraterrestrial ZIP codes in America. ElyAirLines.substack.com



SHC book drive for veterans, military to end on July 4

LIBERTY - The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center (SHC), as part of its Texas America250 programming, will be hosting a book drive through July 4 in support of our military and veterans. The SHC Quarterly Book Club has

partnered with Operation Paperback to support active-duty military, veterans and their families with books donated through the club. Club members invite the community to bring book donations to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Re-

search Center at 650 FM 1011 during regular business hours Tuesday to Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 pm.

Books must be new or gently used, without writing or damage, and can be either paperback or hardback. To ensure books are in like-new condition, publication dates within the past 5-7 years are preferred. Popular categories include mysteries, action novels, westerns, fantasy and science fiction, but all genres are welcome. Military and veterans also request non-fiction genres, like history, current events and business and investing books.

Club members and Center staff plan to deliver books to the Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Houston for use in clinics throughout Southeast Texas and to ship books through Operation Paperback. By working with Operation Paperback, the club can send books where they will be of most benefit, which may be to troops overseas, wounded warrior programs, military families or hospitals.

Daisetta swears in Don Neyland

Continued from Page A-1

neighbors need you. Whether wearing a police uniform, serving on the city council, or now presiding over the Municipal Court, Neyland has consistently answered that call.

His appointment brings decades of leadership experience, a deep understanding of the law, and a firsthand knowledge of the community he has spent a lifetime serving.

The City of Daisetta extends its sincere congratulations to Judge Neyland and looks forward to his continued service to the citizens of Daisetta.

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MEALS ON WHEELS OF SOUTHEAST LIBERTY COUNTY

LIBERTY COUNTY - Do you have time to lend a hand for others? Meals on Wheels of Southeast Liberty County is in need of volunteers in all of their service areas. Drivers are needed for all routes and it only takes 1.5 hours to deliver hot meals to area seniors. If you have time to lend, call 936-641-2846.

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THE HARMON LEGACY

WALLISVILLE - Discover the story behind a treasured Chambers County family in The Harmon Legacy available now from Chambers County Museum or the online bookstore at wallisville-museum.com.

Readers will journey through the history of the Harmon family and the renowned Harmon Saddle Shop. Printed on premium 100-lb. glossy paper, this richly illustrated volume is more than just a book - it's a wonderful coffee table keepsake to be enjoyed and shared for generations. Purchase price is \$35; a \$3 fee will be added to credit card purchases.



LUNCH AND LEARN FOR NEW OFFICERS (L - r): Jennifer Perkins, Dr. Travis Young, Tammy Alexander, Dr. Luke Chachere and Elizabeth Robertson.

Dayton Rotarians recap busy 100th year

The newly elected and installed Dayton Rotary officers met for a working lunch. They reflected over the past year under the leadership of Dr. Luke Chachere. The new slate of officers gathered at host Rotarian Dr. Jessica Johnson's home to share thoughts, plan ahead, and brainstorm for the upcoming year with Elizabeth Robertson leading the way.

Hostess Johnson expressed her gratitude, saying, "Thank you, Dr. Chachere, for your leadership during our 100th year as a Dayton Rotary Club. You really set the bar high, and I'm so proud of not only your leadership but of our entire club. This past year, not only have we had some great weekly programs, but we also organized a wide variety of events and projects! Under Dr. Chachere's guidance, we hosted the Bill Buchanan Recognition Day, organized a successful 4-wheeler fundraiser, held the second annual 'Warm Hearts Heater Project,' and partnered with Precision Lawns to donate a newly planted tree and bench at the community center. The club also hosted a profitable gumbo luncheon, enjoyed a fantastic Christmas social, partnered with Baytown Rotary to update Bridgehaven's playground, spon-

sored five RYLA students, and awarded Dayton High School scholarships. Members worked booths at the TVE grounds for the L.J. Chachere Memorial Show and the annual Nutcracker event at the Dayton Community Center and also went on two fun club field trips to Mimosa Gardens and the Old School House Museum. All of these activities and projects took place while we also hosted the special 100th Anniversary celebration!"

The new officers include President Elizabeth Robertson, Past-President Dr. Luke Chachere, President-

Elect Dr. Travis Young, Secretary Tammy Alexander, and Treasurer Jennifer Perkins. During the working lunch, the officers discussed upcoming fundraisers and community service ideas and also took time to learn more about their new roles. The meeting wrapped up on an upbeat note, with everyone full of enthusiasm and clear plans for the year ahead.

Elizabeth Robertson, our new President, warmly invites anyone interested in learning more about the Dayton Rotary Club to join us for a lunch meeting on Thursdays at the Dayton Community Center.

Use iWatchTexas to report suspicious activity

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) iWatchTexas program is a resource anyone can use to report suspicious activity or behavior in schools and communities. The iWatchTexas program allows Texans to report any suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate criminal, terroristic or school safety-related threats.

The public can report behaviors via the mobile app, online at www.iwatchtx.org or by calling 1-844-643-2251. Each report is reviewed by law enforcement analysts and all reports are confidential (providing contact information, which is optional).

The iWatchTexas app is available at no cost to iPhone users on the Apple App Store (iWatchTexas) and for Android users on Google Play (iWatchTexas). Texans are urged to download the app now.

Note: The iWatchTexas program is not designed to report emergencies. If a situation requires an emergency response, call 911.

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