

2009 GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT OF THE YEAR

This airport is being nominated because it is the only GA airport that has a rail line transfer business located on the airport where the city has retained the option to purchase the spur –this was quite an accomplishment for a small town and the city is pursuing development of a multi modal air/rail park. The city has contracted with a major engineering firm to further develop its Air-Rail Industrial Park.

The Airport has definitely come a long way in the past two years since Robert Herrera hired a new airport manager. Together the City Manager and Airport Manager constitute an incredible team.

In the fall of 2008, the airport brought Air Evac Life team of Missouri headquarters to the field with a new hangar, 13 jobs, and a 1.3 million dollar boost to the tax base. Air Evac Life team provided EMS service to the region. The based helicopters buy all their fuel from the new tanks at the airport which is and a significant revenue source for the airport.

The City has entered into a long term lease with Wright Flyers, a certified pilot training school for recreational through commercial pilots. They plan to develop an International Flight Training Academy at the airport. The three phase, 7 million dollar investment by Wright Flyers to move a part of their operation to the Airport is anticipated

to bring 36 aircraft and 50 or more employees when complete.

This airport was the first site for NPE fuel facility installation. The Airport Manager has assisted other airports and has helped TxDOT Aviation tremendously with fuel facility development, marketing, and training to promote their new facilities.

Recent funding from the Aviation Division includes \$419,000 for a new terminal building and \$138,000 for the fuel facility.

For our 2008 General Aviation Airport of the Year, Please help me congratulate Robert Herrera, City Manager and Tim Fousse, Airport Manager for their achievements at the Hondo Municipal Airport.

Senator Carlos Uresti's Office sent a resolution for us to present.

State Representative Tracy King has a Resolution to present. Either Rep. King or Selina Overbo is here to present it.