

**PORT OF  
BROWNSVILLE**  
•WORLD CLASS•  
the port that works

# PORT MATTERS

NEWSLETTER



West Plains LLC held a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday, December 15, 2016, to officially open the Port of Brownsville grain elevator. Pictured from left to right are: Omar Perera, member of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce Bienvenidos Committee; John Reed, BND Vice-Chairman; Andrea Benton, Brownsville Chamber of Commerce Bienvenidos Committee; Sandra Langley, Brownsville Chamber of Commerce Bienvenidos Committee; John Phillips, Brownsville Chamber of Commerce Bienvenidos Committee; Amit Bhandari, CEO of BioUrja Group; Mike Rowan, President of West Plains; Paul Johnson, director of operations for West Plains; John Wood, BND Chairman; George Grada, Brownsville Chamber of Commerce Bienvenidos Committee; Alan Simon, Vice President of Industrial Development for OmniTRAX; Ralph Cowen, BND Commissioner; Olga Morales, Brownsville Chamber of Commerce Bienvenidos Committee; and Eduardo A. Campirano, Port of Brownsville Director & CEO.

## West Plains Hosts Grand Re-Opening Celebration for Grain Elevator

West Plains LLC, a grain elevator subsidiary of the BioUrjaGroup, hosted a grand re-opening event Thursday, December 15, 2016, officially opening one of the port's most iconic buildings.

The 50-year-old grain elevator has handled millions of tons of grain passing through the port, and upon completion of its modernization it will be equipped for efficient and high-speed handling of grain through all modes of transportation – truck, rail and vessel.

The renovated facility will provide storage for nearly 3 million bushels of grain, and in addition it will add eight full-time, year-round jobs.

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## State of the Port Address Highlights Record Year and Economic Impact

The Port of Brownsville expects to set tonnage and revenue records in 2016 predicts Eduardo A. Campirano, Port Director & CEO.

Campirano made the prediction before a group of 150 present Thursday, December 8, 2016, at his State of the Port Address in Brownsville.

In 2015, the port handled more than 10.1 million tons of cargo, exceeding the 2014 record of 8.4 million tons, and recorded almost \$20 million in revenue. Although the final numbers for 2016 are not yet available the port is on track to set new tonnage and revenue records. Campirano credits the Brownsville Navigation Board (BND) of Commissioners, customers and business partners for the port's best performance to date.

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## Captain of the Port Visits Brownsville

The Propeller Club of Brownsville/Port Isabel welcomed USCG Captain Tony Hahn, Captain of the Port and Officer in Charge of Marine Inspections for South Texas, who was invited as the guest speaker for the club's monthly meeting in November.

Captain Hahn explained his mission and the work he gets accomplished while overseeing the Port of Brownsville and South Texas waterways. He oversees operations for all maritime ports from Port Lavaca to Brownsville.

## BROWNSVILLE NAVIGATION DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

[John Wood](#)

Chairman

[John Reed](#)

Vice- Chairman

[Sergio Tito Lopez](#)

Secretary

[Carlos R. Masso](#)

Commissioner

[Ralph Cowen](#)

Commissioner

## PORT OF BROWNSVILLE ADMINISTRATION

[Eduardo A. Campirano](#)

Port Director & CEO

[Port Administration](#)

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## PORT DIRECTORY

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## CALENDAR



**December 21**

BND Board Meeting

**December 24**

Christmas Eve - **Port offices closed**  
**Dec. 23**

**December 25**

Christmas Day - **Port offices closed**



## From Brownsville to Russia

ExxonMobil recently acquired one of the world's largest Harsh Environment Enhanced Mobility land rigs from Keppel AmFELS and recorded its journey on video from the Port of Brownsville through the Panama Canal.

The video shows the massive rig being prepped and loaded out for its 66-day long journey at the Keppel AmFELS yard and crossing the Panama Canal before entering the Pacific Ocean on its way to Sakhalin, Russia.

Keppel AmFELS built the drilling rig and delivered it in May 2016, ahead of schedule and with a strong safety record.

[Watch Video](#)



## BND Recognized for Excellence in Finance Reporting

For the fifth consecutive year, the Brownsville Navigation District received the highest form of recognition for governmental accounting and financial reporting for its 2015 comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented the award to Stephen B. Fitzgibbons, Port of Brownsville director of finance.

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Dec. 26

**December 31**

New Year's Eve

**2017**

**January 1**

New Year's Day - **Port offices closed**

**Jan. 2**

**January 4**

BND Board Meeting

**January 16**

Martin Luther King Day

**January 18**

BND Board Meeting

**January 19**

Brownsville/Port Isabel Propeller Club Meeting

**January 29-31**

[Tampa Steel Conference](#)

**February 1-3**

[AMM Mexican Steel Forum](#)

**February 2**

Groundhog Day

**February 2-3**

[AAPA Planning for Shifting Trade Workshop](#)

## Port Administration Offices to Relocate for Renovation

The Port of Brownsville administration building at 1000 Foust Road will close to undergo a complete renovation of the facilities in January 2017.

The administration offices will be temporarily relocated to Keppel AmFELS, 20000 SH 48, for the duration of the renovation. An exact moving date is forthcoming, subject to contract awards and permitting.

All visitors to the temporary port offices for business or any other matter will be required to show proper identification at Keppel AmFELS's security gate to gain access to the facilities.



## Veterans Recognized at Luncheon

The Port of Brownsville celebrated and recognized its employees and Brownsville Navigation District commissioners who are veterans Monday, November 14, 2016. Veterans at the Port served in the Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy. They are:

### Army

Rogelio Acevedo  
BND Commissioner Ralph Cowen  
Rolando Doria  
Stephen Fitzgibbons  
Lorenzo Montiel  
Guadalupe Ortiz  
Jose Luis Ramirez  
Steven Tyndal  
BND Chairman John Wood

### Coast Guard

Carlos Martinez

### Marines

Carlos L. Garcia  
Ernest Garcia  
Juan Martinez III  
Juan Carlos Valles

### Navy

Victor Gunnoe  
Herman Ochoa



## New President at ISL

International Shipbreaking, LLC has named Chris Green president effective November 1, 2016.

In his new role, Green is responsible for leading all operations of the company. Prior to taking the role of president, Green was the environmental safety and health program manager for ISL. He has been with the company since 2014.

International Shipbreaking, LLC is located at the Port of Brownsville and is a subsidiary of EMR USA.



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