

Ely Air Lines –

The Last Few Miles

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

One balmy spring-summer afternoon around 1995, a squat single-engine Cessna rumbled onto the ramp in Salt Lake City. Its pilot taxied among shiny corporate jets, looking for an open parking spot. A ramp worker helping a jet crew prepare to depart spotted it and dashed over to direct the pilot. After the plane's propeller came to a stop, out stepped a cleaned-up version of Indiana Jones. The ramper spoke to him, pointed toward the FBO and returned to help the jet crew.

The pilot wandered into the building to inquire about the use of a courtesy car. The employee didn't recognize him in his mild-mannered Clark Kent attire but said he was in luck. They had a 1971 Ford Torino he could use. It was rusty, had torn seats, an inoperative air conditioner, and a permanently illuminated check-engine light. The car squeaked as he drove it out to his airplane. It probably reminded him of the Millennium Falcon he piloted a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, and the pilot seemed fine with that. After all, it was a true airport courtesy car.

If someone were to write a movie script or a novel about pilots, airplanes, and airports, the courtesy car would not just be transportation – it would be a character. Because sometimes the real adventure begins the moment someone at the FBO asks, "Y'all need the courtesy car?" No pilot

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CALVARY CLOSET

DAYTON - Calvary Baptist Church is offering gently used clothing to those in need through its Calvary Closet ministry. Free, gently used clothing is available for infants to adults in most sizes. The closet is open the first Tuesday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon and the third Thursday of the month from 4-6 p.m. Clothing donations only are accepted. Calvary is located at 4031 FM 1960 in Dayton.



has ever declined such an offer. Typically, the vehicle is at least 22 years old. It's probably hauled hay, marching band equipment, and at least one Christmas tree. The steering wheel has about three inches of enthusiastic play in either direction and a distinct wobble, depending on how many shock absorbers are shot. The keys are attached to something the size of a canoe paddle so no one can accidentally slip them into their pocket. One door doesn't open. One door doesn't close. The glove box contains a map to a restaurant that closed in 2010.

When the borrower first tries to start it, the engine coughs twice, considers its options, and agrees, at least for the time being. Then it's time to head into town in search of an eatery.

Returning to the airport after the trip to the café, the driver/pilot parks and turns the key, but the engine keeps running for half a second out of momentum. Pilots love it, and the dashboard gets another pat in appreciation.

Most people think the adventure ends when the airplane lands. The wheels touch down, the propeller slows, and the non-flying world says, "Ah yes, we've arrived." But to pilots, the adventure doesn't always end there.

And sometimes, that pilot just happens to be actor, adventurer, and aviator, Harrison Ford, perfectly content chasing lunch in a battered Ford Torino instead of dodging boulders or stormtroopers.

Because whether you're flying a Cessna into Salt Lake City or piloting the Millennium Falcon through hyperspace, a true adventure never really ends at touchdown.

ElyAirLines.substack.com

Statewide reading challenge has begun

AUSTIN - The Texas Center for the Book and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) invite Texans of all ages to participate in the statewide Texas America250 Reading Challenge, which launched Jan. 1 and continues through the end of the year.

From Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2026, Texans are invited to log 2,500 minutes (41.6 hours) of reading, state parks visits and/or service activity as part of the national America250 America Gives initiative, in honor of our nation's 250th anniversary.

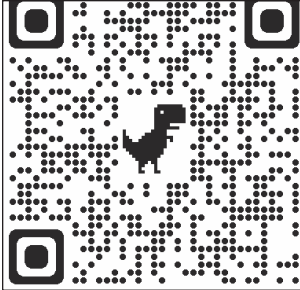
Upon completion of the Reading Challenge, participants are eligible to receive a special certificate signed by Governor Abbott from their public or school librarian. Librarians are invited to register using the QR code (certificate) to gain access to an online portal where they can print the certificates. Participants can log their time:

- Reading books and/or listening to audiobooks. The Texas Center for the Book especially encourages reading about Texas and American history, as


well as Texas and American nature, wildlife and space exploration topics.

- Attending library story-times or other library events.
- Volunteering in their local communities.


• Visiting a Texas State Park. The Texas America250 Reading Challenge is self-reported. Participants can track their time using the "Mosey along the reading trail" Reading Log Map, or with their own reading log or other method. Reading logs do not need to be submitted to TSLAC. These and many more resources are available at the Texas State Library website, using the QR code provided below, or searching texas-america250.com.



Dr. Callens (left) and Dr. Abreha are regulars at the Men's Health Fair, hosted every year by Liberty Dayton Regional Medical Center.

**LibertyDayton**
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Syrila Bossert,
WHNP-BC
Clinic Women's Health
Nurse Practitioner



Syrila is a native of Louisiana and was raised in Abbeville, Louisiana, by her single parent mom, Clementine Thibaux. She graduated with her BSN from Southeastern Louisiana University. While in nursing school she realized her desire to provide specific care in women's health. She was blessed to start her first year working as an RN on a Labor and Delivery floor. While working and living in Port Arthur, Texas, she had the opportunity and desire to return to school to become a Nurse Practitioner. After years of experience with women on labor and delivery it was a natural segue to specializing as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. She received her master's degree from University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston. She and her husband, Dean, live in Dayton and work in Liberty. They have sent three grown children out into the world.

Why go anywhere else when the care you need is close at home!

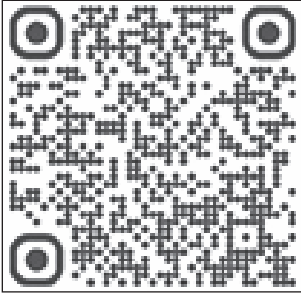
For an appointment, call (936) 336-9175

1201 NORTH TRAVIS STREET - LIBERTY

Rice Recipe Contest seeks entries


Choose a favorite category and enter the Texas Rice Recipe Contest. Contest categories include recipes for Cracked Rice, Family Recipe and Dessert. Winners in each category will earn \$100. Contest is an initiation of Timsel27LLD. Scan the QR Code to submit your recipe, learn about research and community outreach, sign up to be a recipe

judge, or learn about ways to get involved. Entry deadline is Sun., April 5.



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