

# BIG BEND Sentinel

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## Council hears concerns about new K-9 unit



MARFA POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Roski the K-9*

By Rob D’Amico

Marfa

A small number of Marfa residents have raised concerns about a new K-9 unit dog patrolling with the police department to work on drug interdiction, since they question whether a small town needs the dog, how much it will cost, and whether it will end up creating situations where people are illegally searched or pressured into allowing searches of themselves or their vehicles.

The City Council on October 22 approved a policy manual for the K-9—a Belgian Malinois named Roski—who came with its officer handler Kelsey Flores a few months ago from the Pecos

See “K-9” on page 6

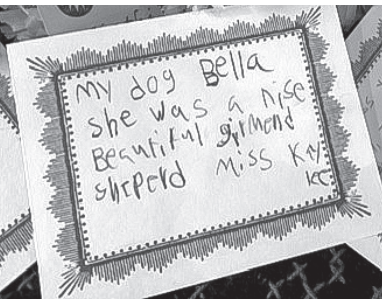
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James Magee’s former El Paso studio. Page 8.

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Border folks share tips for Día de Muertos. Page 10.



SAM KARAS

Froquet creates pigment from rocks, clay and charcoal found near the installation site.

## Romain Froquet creates a vibrant fabric for the church in Ruidosa

### The French artist explores ‘Connections’ with the installation in a historic church

By Rob D’Amico

Ruidosa

Romain Froquet vigorously scrapes his iron file back and forth against a fist-sized rock until powder begins to form a pile next to it on a rough wooden table. This rock and others, all collected from the surrounding desert, will form his paint palette—mostly various shades of ochre, from a yellowish hue to deeper browns, along with a reddish tint and a deep black made from mesquite wood charcoal. He’s in the sacristy of an abandoned adobe church, with no roof above his head, a view that reveals the blue sky, also another color in his palette that he obtained from Chihuahua, Mexico.

“When you work with natural pigment from here, it means there is the DNA of the place here in the painting,” he says. “It’s essentially tempera painting,” and he notes how when he arrived at the church in Ruidosa, some 36 miles of rugged road west of the nearest city, he had everything he needed for his work creating an installation except one thing. “We forgot the eggs,” he says, after showing how a mix of the rock powders, water and egg makes his paint.

On Tuesday, I got a sneak preview of his installation that hung from the ceiling of the church, some 30 feet above—a 5-foot-wide cotton canvas painted with broad lines, some bold, some soft, that drapes to the dirt floor into a roll around a piece of wood, leaving the length to the imagination. The fabric canvas sways softly in the breeze that flows through the church, and it becomes clear that when finished, the entirety of the church’s main room will be a colorful array of these flowing fabrics.

Froquet, an internationally recognized artist from France, came to Far West Texas a week prior at the invitation of the Friends of the Ruidosa Church, the Marfa and Presidio-based nonprofit restoring the massive adobe church perched on the Rio Grande. The town of Ruidosa was once a thriving farming community of more than a thousand, and its Catholic

Church—El Corazón Sagrado de la Iglesia de Jesús (The Sacred Heart of the Church of Jesus)—was the spiritual and communal anchor for those seeking masses, funerals, weddings and celebrations. The church, which included two towers and an immense, arched roof, was built in 1915, handcrafted by locals with individual adobe bricks made of mud, sand and sometimes straw.

### After the dam broke

Little did the town know a dam built in New Mexico in 1916, and subsequent dams and flood control, would rob the Rio Grande of water, eventually leaving the farmlands with no water and causing a gradual migration of residents out of the town. Eventually, only a dozen or so residents remained, and by the 1950s, the church was abandoned. Years of relentless sun, wind and rain left the structure crumbling. Attempts to maintain the adobe were mounted over the years, but it wasn’t until the Friends nonprofit

formed and took ownership of the church that significant renovation began—supported by a combination of grants and donations.

For Froquet, the lonely church and surrounding harsh desert are inspiring, and he is exuberant about supporting the restoration project. His installation will be a focal point of the nonprofit’s Community Day on Saturday, November 1, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the church—featuring free food and drink, along with music and dancers from Presidio. The installation will then move to Marfa for a full display at Do Right Hall Marfa, and Froquet will then cut the fabrics into squares and frame them for sale to benefit the Friends of the Ruidosa Church.

For Froquet, his painted lines have a deep meaning surrounding Connections, a previous installation of sorts in the desert near Terlingua. Lines raked and dug into the soil, along with found objects in lines, speak to the connections between nature and humankind.

But the creations also are about divisions in space and the connections between them.

“The beginning of everything for me as an artist, as a human, I really believe that we are all connected,” he says. “We meet today, and we create a connection. We are also connected to the ground, but we don’t see these connections.” A documentary on Connections was shown at the Crowley Theatre in Marfa last week to further explore Froquet’s work before the Ruidosa church Community Day.

The back wall of the church is gone, providing a giant window to view a few remaining houses in Ruidosa. A horse wanders toward the church on the deserted highway outside. It’s a moment of interest for Froquet’s son Marcus, who has been practicing his own broad strokes on pieces of cardboard inside the church. Wearing a cowboy hat, he freely roams the church and patiently watches his father work. Also accompanying Froquet is his

See “Ruidosa” on page 10

## Border barriers come to Big Bend

“We know how to cross the river the right way,” says the mayor of Presidio.

By Sam Karas

Presidio

A roll of razor-sharp concertina wire now spirals through the green vegetation along the Rio Grande underneath the International Bridge in Presidio—the first physical barrier erected in the Big Bend Sector to deter illegal immigration under the Trump administration and one that has left locals with more questions than answers.

A reporter for a radio station in Ojinaga was the first to spot the change, which was not popular on Facebook. Presidio Mayor John Ferguson was among those vocally upset about the new barrier, which he dismissed as pure security theater.

He worried that folks on the opposite side of the river—who gather under the bridge to fish, swim, or even enjoy municipally-sponsored concerts—would find it patronizing at best and threatening at worst. “It’s not the first time we’ve seen this kind of stuff, but for the sake of the relationship between our two cities, it’s like ‘Hey—we know how to cross the river the right way,’” he said.

On a practical level, he worried that the barrier would become a hazard during floods, which regularly rip through the Presidio Valley between May and October. “Watch all that razor wire get washed downstream,” he said. “Where’s it all going to end up?”

Officials in the Trump administration maintain that such measures are essential sacrifices to defend national security. On October 15, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem filed a notice in the Federal Register authorizing her to “take all appropriate action to deploy and construct physical barriers to ensure complete operational control of the southern border of the United States.” The notice authorizes the construction of “fencing, barriers, roads, lighting, cameras and sensors” in Custom

See “Barriers” on page 6



SAM KARAS

Seen from the Presidio bridge, a new row of razor wire stretches upstream and downstream from the port of entry.

Sentinel News Project



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BELEN SOTO

2025 District Volleyball Champs

## Marfa Lady Horns sweep Sierra Blanca, capture District Volleyball Championship

By Roxye Lara

The Marfa Lady Horns closed out their regular season in dominant fashion Monday night, sweeping the Sierra Blanca Lady Vaqueros (25–13, 25–19, 25–16) on their home court to claim the District Championship.

Before the first serve, the Lady Horns celebrated Senior Night, honoring three standout seniors, Ava Flores, Amaya Gomez and Raven Martinez for their leadership, commitment and lasting impact on the Marfa volleyball program.

Once play began, Marfa took control early and never looked back. In the opening set, Ava Flores served six consecutive points, while Amaya Gomez added five straight from the line. Dariela Muñoz powered through with a kill and an ace, Itzel Urrutia added multiple kills and an ace of her own, and Raven Martinez sealed the set with a decisive kill for the set point. The second set saw the Lady Vaqueros push back, with several lead changes and ties that kept us all on our toes. But the Lady Horns stayed composed and focused to take the set behind aces from Flores and Martinez, along with crucial kills from Urrutia and Muñoz. Defensive specialists Madison Cash, Giselle Torres, and Zoey Salgado came up big with key digs to keep the ball in play. Freshmen Liliana Zubia and Adeline Marquez each tallied a block point. Martinez closed out the set from the service line, as Sierra Blanca shanked it out of bounds

giving Marfa the set point.

In the third set, the Lady Horns played like champions, determined to close it out. Flores, Martinez, Urrutia, Muñoz, and Zubia continued the offensive pressure with strong kills, while Salgado, Martinez, and Flores added crucial blocks at the net. Gomez contributed an ace late in the set as Marfa sealed the sweep. Both Martinez and Urrutia were killin' it with at least a DOZEN kills each, giving the pair the highest kill count of the night.

Even from the bench, Ora Webb and Daniela Fernandez kept spirits high, infecting their teammates and the crowd with their contagious energy. With the victory, the Marfa Lady Horns claimed the District Championship title and will enjoy a bye this week before beginning postseason play. Their next matchup is yet to be determined. Congratulations to the Marfa Lady Horns — 2025 District Champions!

### Marfa Junior Lady Horns end season on a high note

The Marfa Junior Lady Horns wrapped up their season in style Monday night, defeating the Fort Davis Junior Lady Indians in straight sets.

The young squad showed determination and teamwork from start to finish, keeping their composure in tight moments and finishing strong at the net. Consistent serving and quick defensive plays helped Marfa edge out Fort Davis

in the opening set before carrying that momentum into the second.

Head Coach Jessica Hinojos praised her team's growth and effort throughout the season, saying, "These girls played so beautifully—serve receive, transitions, bump-set-hit—everything we've worked for showed up on the court today. Watching it all come together like that was such a proud moment. My first volleyball season as a coach couldn't have ended any better. The growth, the effort, the heart these girls showed all year makes me so proud."

The victory marks a strong finish for the Junior Lady Horns, whose teamwork, energy, and steady improvement promise a bright future for Marfa volleyball. Congratulations to the Marfa Junior Lady Horns on a great season!

### Shorthorns look to bounce back after tough loss to Rankin

Last Friday night, both the Marfa Varsity and Junior High Shorthorns faced off against the Rankin Red Devils on their home field.

Despite their best efforts, both Marfa teams fell short against a tough Rankin squad. While the scores didn't go their way, the Shorthorns are keeping their heads high and focusing on improvement as they prepare for this week's matchup.

Marfa will hit the road Thursday to take on Garden City, with the Junior High game kicking off at 4 p.m. and the Varsity game starting at 6 p.m.

## Gretel Enck launches congressional campaign

By Sam Karas

Marfa On Sunday, Marfa resident Gretel Enck officially launched her campaign for Congress with a meet-and-greet at the Paisano Hotel. Around three dozen Tri-County residents turned out, armed with questions for the Democratic hopeful and pens to sign her ballot petition. Enck has a long career of public service. For more than two decades, she worked for the National Park Service (NPS). Locally, she served as an administrator for Fort Davis National Historic Site and led the charge to establish the Blackwell School as an NPS unit. She took early retirement this year as a result of cuts by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), giving her plenty of time to reflect on her work with government. "I've always felt that people can work from the inside or work from the outside of the system, and both are valid ways to make a difference in our world," she said. "It just happens that working on the inside always felt like a good fit for me."

At Sunday's event, Enck gave a rousing speech, commanding the Paisano patio in jeans and cowboy boots, true to her West Texas bona fides. She addressed the odds stacked against her—apart from hailing from the left side of the aisle, more than 60% of voters in Texas's massive 23rd Congressional District live in urban areas. Democrats from rural parts of the district face an uphill battle, though it's been done before, most recently

by Pete Gallego of Alpine in 2012. "Everyone who lives in this district is my neighbor, and I feel a true obligation to love you and work with you and for you," she said. Enck said that her platform could be divided up into three general categories: addressing what she felt was an out-of-control and negative political climate, identifying how to bring folks together from across the ideological spectrum, and addressing the economic crunch threatening the well-being of millions of Americans. "These are not normal times," she said.

Many of Enck's positions took on a populist ethos, advocating for the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable TX-23 residents—many of whom are looking down the barrel of vanishing SNAP benefits and rising healthcare costs. If the federal government doesn't pass a continuing resolution by the end of next week, three and a half million Texans could go hungry. "It's just one more really harmful and cruel thing that this administration is doing," Enck said.

True to her roots, the border and immigration were a topic that Enck returned to time and again. She said that she comes from Danish stock, and that sense of pride in both an American and immigrant identity informed her politics. She described the rash of raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in liberal cities over the past few weeks as "utterly inhumane"—to cheers from the crowd—and said that she supported a bill recently introduced

by neighboring Congresswoman Veronica Escobar of El Paso mirroring a 2023 bipartisan bill that died in the Senate. "It's a good compromise that creates improved pathways to legal immigration while bolstering border security," Enck explained.

Sunday's crowd was animated and prepared with tough questions for the candidate. Enck was happy to play ball, joking that she has "an opinion on everything." True to her word, she addressed concerns about expiring healthcare subsidies, AI data centers and private prisons. Big Bend Sentinel asked Enck how she planned to balance advocating for rural voters while working to earn the support of the majority of district residents who live in urban areas. Enck hearkened back to her call to promote unity and bring voters together—in a moment of feverish political discourse and uncertainty, voters in Alpine and voters in San Antonio have more in common than they think. "I'm a rural person, but nobody gets left behind in my Texas," she said.

Across the board, Enck said that her potential supporters seemed most concerned about the economy, and she said she took those concerns seriously. "What I'm hearing is that you need me to be strong, you need me to be fierce," she told the crowd. "You need me to work harder than I ever worked, and I know hard work."

For more information on the campaign, visit [gretelforcongress.com](http://gretelforcongress.com).



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Sentinel is changing, but before moving too far, we want to hear from you. What are we doing right or wrong? What do you want to read and see in the paper? Let us know!

—Roger Black

Email: publisher@bigbendsentinel.com



PRESIDIO

Barreras fronterizas en Big Bend

Por Sam Karas

*Presidio*

Un rollo de alambre de púas afilado serpentea entre la vegetación a lo largo del Río Grande, bajo el Puente Internacional en Presidio. Se trata de la primera barrera física erigida en el sector de Big Bend para disuadir la inmigración ilegal durante la administración Trump, y una que ha dejado a los residentes con más preguntas que respuestas.

Un reportero de una emisora de radio en Ojinaga fue el primero en percatarse del cambio, que no fue bien recibido en Facebook. El alcalde de Presidio, John Ferguson, fue uno de los que expresó su indignación por la nueva barrera, a la que calificó de mero teatro de seguridad. Le preocupaba que la gente del otro lado del río — que se reúne bajo el puente para pescar, nadar o incluso disfrutar de conciertos patrocinados por el municipio— la considerara, en el mejor de los casos, condescendiente y, en el peor, amenazante. «No es la primera vez que vemos algo así, pero por el bien de la relación entre nuestras dos ciudades, es como decir: “Oigan, nosotros sabemos cómo cruzar el río correctamente”», declaró. En la práctica, le preocupaba que la barrera se convirtiera en un peligro durante las inundaciones, que suelen azotar el Valle del Presidio entre mayo y octubre. «Verán cómo la corriente arrastra toda esa alambrada», dijo. «¿Dónde va a terminar?».

Funcionarios del gobierno de Trump sostienen que tales medidas son sacrificios esenciales para defender la seguridad nacional. El 15 de octubre, la secretaria del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS), Kristi Noem, publicó un aviso en el Registro Federal que la autoriza a «tomar todas las medidas apropiadas para desplegar y construir barreras físicas que garanticen el control operativo total de la frontera sur de Estados Unidos». El aviso autoriza la construcción de «vallas, barreras, carreteras, iluminación, cámaras

y sensores» en el Sector Big Bend de la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza (CBP), y exime del cumplimiento de varias leyes federales que regulan los contratos con proveedores externos para agilizar el trabajo. Estadísticamente hablando, Big Bend es el sector más grande y remoto de la frontera sur. También suele tener el menor tráfico. Por estas razones —y la inhóspita geografía de la región— el gobierno nunca se ha molestado en invertir en barreras físicas a lo largo de este tramo del Río Grande. «Esta es la primera vez que han dado señales de tener la intención de construir muros en Big Bend, algo que durante mucho tiempo ha sido una idea descabellada», declaró Laiken Jordahl, del Centro para la Diversidad Biológica, a la radio pública Marfa la semana pasada.

Debido en parte al cierre del gobierno, el Big Bend Sentinel no ha podido confirmar los detalles de los planes del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS) para este tramo de la frontera, que se extiende desde Sierra Blanca hasta Sanderson. Las llamadas para obtener aclaraciones a los representantes locales de la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza (CBP) fueron remitidas a las oficinas del DHS en Washington D.C., las cuales no han respondido a las múltiples solicitudes de comentarios. Un portavoz local de la CBP pudo compartir un dato adicional que sugiere que la agencia no intentará construir muros donde la naturaleza ya los ha provisto. “En las zonas del Sector Big Bend de la Patrulla Fronteriza de EE. UU. donde el terreno actúa como barrera natural, la CBP planea desplegar tecnología de detección de inmigrantes indocumentados”, escribieron.

La publicación de Noem hace referencia a la Orden Ejecutiva 14165, “Asegurando nuestras fronteras”, presentada el primer día de Trump en el cargo, en enero. Esta orden marcó la pauta de la agresiva

política fronteriza de la administración Trump, que ha resultado en una caída histórica en los cruces fronterizos no autorizados. “Una nación sin fronteras no es una nación, y el Gobierno Federal debe actuar con urgencia y firmeza para poner fin a las amenazas que representa una frontera sin seguridad”, se lee en la orden de Trump. “Una de nuestras obligaciones más importantes es proteger al pueblo estadounidense de los efectos desastrosos de la migración masiva ilegal y el reasentamiento”.

La CBP publicó sus datos de septiembre el viernes pasado, los cuales sugieren que la racha récord se mantiene firme durante el otoño. Las cifras de la agencia muestran una caída del 93% en el tráfico migratorio con respecto al máximo histórico alcanzado durante la administración Biden en el año fiscal 2021. Estos datos parecen contradecir algunas de las afirmaciones hechas en la publicación de Noem en el Registro Federal, donde declara que el sector de Big Bend es «una zona de alta entrada ilegal donde los inmigrantes indocumentados intentan regularmente ingresar a Estados Unidos o contrabandear drogas ilícitas», en un grado que requiere una intervención «expedita». Noem recopila datos desde el año fiscal 2021 —un máximo histórico de cruces fronterizos no autorizados— hasta julio de 2025, un mínimo histórico.

Si se excluyen ambos extremos, las cifras muestran un panorama muy diferente. Entre el año fiscal 2021 y el año fiscal 2022, los encuentros en el sector de Big Bend disminuyeron un 14,3%. Esa tendencia continuó hasta el año fiscal 2024-2025 —abarcando los últimos meses de la presidencia de Biden y los primeros del segundo mandato de Trump— cuando esas cifras se desplomaron más del 37%.

A pesar de la caída del tráfico y la reputación de Big Bend como un lugar históricamente...

Restos humanos del sitio arqueológico de Presidio serán reinhumados el sábado

Por Sam Karas

*PRESIDIO*

Este fin de semana, la organización People of La Junta for Preservation celebrará una ceremonia en honor a la reinhumación de siete conjuntos de restos humanos que fueron exhumados por arqueólogos y conservados en depósito institucional durante casi 20 años. El evento, copatrocinado por la Big Bend Conservation Alliance, tendrá lugar en el Cementerio del Barrio de los Lipanes en Presidio el sábado 1 de noviembre a las 9:00 a. m.

Cinco de los siete conjuntos de restos fueron desenterrados accidentalmente por un equipo de obras públicas en Presidio en 2006. El descubrimiento de los entierros, datados entre 1200 y 1400 d. C., motivó la intervención del Center for Big Bend Studies en el sitio conocido como Millington, lo que ha contribuido a cambiar la comprensión de quienes no son indígenas sobre la complejidad de la sociedad y la cultura en La Junta de los Ríos antes de la colonización española.

A pesar de la popularidad local de los "Cinco de Millington", sus restos permanecieron almacenados en el Centro de Estudios de Big Bend hasta que los investigadores decidieran qué hacer con ellos. El año pasado, la Universidad Estatal, Sul Ross, y una descendiente lo-

cal, Xoxi Nayapiltzin, colaboraron para establecer una coincidencia de ADN y elaborar un plan para repatriar a estos ancianos a su natal La Junta.

Ese plan, gestado durante años, finalmente se concretará el sábado por la mañana.

"Este nuevo entierro es un profundo acto de amor y responsabilidad", escribió Melanie Hernández, directora ejecutiva de la organización Pueblo de La Junta para la Preservación, en un comunicado de prensa.

"Durante demasiado tiempo, los restos de nuestra gente fueron extraídos y estudiados sin su consentimiento. Al traerlos de vuelta a Presidio, honramos sus vidas, les devolvemos su dignidad y sanamos una herida abierta en nuestra comunidad".

Antes de la ceremonia pública, los descendientes se reunirán para tejer esteras funerarias con hierbas autóctonas. Los restos se colocarán entre las esteras y se introducirán en cajas de cedro, que los asistentes ayudarán a enterrar. Luego, se invitará a todos a colocar centinelas, o piedras centinela, para marcar los nuevos entierros dentro del cementerio. Christina Hernández, líder de la Alianza para la Conservación de Big Bend y descendiente de la familia Aguilar, (quienes yacen en el cementerio Barrio de los Lipanes), indicó que todos eran bienvenidos



SAM KARAS

*Brendan Leyva ayuda a devolver una centinela sagrada, o piedra centinela, a una tumba en el cementerio apache de Lipan.*

a la ceremonia pública, independientemente de sus raíces indígenas locales. Explicó que algunas de las tradiciones que los asistentes observarán son una fusión de lo antiguo y lo nuevo. "Nos hemos reunido con nuestros mayores y hemos recuperado algunas prácticas", explicó.

Después del nuevo entierro, todos están invitados a la Legión Americana para disfrutar de café y pasteles. La Legión se encuentra en el 905 de la calle O'Reilly en Presidio.

*Para obtener más información, visite [bigbendconservationalliance.org](http://bigbendconservationalliance.org).*

Celebración del Día de Muertos en la región fronteriza en Fort Leaton

*Presidio*

El Sitio Histórico Estatal de Fort Leaton invita al público a sumergirse en las ricas tradiciones culturales del Día de Muertos con una jornada especial de recuerdo y celebración. El evento, que tendrá lugar el viernes 31 de octubre de 10:00 a.m a 3:00 p.m. honrará la historia y las leyendas familiares de quienes alguna vez habitaron este fuerte histórico.

Un elemento clave del día será la

participación de estudiantes de arte de Presidio High School, quienes enseñarán a los visitantes a crear auténticas calaveras de azúcar, coloridos alebrijes (animales espirituales) y elaborados papeles picados para las ofrendas. Los asistentes podrán observar de primera mano cómo se celebra este importante día en la región fronteriza. El Fort Leaton también estará abierto para visitas autoguiadas de sus edificios y terrenos.

El evento se llevará a cabo en el Comedor de Fort Leaton. La entrada cuesta \$5 para adultos (mayores de 13 años) y es gratuita para niños menores de 12 años. La entrada también es gratuita con el Pase de Parques Estatales de Texas. Se recomienda a los visitantes llevar agua y protector solar. Los boletos se pueden reservar en línea con anticipación o comprar en los Centros de Visitantes de Fort Leaton o Barton Warnock.

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Alpine Elementary PTO raising money with brisket

The Alpine Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization will hold a fundraiser—brisket dinner to go—on November 10. Brisket beans and potato salad will be available as a to-go dinner for \$10.

Pickup is 5-7 p.m. at the school in a drive-through pickup line. Meals must be purchased in advance on Venmo (@AESPTOTX) or at the Alpine Junior Football games.



venmo

## OBITUARIES

# From rodeos and courtrooms to coaching kids, Hollen loved it all

### *Theodore Thomas Hollen III*

Theodore Thomas Hollen III took his final ride into the sunset on Monday, October 13, 2025, surrounded by his loving children, Lin Anne, Cuatro, Jason, and family.

Ted was born in El Paso, Texas, on July 19, 1942, to Dr. Theodore Thomas Hollen Jr. and Emma Katurah “Cheta” Weatherford Hollen. The oldest of four children, Ted and his siblings spent the majority of their childhood in Pecos, Texas.

Ted participated in youth rodeos while attending Pecos High School. After graduation in 1960, Ted attended Sul Ross University and rode bareback for the Sul Ross Rodeo team.

Ted graduated from Sul Ross in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Ted then took the LSAT and was accepted into Harvard Law School but chose to stay in Texas and attend the University of Texas School of Law after receiving the highest score on the LSAT at the time of his admittance. Always a true Texas cowboy, Ted rodeoed his way through college and law school, and in 1969, he received his Bachelor of Laws, and his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2003.

In 1969, Ted married Judy Couser in Austin, Texas, and shortly after, they moved to El Paso where he began his legal career with Pearson & Pearson Law Firm. Ted also worked on the John Tower United States Senate campaign, moving back to Austin to continue campaigning at Tower headquarters. After Tower won the election, Ted continued advocating for Senator Tower. Concurrently,

Ted launched his independent law practice in Austin, Ted Hollen At-torney at Law.

Ted and Judy raised their three children, Lin Anne, Cuatro, and Jason in Austin, Texas. Ted spent the majority of his time not only practicing law but driving his young family back and forth to the ranch outside of Fort Davis. The family enjoyed many fun times there with family and friends and loved the wide-open spaces of Far West Texas.

As his children entered grade school, Ted’s priorities shifted, and he spent countless hours coaching their Little League softball, baseball, and Pop Warner football teams.

There were many practices where Ted showed up still dressed for work, in a coat in tie. That was who Ted was. He never missed an opportunity to support his children in their endeavors.

As his children grew older, his pastimes were often spent on the golf course and indulging in his passion of horse racing.

The family spent many summers in Ruidoso, New Mexico, where Ted would go from the golf course directly to the horse track, always there to make first post time at Ruidoso Downs.

Ted was fondly called “Tito” by his seven grandchildren, which he doted on and bragged about to anyone who would listen. He adored each of them equally and could not have been any prouder of their many accomplishments.

In May of 2025, Ted retired his law practice and made his way back to his roots, on Far West Texas soil, spending time with

lifelong friends and family. He loved to dance the night away with Hester Anne White, as he did just a few nights before his passing.

Ted will be remembered as one of Austin’s legal and business icons.

He never met a stranger, and he had a killer golf swing that will be talked about for years to come.

He will be remembered first and foremost as a remarkable son, brother, husband, dad, father-in-law, uncle, grandfather, and loyal friend.

Ted was also considered a “second dad” to many of his children’s friends and he treated them as his own.

Above all, Ted will be remembered as one of the last real Texas ranch-roping-riding cowboys, a patriarch to his entire family and “one of the good ones.”

Ted was preceded in death by parents Cheta and Tom Hollen, nephew Damon William Black, sister Nancy Hollen Black, and brother William Skipper Hollen.

He is survived by his sister Patricia Hollen Moreland and her husband, Glen Moreland, of Fort Davis, Texas; daughter Lin Anne (Eric) Hollen McFarland and their children, Casen Thomas McFarland, Emma Catherine McFarland, and Libby Nicole McFarland, all of Houston; son Cuatro (Julie Bennett) Hollen, and their children, Hailey Rose Hollen, Jaxon Bennett, Ashton Bennett, Aisley Bennett, and Jett Bennett, all of Austin; son Jason (Spring Hall) Hollen, their children, Damon Cole Hollen, Madeline Joy Hollen, and Carson Jadon Hollen, all of Liberty Hill; and many nieces, nephews,



**Theodore Thomas Hollen III**

and close friends.

P.S. Ted/Dad never wanted any of the “facts” to get in the way of a good story!

Ted’s children will hold a come-and-go Celebration of Life event on Saturday, November 29, 2025, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Lady Bird Municipal Golf Course; Tatsch House in Fredericksburg, Texas. Everyone is invited to attend and share the memories and tall tales that made Ted so special and unique.

In addition, a Memorial Service will be held in Marfa, Texas, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church, 110 East Columbia Street.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a charitable gift to one of these organizations that Ted loved:

*American Quarter Horse Association.*

*P.O. Box 32111 Amarillo, Texas 79120.*

*Bloys Camp Meeting Association. 6200 FM 307 Midland, Texas 79706.*

# ‘Fiddlin’ Ruth’ traveled the world spreading love of music

### *Ruth Elaine Ray Mock*

Ruth Elaine Ray Mock, born June 1, 1938, in Paterson, New Jersey, passed away on July 16, 2025, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, surrounded by music and visits from her children and grandchildren.

Ruth was the daughter of Rev. Mark Scott McGee Ray and Anna Elizabeth (née Morgan) Ray. She grew up in Oneonta, New York, where her family, including siblings Dorothy Anne and Mark, lived in the church parsonage and shared a deep love of music. Summers were spent in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, and Northfield, Mass., where their father had a summer faculty position at the Northfield School for Girls.

After graduating from Oneonta High School, Ruth attended Muskingum College in Ohio (1955–1959), where she studied violin and cornet under the influential John Kendall, who introduced her to the Suzuki method.

This teaching philosophy would shape Ruth’s own music education style.

Following college, Ruth taught music in Cairo, Egypt, at the American College for Girls (1959–1962), traveling extensively during breaks, including hitchhiking in Europe and visiting countries across Asia.

She later pursued graduate studies at Florida State University, where she met Jeremy “Jerry” Mock, a fellow student with a shared interest in Japan and Egypt. She earned a Master of Music Education in 1964, and she married Jerry in Oneonta the same year, with her father presiding over the ceremony.

On their honeymoon, a twister in South Texas overturned their Airstream trailer, leading to unexpected teaching jobs in McAllen, Texas.

This launched a lifelong partnership of musical teaching and performance. Ruth and Jerry studied classical guitar in Mexico City and San Miguel de Allende, and soon began teaching music and building their family—daughter Melody, followed by sons Nelson and Julian.

In McAllen, they built a Japanese-style home they called Shoji View and began teaching music using their own method, influenced by Suzuki principles.

They later moved to Corpus Christi when Jerry accepted a position with the Corpus Christi Caller Times, and then Edinburg, Texas, where they opened the Mock Music School and authored The Mock Family Classic Guitar Method. They also published Creative Guitar International, a magazine distributed globally from 1973-1979, produced from their home print shop with help from their children.

Ruth and Jerry formed a classical guitar quintet with their children, the Mock Family Guitarists.

Using contacts they made through their magazine to book concerts, they began touring in 1975, performing across the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe, including notable tours in 1976, 1978, and 1979. In 1976, they settled in Alpine, Texas, where they opened a new music school and developed a guitar orchestra program.

Performances and workshops continued through the late 1970s and into the 1980s. In addition, they ran the Health Basket and Music Center, a store where they sold health foods and frozen yoghurt, as well as camping gear and musical instruments.

In 1979, Ruth and Jerry spent six months teaching at Colegio Nueva Granada in Bogotá, Colombia. Ruth later fondly recalled meeting the guitarist Julian Bream



**Ruth Elaine Ray Mock**

there—the musician after whom they named their youngest son. Adventures continued with a 1984 European street music tour with their son Julian, and a year in Antigua, Guatemala (1988–89), where Ruth studied Spanish and climbed the Agua Volcano.

In 1992–1993, Ruth and Jerry taught English at schools in China, building lasting friendships. In the early 2000s, they traveled the western U.S. in a VW Vanagon camper, volunteering as park hosts, especially enjoying the Oregon coast near Yachats.

Ruth was in her element when she was outdoors, whether walking, hiking or biking.

An avid cyclist, she was known to bike daily up “Big Hill” south of Alpine. One summer she joined her son Nelson on a multi-day bike camping trip to Big Bend National Park, capping off the trip with a trek to the South Rim in the Chisos Mountains.

After Jerry’s passing in 2008, Ruth returned to Yachats in 2011. What began as a short visit became a new chapter of joy, music, and friendships.

Known locally as Fiddlin’ Ruth, she became a fixture in the community, playing her violin at farmers’ markets, the Heceta Lighthouse Christmas concert, and monthly open mics at the Green Salmon coffeehouse. Rain or shine, she walked daily along the 804 Trail with her violin, offering music to both ocean and passersby. Her family treasured their visits to her Yachats, with time always filled with music and walks.

Ruth moved to Austin, Texas, in 2021 to live with her son Nelson and his wife Ann, continuing her daily walks and violin and guitar duets with her son. In 2023, she relocated to Albuquerque to live with her daughter Melody and spent her final two years surrounded by love and music.

Just a week before her passing, she performed on her violin a touching version of “Maria Elena,” one of her favorite songs.

A passionate believer in the power of music for all, Ruth often said, “A child ready to learn with a parent ready to help needs a teacher ready to teach.” She taught students of all ages and inspired countless people through her joyful spirit, generosity, and music.

Ruth is preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Dorothy Anne Ray, and her beloved husband, Jerry. She is survived by her brother Mark M. Ray; daughter Melody Mock (Keith Lee) and grandchildren Paloma and Oliver Lee-Mock; son Nelson Mock (Ann Baddour) and grandchildren Sofia and Jeremy Mock; and son Julian Mock (Alyce Santoro).

In Ruth’s memory, donations may be made to the Friends of the Yachats Library, to your local public library, or to a charity that supports musicians.

*A celebration of life will be held on Friday, November 28, 2025, at the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church from 2 to 4:30pm.*

# He found what he was missing: The word of God

### *Charles Wayne McAnally*

Charles Wayne McAnally, 85, passed on to his heavenly home October 16, 2025. He was born on February 28, 1940, in Santa Anna, Texas, to William Carl and Eva Charline McAnally. His family moved to Balmorhea, Texas, in 1946, he attended school in Balmorhea then went to Cisco Junior College in Cisco, Texas.

He began breaking horses as a young boy and in his early life, worked as a cowboy for ranches all across west Texas and even up into the Dakotas. He traveled across the U.S.A. competing in pro rodeo in saddle bronc, and while in the course of his travels he came across a cute little blue-eyed blonde in Grand Junction, Colorado. He married Sondra Lee Beane in Georgetown, Colorado, on September 27, 1964. They moved back to Texas, working on ranches in Balmorhea and Alpine. Their towheaded baby girl was born in 1965.

In 1972 Charles purchased Henderson Pump and Supply in Alpine, which started a new phase of his life. He repaired and installed water pumps and windmills. Having reached his goals in business and family and having had many diverse adventures, Charles had a hollow feeling that there was something vitally missing, saying to himself, “If this is all that life has to offer, it’s a bit empty.”

While working on a ranch on the Rio Grande in the Big Bend area with the lion hunter Roy McBride, his eyes were opened. Roy gave him a Living Bible and told him to start reading in Matthew, so Charles read Matthew, Mark, Luke and the first of John and came to the knowledge of his lack of the Grace of an everloving Savior, and as they traveled up from the river country and came to Marathon, Texas, Charles met Pastor Walt Gallway, and in the gravel street, knelt and gave his whole being to Christ.

From that time on Charles’ life changed and his desire was to spread God’s grace to as many others as possible, and instead of going to another country as a missionary, Charles and Sondra opened their home to young people (Sul Ross students, many being international students) for a home away from home and a place to study and debate the Bible. Through this, God’s grace was shared to many across the world, but Charles also had a heart for those in the Far West Texas area, praying for and sharing the love of Christ with everyone he came in



**Charles Wayne McAnally**

contact with.

Charles also had a desire to bring together the technology of solar energy and water pumping and make it useful and economical to the ranching and rural communities in the Southwest. He started in 1985 designing a system working with an NASA engineer that shared his expertise of solar panels, and with Charles’ machinist skills and Jeff Fisher’s fabrication abilities, there was birthed the Solamotor Company that installed the solar water pumping systems from Northern Mexico to Wyoming, also working with British Petroleum (in the Four Corners area) pumping fluid off of methane gas wells thousands of feet deep.

These were successful projects, Charles held many United States patents and a few international patents.

Charles enjoyed flying; he took his flight instruction under John “Cos” Casparis who trained WWII fighter pilots. Steve Neu and Charles looked forward to taking friends flying on Sundays after Sunday brunch. Charles used his plane to check on and make repairs on water wells in the vast Far West Texas region.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Linda Sue, brother-in-law Don Diebitsch, and his brother W.C. McAnally and sister-in-law Frazee McAnally

He is survived by his wife, Sondra Lee McAnally; daughter Toi Ann Fisher and son-in-law Jeffery Wilson Fisher; his brother Gary McAnally and wife Linda of Alpine; William McAnally; Jacqueline and Mike French of Alpine; Jake and April McAnally of San Angelo, Texas; Lori Diebitsch and Tom Imgram of Fort Stockton, Texas; Stacie and Terry Phifer of Liberty Hill, Texas; Deidra McAnally and Kevin McCuiston of Willow Park, Texas; and Mike and Janee McAnally of Midland, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

### *Enrique Rodriguez Monclova*

Enrique Rodriguez Monclova affectionately known as Castro, passed away on October 10, 2025, in Alpine, Texas. Born on February 24, 1947, Enrique lived a life filled with service, love, and dedication to his family and community.

Enrique proudly served in the United States Army, where he received the Army Commendation Medal and Meritorious Service for his outstanding contributions. His military service shaped not only his character but also his unwavering commitment to his fellow citizens and his country. After his service, Enrique pursued an education that began at Marathon High School and continued at Sul Ross State University. This academic journey further shaped his approach to life, embedding a sense of discipline and determination that he carried into all his endeavors. Enrique was passionate about many interests that brought him joy and respite. He found tranquility in fishing, where he could connect with nature and spend hours by the water.

His love for music was evident through his talent in playing the drums. He especially loved spending time with his beloved grandchildren, Isla Maria Monclova, Christopher Monclova Sr., Christopher Monclova Jr., and Anoki Fierro. He enjoyed the challenge of golfing, and he cherished the camaraderie found in playing pool with friends and family. He is survived by his beloved wife, Maria Elena Monclova, who stood by his side through all of life’s adventures. Enrique is also remembered by his children and family members: Donna Barber, Enrique Monclova Jr., Isabel Alvarado, Ronnie Monclova, his cherished stepchildren, Rocky Fierro, Robert Fierro, and Lora Fierro and his beloved sister Elodia Ramos. Their lives were enriched by his wisdom, guidance, and unwavering



**Enrique Rodriguez Monclova**

love.Enrique was predeceased by his parents, Margarito Monclova and Dionicia Monclova, and his siblings, Pablo Monclova, Luis Monclova, and Yolanda Estrada. Their memories and influences undoubtedly played significant roles in the man he became. Visitation was held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home at 209 W. Sul Ross Avenue at 3 p.m. Funeral services for Enrique were held at Calvary Apostolic Church in Alpine, Texas on Friday, October 17, 2025, at 10 a.m., with interment following at Marathon Cemetery in Marathon, Texas.

Pallbearers were Christopher Monclova, Randy Monclova, Sammy Villarreal, Matthew Estrada, Santos Alvarado, and Trey Alvarado.As we remember Enrique Rodriguez Monclova, we honor a man whose life was characterized by service, passion, and an enduring love for those around him. His legacy will be carried on in the hearts of his family and friends, who will forever treasure the moments spent with him.

*Services were entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home and gifts and condolences may be left by visiting [www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com).*

# The outdoor life and grilling with friends were tops for Razo

### *Abel Ybarra Razo*

Abel Ybarra Razo was taken suddenly to his heavenly home on Friday October 10, 2025. Abel was 48 years.

He was boron January 3, 1977, to Maunel and Amalia Razo. He graduated from Marfa High School in 1995. He played football and basketball his four years of high school. Abel moved to Dallas in 1997. He worked as an account manager for Pye-Barker Company. He loved playing golf, taking his

boat to the lake with his friends, watching his football team Dallas Cowboys and Texas Long Horns.

He loved to grill for his friends and family. Able was a very caring person to his mom, children, sisters and nephews and nieces. Abel leaves behind his mother Amalia Razo, his daughter Addison, Stepdaughter Stevie, his stepson Chris, sister Amanda Razo from Coppell, Ruby Pallanez (David) from Alpine, nieces Izzy, Alyviah nephews Caleb and Daydon.

He loved them so much. He is preceded in death by his dad Manuel Razo, grandma Lucia Ybarra, grandpa Eugenio Ybarra, Stepgrandma, Mage Ybarra and his Aunt and Uncle, he loved as his grandparents, Manuel and Maria Acpsta.

*Services are on Nov 1, 2025, Saturday, 10:00a.m., rosary 11:00 a.m. Mass at St Mary Catholic Church. After service lunch at St Mary Hall, Marfa, Texas.*



**Abel Ybarra Razo**

CROSSWORD

Edited by David Steinberg October 30, 2025

**ACROSS**

1 Design detail, for short

5 What a perspective drawing creates the illusion of

10 Dust collectors

14 Killer whale

15 Cherish

16 Sign such as storm clouds on the horizon

17 Leave in a flash

18 Cheapskate

19 Kapoor of "Slumdog Millionaire"

20 Accepts one's fate (In this answer, note letters 1-2 + 5-6)

23 Put into words

24 Response to "Not so!"

25 Move in the wrong direction (... letters 1-2 + 6-7)

29 Drag events

32 tai

33 Riverbank deposits

37 Big heads

38 Mattress brand

40 Heads out

41 Negative aspect

42 They're not buying

44 Delivery vehicle

45 Self-serving option for many people (... letters 1-2 + 7-8)

48 Egyptian underworld god

50 Be short with

53 Less respectful

54 Vigor

57 Garlicky sauce

58 Morning presentation? ... or a theme hint

61 Video game news site

62 Puts handcuffs on

63 Combat sport inits.

64 February 17, 2026, in Vietnam

65 Low digit

66 Expected

67 Sun, in Spanish

**DOWN**

1 Bawl

2 Univ. teachers

3 Brilliant success

4 Places for calicoes and cappuccinos

5 Maiden

6 Revise

7 Like a fancy hotel

8 Word before "farm" or "house"

9 Extreme introvert

10 Luau centerpiece

11 Prenatal procedure, briefly

12 Company whose mascot is a gecko

13 Long-running sketch show, for short

21 GPS projections

22 Purposes

26 Take a whiff of

27 With time left on the clock

28 Surfer's destinations?

29 Video camera button

30 Back in time

31 Self-assured

34 Some Dickinson works

35 Gossip, slangily

36 Nine-digit ID

38 Tres y tres

39 Crafts' partner

42 Shoot a smug look

43 Junction between neurons

46 49, for a 7x7 square

47 Villain's den

48 Planet's path

49 Sudden rise

51 Something to remember from history class

52 Kind of wave

54 Trim (down)

55 Opposite of WNW

56 Vet's condition, maybe

59 Picked 'do

60 Disco of "The Simpsons"

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**

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10/30

**Getting Full** *by Joseph Avdek*

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SUDUKO

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

10/30

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SOLUTION:

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| 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 |

10/23

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AROUND THE BIG BEND

Thursday October 30

**Boxing at Maintenant**  
9 am-10:30 am  
Maintenant, 1825 Rabbits Rd., Marfa, (773) 425-9858

Friday October 31

**Footsteps of the Apache**  
9:00 am-10:30 am  
Davis Mountains State Park  
H3V6+G93, Park Rd 3  
Fort Davis

**Creepy Crawlies After Dark: Night Hike**  
7:30 pm  
Big Bend Ranch State Park  
21800 FM170  
Terlingua

Saturday November 1

**Live Music: Bryon Garrison and His Rainmakers and Anthony Ray Wright**  
7:00 pm-10:00 pm  
Granada Theatre  
207 E Holland Ave  
Alpine

**Live Music: Carlos Maxwell and Ted Arbogast**  
7:00 pm-9:00 pm  
Alcove Social  
211 E Holland Ave  
Alpine

**58th Annual Terlingua International Chili Cookoff**  
Rancho CASI de los Chisos  
Highway 170  
Terlingua, TX

**Book Lady Book Fair**  
11:00am-2:00pm  
Davis Mountains State Park  
H3V6+G93, Park Rd 3  
Fort Davis

Sunday November 2

**Sunday Slow Stretch with Bailey**  
4:00 pm-5:00 pm  
La Sala Studio, Studio, 207 E Holland Ave  
Alpine (432) 294-5793

**Open Mic Night: Music**  
4:00 pm-7:00 pm  
Alcove Social, 211 E Holland Ave  
Alpine

**Ryan LittleEagle**  
6:00 pm-8:00 pm  
The Ritchey, 102 East Murphy Ave  
Alpine

**Sul Ross Theatre Presents True West**  
2:00 pm-4:00 pm  
MoCap soundstage, US-90  
Alpine

**Boxing at Maintenant**  
10:00 am-11:30 am  
1825 Rabbits Rd., Marfa

Weekly events

**Free Zumba Classes**  
Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
Marfa Public Library

**Yin Yoga**  
Tuesdays at 12 pm at Marfa Public Library

**Free Meditation Classes**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 pm  
Marfa Public Library

**AA (online)**  
Saturdays at 12:00 pm  
https://tinyurl.com/y686nnw2  
Sometimes in-person, Marfa Public Library

**AA (in-person)**  
Monday and Wednesday at 6:00 pm  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**The Alpine Farmers Market**  
Saturday at 9:00 am-12:00 pm  
Alpine Visitor Center. Schedules subject to change. Visit Marfa Farmstand on Facebook.

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intent to Seize Abandoned Motor Vehicle  
Notice is hereby given that the Presidio County Sheriff's Office has taken the following described vehicle into custody pursuant to the authority granted under the Texas Transportation Code, Section 683.011, and/or Section 683.031: (1) 2012 STRI CCHPT TRAILER, VIN: 1S12E9531CE525507  
Said vehicle is being held for the Presidio County Sheriff's Office at 320 N. Highland, Marfa, Texas 79843, (432)729-4308. To the last known registered owner/lien holder of the above-described vehicle: You have the right to reclaim this motor vehicle not later than the 20th day after publication of this notice, on payment of all towing, preservation, and storage charges resulting from placing the vehicle into custody. Failure to exercise your rights to reclaim the vehicle within the time provided constitutes a waiver of all rights, title, and interest in the vehicle and is a consent to the sale of the abandoned motor vehicle at public auction, or use for the Sheriff's Office purposes as provided for by the Texas Transportation Code Section 683.014 or Section 683.016

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

The Presidio Independent School District Board of Trustees has declared the following items as surplus property and will offer them for sale to the public via auction. Items for Sale: Surplus and obsolete equipment. Items include, but are not limited to, Technology Equipment: Desktop Computers, Computer Laptops, All-In-One Computer, Computer Monitors/LCDs, Chromebooks, Tablets, Projectors, Printers, Large Format Printers, Laminator, Document Cameras, ID Printers, Fax Machine, Scanner, All-In-One Chrome Classroom Furniture: Teacher Desk, Student Desk, Cafeteria Equipment: Cafeteria Table, Salad Refrigerator, Ice Machine, Commercial Oven Refrigerator Miscellaneous Equipment: Baseball Field Lights, Classroom Ceiling Lights, Classroom Metal Doors, Shop Press Drill, Shop Band Saw, Shop Circular Saw, Shop Planer, RTU 3 Phase R22 Air Conditioner, Stoves, Refrigerators. Live Public Auction Details: • Auction Start Date: Nov. 1, 2025 – 8:00 A.M. • Auction End Date: Nov. 1, 2025 – 5:00 P.M. • Location: 1201-1301 East Millington Blvd Presidio, TX 79845 Terms and Conditions: • All property is sold "as is, where is," with no warranty, expressed or implied. • All bidders must register the day of the auction. • The district reserves the right to reject any and all bids. • Cash, cashier's checks, or money orders, will be accepted. (NO Personal or Business Checks) • Buyers are responsible for all sales taxes and fees. • The winning bidder is responsible for all costs associated with the removal of equipment. • Winning bidders must remove their items by 4:00 P.M. on Nov. 7, 2025. Contact: For additional information, please contact Ruben Armendariz at 432-229-1152

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|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
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| 2002 Chevy  | Impala       | 2G1WF55K139237258  |
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| 1989 GMC    | Truck        | 2GT1K29K4K1560275  |

CONSTRUCTION ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Presidio will receive bids for furnishing all labor, materials, and equipment and performing all work required for the Water Wells 8 Electrical, TXCDBG, CDV23-0300, until 4:00 P.M., C.S.T. on Friday, November 14, 2025 at the City Hall 507 W. O' Reilly Street, Presidio, Texas 79845 (P.O. Box 1899, Presidio, Texas, 79845) after which the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at the City Hall 507 W. O'Reilly Street, Presidio, TX, 79845, or may be purchased for \$250.00 for each set from Kleinman Consultants, P.O. Box 1175, Presidio, Texas 79845, (432) 664-9057 (telephone). No refunds will be made. Digital copies of the Contract Documents and plans may be requested at no charge by email at ramon@kleinmanconsultants.com. A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Presidio or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the US Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. City of Presidio reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Presidio for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

City of Presidio does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national, origin, familiar status or disability. City of Presidio is an affirmative action/ equal opportunity employer & encourages participation by Section 3 residents and businesses.

Funding for this project is covered under Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. All eligible bidders must comply with Section 3 requirements in regard to meeting or exceeding the required objectives for both hiring and subcontracting. In accordance with these objectives, Contractors are required to direct their newly created employment and/or subcontracting opportunities to Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns.

City of PresidioBrenda Ornelas, City Secretary 10/28/2025  
All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

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OPINION



LETTERS

Surprise article brings back Marfa memories

Sincere thanks for the Sentinel’s surprise story on x2d gallery’s history in the recent Chinati Weekend special section.

Thanks, and a couple of credit-where-due notes: It’s a nice idea—but the gallery has had no involvement with The National Endowment for the Arts. Immense gratitude goes to early supporter Patrick Lannan Jr. who after that first time visit—in a baseball cap and riding up on a bicycle—for years visited and bought for himself and for the foundation.

That was both needed sustenance for artists and gallery, and was also the best confirmation of the gallery’s direction. Regular readings by resident writers brought good people together—especially valuable to a newcomer.

I remember the time a notable shift occurred at those readings that has carried on indirectly into the present. Initially the visiting authors were introduced by the store manager reading from a dust jacket. The new manager began by speaking directly to the audience, at length and with no notes. Tim Johnson had arrived. Random memories:

// Britt Webb fixing my flat on Christmas eve eve...and Dennis trying to guess if it would offend Britt if I offered to help.

// 2007(?) Marianne Stockebrand sitting down with involved Marfans and quietly considering a direction back to quieter Open House Weekends.

// A young El Paso couple that over the course of 20 minutes or so found out that you can be comfortable in an art gallery.

// At the coffee bar looking up from an ad in Art Forum “Property from the Judd Foundation” and seeing, across Highland, a crew rolling scaffolding up to the Print Building...in dire need of saving.

// And thanks to Rubin, who was prepping my current home for sale back in 2003. He listened to my fears that the realtor was jerking me around and suggested I go talk to the seller’s high school best friend. She spent a few minutes on the phone with the elderly seller who had moved away. We had Dr. Pepper at the kitchen table. The

realtor called and my offer had been accepted. Every day I am thankful to be in this place.

Dennis Dickinson  
Marfa

Professional and compassionate care comes to the rescue

Last Thursday evening was perfectly calm and ordinary at our household, until it wasn’t. A sudden onset of low blood pressure resulted in a sinking spell for me, which meant my head abruptly met the bathroom floor. (Spoiler: I’m fine.) I thought it important to acknowledge the profound kindness of the people in our midst. Our neighbors, Jeannie and Mem Hall, guided Marfa PD Officer Perez to our house. While my husband, Michael Roch, got things organized to go, Officer Perez gently talked to me, blotted the cut to my head and monitored my blood pressure.

Marfa’s ambulance was already out on a call, so Fort Davis EMS responded. I’m sorry I didn’t get the name of the driver nor the paramedic, but both women were composed, sure and skilled in their work. Dr. Steif at Big Bend Regional Medical Center—who had set each of Huck’s broken arms in the distant past—and Nick, the ER nurse on duty, dealt with me with efficiency, wisdom and a touch of humor. At home, Dr. Sliz at Presidio County Health Services fit me into her schedule despite her packed day, consulted with us for a long time, and came up with a plan of action. My husband, it should be noted, is an angel.

Lately we see a lot of bitterness and anger in the world . At every step of my small event, however, each person leapt immediately to help and demonstrated deep and innate compassion. It was not simply their job to do so. I’m grateful to each of them and lucky that such attributes are common across the Big Bend. On the upside: if the color of my two black eyes lasts just a little longer, my Halloween costume as Rocky Balboa will be a cinch.

Sterry Butcher  
Marfa

The younger generation needs to fight for Democracy

My hat is off to all of those that joined in on the No Kings Protest on October 18 in Alpine. There were no altercations, no negativity; it was a positive progressive objective to what Democracy is in our world today, which is in a complicated relationship with our government right now.

We were able to express ourselves under the 1st Amendment, our right to freedom of speech. It was good to see so many old friends out there waving flags calling for justice and expressing their feelings.

It was like an old timers’ reunion, and that was when it hit me.

Where was the younger generation, where were the people of color?

It was like I was in a sea of old white people, a group of hopeful old hippies still looking for justice in our world. Most of us have reached the age where we are fading out. Who is going to take our place?

What we are and have always been fighting for is justice and economic balance.

We, the senior citizens, have our future pretty much decided for us, but the younger generation is at peril.

Your future depends on what is happening today. I ask, is it because you have been so oppressed that you have given up on where our future lies? Do you feel comfortable enough in your situation to be quiet?

Democracy and the rights of an individual will and have always been fought for or you will lose them.

Resist and vote. The greatest weapon for Democracy is our ability to vote.

Don’t take it lightly. Do your research.

Don’t vote for someone because he or she did.

Vote for the person that will do the best for you and the people you love.

David Long  
Shafter

La generación más joven necesita luchar por la democracia

Me quito el sombrero ante todos los que participaron en la protesta “No Kings” el 18 de octubre en Alpine. No hubo altercados ni negatividad; fue un objetivo progresista positivo para lo que es la democracia en nuestro mundo actual, que se encuentra en una relación compleja con nuestro gobierno.

Pudimos expresarnos amparándonos en la Primera Enmienda, nuestro derecho a la libertad de expresión. Fue un placer ver a tantos viejos amigos ondeando banderas, pidiendo justicia y expresando sus sentimientos.

Fue como una reunión de veteranos, y fue entonces cuando me di cuenta.

¿Dónde estaba la generación más joven, dónde estaba la gente de color? Era como estar en un mar de ancianos blancos, un grupo de viejos hippies esperanzados que aún buscan justicia en nuestro mundo.

La mayoría de nosotros hemos llegado a la edad en que nos estamos desvaneciendo. ¿Quién ocupará nuestro lugar? Por lo que luchamos y siempre hemos luchado es por la justicia y el equilibrio económico.

Nosotros, las personas mayores, tenemos nuestro futuro prácticamente decidido, pero la generación más joven está en peligro.

Su futuro depende de lo que suceda hoy.

Pregunto: ¿es porque han sido tan oprimidos que se han dado por vencidos respecto a nuestro futuro? ¿Se sienten lo suficientemente cómodos en su situación como para guardar silencio?

La democracia y los derechos individuales siempre se han luchado, o los perderán. Resistan y voten.

La mayor arma para la democracia es nuestra capacidad de votar. No lo tomen a la ligera. Investiguen. No voten por alguien solo porque lo hizo. Voten por la persona que hará lo mejor para ustedes y sus seres queridos.

David Long  
Shafter

OUR WATER MATTERS

Hydroelectricity: The power of falling water

By Trey Gerfers

ACCORDING to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), “Water is used in all phases of energy production and electricity generation. Energy is required to extract, convey, and deliver water of appropriate quality for diverse human uses, and then again to treat wastewaters prior to their return to the environment.” This complex interplay between water and energy, which can go unnoticed by the vast majority of people, but that touches virtually every aspect of our lives is known as the water-energy nexus.

In a fascinating book titled “Thirst for Power: Energy, Water, and Human Survival,” author and University of Texas professor Michael E. Webber explains that “[o]verall, about 15 percent of the water the world currently uses goes to making energy in one form or another” including its direct use “for generating power in hydroelectric turbines at dams.”

Also known as hydropower, hydroelectricity is “one of the oldest and largest sources of renewable energy,” according to DOE. States like Idaho, Washington, and Oregon generate the majority of their electricity with water, and hydroelectricity accounts for over 16 percent of electricity generation worldwide. Hydropower harnesses the force of falling water to turn turbines and generate electricity. “The typical design is pretty straightforward,” writes Webber.

“[A] dam is built to create a large reservoir of water with a significant elevation differential. The elevation difference between the water behind the dam and the river downstream of the dam creates potential energy that can be converted to mechanical energy (m) from rotating turbines that can be converted to electrical energy (e) from the spinning magnets within a generator.” As water plunges down onto the curved blades of these turbines, it causes them to “rotate on a vertical axis, like a merry-go-round,” according to Webber, thus turning “a shaft that is attached to a generator” and producing electricity to drive our machines and power our homes.

The history of using water to perform work goes back millennia. The ancient Greeks employed water wheels to grind wheat into flour more than 2,000 years ago. But, according to DOE, the “birth of the modern hydropower turbine began in the mid-1700s” with the publication of “Architecture Hydraulique” by a French engineer named Bernard Forest de Bélidor. Other milestones on the path toward modern hydroelectricity generation include the dynamo, which DOE describes as “a device that converts mechanical energy into electric energy.”

Dynamos were successfully employed to generate electricity from water turbines in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Niagara Falls, New

York in the early 1800s. Both of these applications employed direct current, a technology ill suited for carrying large volumes of power over long distances.

But Nikola Tesla solved this problem by inventing polyphase alternating current systems capable of minimizing “resistive heating losses in the transmission lines over long distances,” according to the American Physical Society. The advent of alternating current as the primary method of electricity transmission, coupled with improvements in turbine technology and dam design, ushered in the modern era of hydroelectricity generation systems in use to this day.

The process of generating electricity using dams is “highly efficient,” according to Webber because dams “can usually achieve nearly 90 percent or higher conversion efficiency from the potential energy of the elevated water to electrical energy at the power house.” In addition, hydroelectric power plants can be turned on and off relatively quickly compared to other types of power plants, giving them superior operational flexibility “to meet peak load or to firm up the power grid,” states Webber.

“Hydropower is a site-specific technology,” according to DOE. Consequently, hydroelectric power plants come in all shapes and sizes.

The largest hydroelectricity facility in the U.S., the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in Washington State, generates just over 7 gigawatts, enough energy to power up to 7 million homes for one year. Meanwhile, the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in China is the largest such facility in the world. It “has a capacity of 22 gigawatts, about the size of twenty or more nuclear power plants,” explains Webber. “It is so large, the mass of the water in the reservoir slowed the earth’s rotation.

By putting nearly 40 billion tons of water elevated to hundreds of meters above sea level, the dam has essentially made the earth a little fatter in the middle and flatter at the top, extending the day by six-hundredths of a microsecond.”

Although hydroelectricity has long been a potent, efficient, and reliable source of energy, it is increasingly vulnerable to our shifting climate reality. As extreme drought intensifies across the Desert Southwest, for example, even the mightiest dams could be rendered literally powerless. The next issue of Our Water Matters will explore the efforts underway to understand and address these mounting challenges.

Visit [energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-101-video-hydroelectric-power](https://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-101-video-hydroelectric-power) for a video explaining how hydropower works.

Trey Gerfers serves as general manager of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District. A San Antonio native, he has lived in Marfa since 2013 and can be reached at [tgerfers@pcuwcd.org](mailto:tgerfers@pcuwcd.org).



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS WUSSEL007

A hydroelectric plant at the Glendo Dam in Wyoming.

ART

BEFORE THE HILL

Introduction, photographs, and poems by **SAM KARAS**  
*Hudspeth County*

WHEN THE ARTIST James Magee passed away last September, the future of his enigmatic Hudspeth County compound—referred to capitalized, as The Hill—was a mystery. For 30 years, the artist had worked in near-secret out in the desert on an obscure stretch of highway between El Paso and Carlsbad, New Mexico. Within the micro-canon of Southwestern art, writing about The Hill is notoriously difficult, partly because The Hill is not a hill. It is a collection of structures—four to be exact, one for each cardinal direction—that are not located on nor resemble an actual hill. Inside each structure is a work of art (or several) that defies

easy genre categorization. Some of the works at The Hill that could be described as “paintings” or “sculptures” require a team of people to bring to existence, with heavy, mechanical moving parts. During his lifetime, the artist himself was an important part of any viewing of The Hill. The works within the four structures all bore very long titles that might otherwise be described as poems, all performed to great dramatic effect by Magee—and only Magee. The late art historian Richard Brettell once wrote that people who visit The Hill divide their life into two parts, before and after The Hill. Multiple people have remarked that a common response to viewing The Hill is to burst into tears. So when the El Paso Community Foundation invited admirers of Magee out to view The Hill a year after his death, I knew that this would be an extraordinary opportunity to view something that was already extraordinary in its ordinary form. What would The Hill be

like without Magee? Could there be a Hill without Magee? After trying to write a chronologically biographical memorial for the artist in Big Bend Sentinel last year—a task almost as difficult as trying to describe The Hill itself—I knew a straight-news recounting of this utterly strange, fantastic and cathartic experience hosted by Magee’s own friends and family wouldn’t cut it. What follows is my attempt to bring you along on my journey to The Hill—like trying to reach through the newspaper and hand you a fistful of salty Hudspeth County dust.

*In addition to working the border beat for Big Bend Sentinel, Sam Karas has an MFA in poetry from the Michener Center for Writers at UT-Austin. Special thanks to Mo Eldridge and Ariele Gentiles for their editorial advice.*



*Cornuda’s Café (sometimes referred to as “May’s Café” by old-timers) on the road to The Hill.*

WE LOVE YOU KATY PERRY PLEASE COME DOWN

Space! It’s where all the rich men are going  
Or at least that’s what it looks like  
From the grocery store parking lot  
In Van Horn, a row of Tesla chargers  
And Airstream trailers no one knows how to park  
This is it, boys! The future  
So bright I can’t see behind me  
Out in those hills Jeff is building  
The Clock of the Long Now  
So we never lose our place  
In the slow march of time  
It’s just down the road from where  
They shot Katy Perry into space  
And the billionaire’s fiancé  
I don’t remember her name I only remember  
Sydney Sweeney went to their wedding  
All anyone could talk about was how  
They don’t have any friends  
I hope no one is sitting around  
Talking about how I don’t have any friends  
Nevertheless I kept on  
Gossiping about people I don’t know  
I wonder what rich women talk about in space  
I know it was only eleven minutes  
But I thought gosh it’s been a long time  
I thought Oh! We love you Katy Perry  
Please come down



*Van Horn, Culberson County.*

# AFTER THE HILL

On the drive I thought a lot about the word  
    *pilgrimage* and its Spanish hermano  
        *peregrinación* from the Latin  
            *peregrinus*, meaning “foreigner.”  
The peregrine, by which I mean the bird,  
fell out of the same linguistic nest.  
    Google Maps took me to a gate  
in the middle of the salt flat, wired  
        shut. God damnit, I was running late  
        too. Running late to my own  
        peregrination. I had to stop and ask directions  
            from May’s Café, home of the world’s  
        best green hatch chile burger.

*Take a left*, they said, *you can’t miss it*.

There were cars lined up for a mile  
    both sides of the road. All hundreds of us  
    thought to wear big hats, and together  
        we pilgrims were a line of bobbing straw  
streaming through the desert. All of us  
    *peregrinos*, walking a mile in the hot sun  
        and then some to cry together.  
I guess that’s the simplest way  
    you could put it. I was feeling a bit  
swimmy from the heat when I saw it.  
It was not a hill at all. I couldn’t tell you  
what it was.

How do we remember one who was truly great?

In iron & steel? In tidy little boxes? In oxidated  
copper, cinnamon and blue?

As they used to depict the saints,  
with their heads raging fire?

As a giant mysterious machine,  
a miracle laid down static?

I left a rock at the Hill  
I also left something of myself. Mo and I  
split a pretty good hatch chili  
cheeseburger. I drove back out across  
the gypsum dunes where once  
    they fought a war against the Rangers.  
I slept in the back of my truck  
at Wes’s place and all night  
and it rained relentless. All night  
    I dreamed about being swept away.  
    I dreamed about whoever  
        catches the bus at the Greyhound Station  
in Salt Flat, Texas. I dreamed about you, too  
though you didn’t look like you, you had  
the tip of a match for a head. It was foggy  
    in the dunes all the way to El Paso,  
        where I picked up Fatima from the airport  
        feeling a little bit of grit  
        under my nails from the transmission shop  
        turned studio where the artist  
            spent his earthly days.

Am I different now? I have to say  
I do.

# A couple keeps borderlands’ memories alive with Muertos art

By ANITA SNOW

Tucson

ANTONIO ESTRADA AND GLORIA VALENZUELA’S remembrances of growing up in the borderlands are woven into every Día de Muertos altar they have constructed over more than three decades.

A bottle of Seagram’s 7 always stands on the altar alongside the photo of Estrada’s father because he loved his whiskey. His mother’s favorite color was pink, so the framed image of the seamstress and mother of six from South Tucson is always flanked by pink blossoms.

Valenzuela’s memories of her hometown of Guadalupe, Arizona, just outside Phoenix, shape homages to her family.

“It’s a way to communicate with our loved ones in a very personal way, and to respect their memory,” said Valenzuela, who learned altar-making from her late mother, a Mexican American with roots in the central state of Jalisco.

Estrada, who, like many Mexican Americans, grew up without the tradition, learned from Valenzuela, his wife.

The couple is passionate about teaching altar-making to those just discovering the practice amid a vibrant surge of Day of the Dead celebrations across the southwestern border regions and into U.S. cities farther north. The tradition accelerated with the 2017 release of the animated film “Coco,” acclaimed for its meditation on life, death, family, and Mexican culture.

With Indigenous roots that predate the Spanish Conquest, Mexico’s Day of the Dead overlaps with the Christian observance of All Saints Day and All Souls Day on November 1-2. There are key distinctions, and Indigenous traditions honoring the dead existed before the Spanish arrived in the early 1500s.

## U.S. celebrations

Cities with large Mexican American communities, of course, such as Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio, have celebrated the holiday for decades. Public celebrations will roll out across the U.S. border states again this year, with a huge All Souls Procession that has been held in Tucson annually since 1990. The El Paso Mexican American Cultural Center, which opened earlier this year, expects more than 50,000 people at this year’s festival and parade. The Texas towns of Presidio and McAllen will also roll out festivities, too.

For 35 years in Tucson, Estrada and Valenzuela have shared the tradition with family, friends, and the public through their large-scale and small-scale altars. Their largest was a public installation 16 feet by 10 feet that they built in 2019 at the nonprofit Tohono Chul botanical gardens, situated on the traditional lands of greater Tucson’s Indigenous peoples. The couple was back at Tohono Chul in late September to teach a workshop about mini altars built wholly inside a shoebox-sized cajita, or small box, of cardboard, balsa wood, clay, or any other material to create a more intense look at a single ancestor or a small group. The cajitas Estrada and Valenzuela displayed included a yellow shadowbox remembering the five cats they have shared over more than 40 years of marriage.

An art gallery elsewhere on Tohono Chul grounds features a Day of the Dead art exhibit anchored by a soaring community altar designed by Genevieve Guadalupe, a local Mexican American printmaker and fiber artist. The installation includes cards to write the name of a departed loved one, and maybe even add a message.

A child left a card for Bella, “a nise beautiful girmend sheperd.” Another card told Grandma Theresa she was missed daily. “I love you Grammy,” it added. “Go Cubs.”

Guadalupe, who is originally from Puebla, Mexico, said such community altars allow people to share memories of loved ones, and remind everyone that the day is about honoring the dead.

“It’s something very serious and very special,” Guadalupe said. “I have mixed feelings about the way some people conflate it with Halloween. But to me it’s also not a religious holiday. It is a celebration to remember those who were dear to us who have passed, to have them close to us again.”

Estrada and Valenzuela also insisted that while the holiday is joyous, celebrations should be dignified. “As long as people understand the tradition and are respectful of it, we’re good with it,” he said.

Altars can inspire powerful emotions. “I have seen people stand in front of our altars just start sobbing,” Estrada said.

## Constructing an altar

In Mexico, altars traditionally are built in homes or atop tombs at the local cemetery, where families gather to eat, drink, and accompany their ancestors. Favorite foods, beverages, photos, and other mementos are placed as ofrendas, or offerings.

Common items include calaveritas, or little sugar skulls, and pan de muerto, or bread of the dead, with crossed bones and sugar sprinkles. A typical altar also features orange Mexican marigolds called cempasúchil, which are said to attract the souls of the dead with their bright petals and perfume.

Styles of altars vary from place to place, and opinions on what to add can differ. But Estrada and Valenzuela said several additional elements should be included to ensure an altar is complete:

- Earth:** Things that grow and come from nature, like flowers, plants, fruit, corn, and especially food that departed loved ones enjoyed.
- Wind:** Things that move when passed by or touched, such as leaves from a tree or papel picado, the colorful cut pieces of paper strung together and hung during Mexican celebrations.
- Fire:** Candles, incense, or the burning of sage to represent prayers elevated to heaven. The smoke and aroma guide the departed back to commune with loved ones, according to lore.
- Water:** A glass of water is necessary for thirsty spirits after a long journey, according to the couple. Coffee, chocolate, beer, and tequila are also welcome.

One last thing: Valenzuela said they like to include a candle on their altars to welcome a lonely soul who wasn’t remembered by their family.

“We want to make sure they know they haven’t been forgotten,” she said.

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ANITA SNOW—PUENTE NEWS COLLABORATIVE

A skeletal figure known as a Catrina, popularized by Mexican political printmaker Jose Guadalupe Posadas in the early 20th century, stands on October 11 in the window of the art gallery at the Tohono Chul botanical gardens in Tucson. The artist, Genevieve Guadalupe, also constructed a community altar there. Cards allow visitors to write the name of a departed loved one and leave a message.

## BORDERLANDS DIA DE MUERTOS CELEBRATION SET FOR FORT LEATON

FORT Leaton State Historic Site is hosting a Dia de los Muertos celebration on Friday, October 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees can tour the fort and participate in Borderlands traditions taught by Presidio High School art students. Activities include creating sugar skulls, alebrijes (spirit animals), and papel picado banners for altars. Admission is \$5 for adults, free for children 12 and under, or free with a Texas State Parks Pass.



# An artist brings new texture to a historic church

Continued from page 1

partner, Estelle Domerque, part of his team, he says.

Froquet continues the exploration of his lines. “You make your point A, then point B, you trace a layer, a line. This is a connection, but this line is also a border and it makes a division. It creates two spaces. So how can you connect and divide at the same time? This is what the line is.”

“It’s also a connection and the division,” he says. “So this is what I am questioning through my installation work, painting work. It’s an abstract language born from repetition of gestures. So

what I do is gesture, big gesture, small gesture, to create something magical for the space.” And thus, his installation will be titled Gesture: The Sound of Ruidosa, which seeks to honor what has vanished and highlight what endures.

Froquet, who is self taught, considers himself a painter at heart, even though his large-scale installations have adorned giant buildings in France and have given him a reputation somewhat of a street artist. A recent installation in one of Lyon, France’s most famous public spaces, Tissage Urbain, includes arched walkways covered and

draped in vibrant lines that invite visitors to walk beneath them—again forming connections of lines and the humans traversing them.

Froquet demonstrates his work, slowly tracing a wide brush over framed cotton fabric, which he found in Ojinaga. He ruminates about a recent transition in his work. “I grew up equally in nature and in the city. We spent many, many years the big city like Paris. And I left Paris four, five years ago, and we live now in the middle of nature in France. It’s beautiful, the countryside.”

“My studio faces the forest, and it changed many things. We

did this big change because I wanted to explore something else, because I really believe that we are inspired by what we have around us, and I needed to change my environment.”

The change also moved him to use natural materials in his installations. “So I collect a lot of things like wood and rocks,” he says. “I felt that I could come back to West Texas. I really wanted to come back here to make some artwork, creation, a residence. I wanted to explore here.”

A one-day exhibition at Do Right Hall curated by Yvonamor Palix: Wednesday, November 5.