

Ely Air Lines –

Aerial Football

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

Mike: What’s the longest flight you’ve ever been on? Currently, Singapore Air-lines operates the longest commercial flight: New York to Singapore, nearly 10,000 miles in just over 18 hours and 30 minutes. These flights are made without re-fueling. On trips that long, the crew must take breaks and nap. They bunk above the ceiling of the main cabin or in other non-passenger areas of the plane. But what about military jets? How long can they fly?

My cousin, now retired from the Air Force and flying for Jet Blue, spent 12 of his 22 years of service flying transport aircraft, Lockheed C-5 Galaxies. During the war in Somalia, he flew C-5s between Travis Air Force Base in California and Mogadishu. Most Air Force aircraft can be refueled in the air and thus can fly around the world without landing. Therefore, these “heavies” often carry three full flight crews, rotating the flying duties and rest time. When not flying, they spend their time in a ready room behind the cockpit or in a bunk room even further back. Once the cargo is dropped off, which might include two M1A1 Abrams battle tanks or five Bradley



armored transports, and up to 80 combat troops and their gear, the crews may spend 18 hours flying empty to pick up more equipment and troops.

The troop compartment is above the main cargo hold behind the wing, whereas the flight deck and flight crew ready and rest areas are also above the cargo hold but in front of the wing. Both require a retractable ladder to reach. With an empty cargo hold, the crewmembers and any troops riding in the back often spend their time jogging or playing Nerf football. Imagine some officers grabbing you for a toss. A weight room and sauna might be pushing it, but that would be cool.

Fighter jets, on the other hand, have a shorter range and take some looking after on the long haul. The pilots rendezvous with an aerial tanker, meeting up to connect to the refueling straw poking out the tanker’s back end. These quick and nimble jets depend on the airborne gas stations. One tanker leads a gaggle of six fighter jets across the open ocean, three forming up on each side, following the mothership. Fighter pilots fly for hours in a tight cockpit, monitoring the fuel gauges. After a while, another tanker meets up to relieve the first one, and depending on the length of the flight, sometimes even a third flying gas tank.

Pilots flying the big iron can enjoy some mental break time. There is a joke that is as old as time (which I’ll modify slightly), where a fighter pilot pulls alongside a transport, says over the radio, “Watch this!” and performs a fast roll to show off.

The transport pilot responds, “That’s nice. Watch this.”

After a while, the fighter pilot says, “I didn’t see you do anything.”

The transport pilot replies, “I just made a touch down.”


ElyAirLines.substack.com

‘History & Then Some’

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the McFadden Ranch, learning the cowboy way, before going out on his own to work for Elmer Boyt on the Boyt Ranch. In 2016, Floyd Frank received the distinguished honor of being the only cowboy, black or white, from our area to be inducted in to the National Multicultural Western Museum Hall of Fame in Forth Worth.

The History & Then Some series focuses on Chambers County history as it relates to Texas history. Admission is free, but seating is limited. Call 409-389-2252 for more information. The museum is located at 20136 Interstate 10 East.



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Amanuel Abreha, MD
Hospitalist



Amanuel Abreha, M.D. joined LDRMC in 2005. Dr. Abreha serves as Director of Medical and Respiratory Services, LDRMC Vice Chief of Staff, Liberty Dayton Medical Clinic Provider, Emergency Room Provider and Inpatient Hospitalist.

Dr. Abreha’s desire to practice medicine started in his early teen years as he grew up in Eritrea, Africa, where he witnessed a significant need for doctors, nurses, and medical facilities to reduce deaths in his country. He received his M.D. at Addis Ababa University School of Medicine. After practicing medicine in Ethiopia for more than 6 years, Dr. Abreha and his family moved to the United States in 1994 to further his education. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai Health Services at Queens Health Network in June 2000. Dr. Abreha continued working as faculty for Mount Sinai for 5 years. He worked in the department of ambulatory care and as an Associate Program Director of the Residency Training Program.


Dr. Abreha brings more than 30 years of clinical experience to LDRMC. His compassion for his patients shows in his medical practice as he says, “I love my patients and bond to them immediately like my own family members.”

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Liberty City Manager Bryan Kendrick gives his report

LIBERTY - This agenda provides an opportunity for the City Manager to update the City Council and the public on key ongoing and upcoming City projects and initiatives.

Water System Maintenance: Crews continue to address water leaks on a maintenance-response basis, resolving issues as they arise. As of last week, there were two active leaks throughout the city. Should the volume exceed the internal capacity to respond in a timely manner, outside contractors will be brought in to assist as needed.

Lakeland Drive Water Leak: On August 18, at approximately 10 a.m., a mower struck an old pipe from a previously removed fire hydrant. To minimize the impact of service disruptions, a contractor was called to install a valve to cut the

water off. Upon arrival, it was determined that the contractor did not have the proper tools or capacity to complete the repair. By 4 p.m., the decision was made for the contractor to leave, and the Water Department assumed responsibility for the work. This resulted in widespread outages throughout the city. Service was fully restored by approximately 8 p.m.

Main and Texas Street Drainage: After numerous emails and voicemails to TxDOT, a decision was made to repair the drainage issue on Main Street at Texas. The Street Department grassed the ditches from the LISD Administration Office south to Maple Street. The Water Department jetted the culverts and used the vacuum truck to remove mud and debris from the culverts.

Forest Hills Water

Line Improvements: This project is currently 100 percent complete. The final walk-through was completed August 27.

Splash Pad: The Lib-

erty Municipal Park Splash Pad was officially closed September 2. Construction will begin on the brand-new splash pad coming in Spring 2026!

Saddle up with a purpose

DAYTON - Saddle up with a purpose as Universal Agape Love hosts it Country Chic fundraising event Saturday, September 27 at the Dayton Community Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Get set for a fun evening and come dressed in your finest western-inspired attire for an evening dedicated to supporting victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. This event is all about bringing the community together to support the vital work of Agape Love.

Tickets include a catered meal, open bar, and door prize ticket. Items for a silent auction will be up for bids and there will be plenty of entertainment during the evening along with inspiring guest speakers. Tick-

ets are \$100 each or \$1,000 for a table of ten.

In addition, sponsorship opportunities are available in multiple levels. Your sponsorship earns you, or your company, name recognition (website and Facebook), tickets, signage and more all while showcasing your brand to a wide audience. Sponsorship levels include Gold (\$3,000), Silver (\$2,000), Bronze (\$1,000), Food (\$750), Dessert (\$250), and Mechanical Bull (\$250).

To purchase tickets, for sponsorships or more information, visit the website at universalagapelove.org, call 936-262-7800 or email universalagapelove.org. Agape love is a charitable nonprofit organization 501(c)(3).

Good friends (l-r) Barbara Harris, Mary Beth Jamison and Ena Stoesser enjoyed a bit of lunch together recently at Mary Beth’s home. Many thanks to Mary Beth’s caregiver Leatrice for this casual photo of these lovely ladies.

Mark your calendar for Macho Bingo

DAYTON - Bridgehaven Children’s Advocacy Center is thrilled to announce that Macho Bingo 2025 is officially on the calendar for October 4 at the Dayton Community Center.

Sponsorship opportunities are now open and you can show your support in a big way with any of the multiple sponsorship opportunities available. By sponsoring this event, your business will receive valuable recognition, all while supporting a cause that matters.


It’s going to be an unforgettable Western-themed night full of games, auction items, good food, and big laughs, all in support of Bridgehaven Children’s Advocacy Center and the children that are served across Liberty and Chambers counties. Every dol-

lar raised at Macho Bingo helps continue the mission to bring hope, healing, and justice to children who are victims of abuse.

Saddle up, win big, give big and play bingo for the night. Game prizes will consist of items such as fishing rods, hunting trips, fishing trips, coolers of booze, hunting and fishing supplies, and more. To add to an already fun night, come dressed to impress in your western wear (encouraged, but not required). This event is for 18 and older only. No one under 21 will be allowed to consume alcohol. Doors open at 5 p.m. Bingo starts at 6 p.m.

Become a sponsor today, but hurry before spots are gone. Go online to <https://givebutter.com/-macho25> to find out more and show your support.

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