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# **“Your Pro-RGV News”**

# You Make Us Shine

By Todd Breland

Taking definite form is the meaning of crystallizing. How applicable here on VBR's 15-year anniversary publication.

Crystal is the traditional gift for a 15th wedding anniversary. Crystal just also happens to also be my wife's name so I am very blessed to have my bride by my side during this historic edition of positive Rio Grande Valley news.

You, our readers and advertisers, have seen VBR take form since September 2009. We started out to connect business and community leaders via regional pro-business news in print and online. Featuring local entrepreneurs in true journalism form aimed at sharing the Valley's positives has and always will be the purpose of Valley Business Report.

A few years into publishing our monthly magazine, we added a weekly e-Letter called VBR e-Brief. Every Thursday morning, we distribute time-pressing events and

announcements worthy of your engagement. Our site keeps you in the know with every-changing news, all aimed at encouraging additional economic development for Deep South Texas.

Throughout these years, we have highlighted the best of the best. Gifted, resilient and passionate entrepreneurs drive our local economy. It truly is the backbone of our four counties. Our Valley knows all about all grit and no quit.

The VBR team is driven to be better on a daily basis. Improving how we report, write, design and market the Valley's 100 percent pro-community, print and online publication drives us. By showcasing local leaders' successes, we encourage you to connect with them and patronize their businesses and organizations.

Thank you for these 15 years, and together, we will forge onward. Why? Because we are one. We are the Rio Grande Valley.



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### Governor of San Luis Potosí Visits Mission to Advance Trade Opportunities



Mission Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza welcomed San Luis Potosí Governor Ricardo Gallardo Cardona for trade discussions and a tour of the Anzalduas International Bridge expansion.



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# Entrepreneur Lights Way In Harlingen

By Ricardo D. Cavazos, *Content Editor*

Alexandrea Peralta's business is located across the street from Gutierrez Park. The inner-city Harlingen park with a classic town square look is one Peralta believes needs an image boost.

Putting her Jade Candle Co. shop across the street from a park some local residents avoid points to two of Peralta's great passions. One is for candle making from scratch and creating products to the specifications of her customers. The other is love of her community and a commitment to make things better in Harlingen.

"I figured if I can't make it in Harlingen, then something is wrong with my business model," Peralta said. "I chose this location as a challenge, I think Gutierrez Park has so much potential."

Peralta recalled returning home after years of living in Austin after graduating from Harlingen South High School. What she saw inspired her.

"I was shocked by how creative people are here," Peralta said of the locally made products she saw at farmer's markets and similar venues. "I really wanted to have a store to showcase my own items."

## A Better Product

Jade Candle opened in November 2023 and is named in honor of a beloved dog Peralta owned.

Peralta had been tinkering with and creating candles for over two years. It's a step-by-step process. First she melts the wax. Peralta utilizes organic olive oil, adding it at precise temperatures and requiring the right ratios to create the intended product. She then pours the mix into a vessel, be it clay, wood, glass or cement. Peralta prides herself on creating candles that are non-toxic and free of harmful chemicals.

Mass-produced candles found at chain stores often have ingredients that can be harmful to people with allergies. They can also contain other unfavorable elements.

"It's eye-opening to realize that many store-bought candles may contain harmful chemicals," said Margie De La Torre, a Jade Candle customer, in an online review. "I'm truly grateful for the owner's dedication in researching and ensuring toxic-free products."

## Converting Customers

Jade Candles are scented with various fragrance oils as well as unscented options. A key feature is that Peralta's candles are refillable. A customer can bring their vessel previously purchased and she can pour the mix and scent requested.

"I feel like I've converted my customers," Peralta said of her "everything here is

refillable" mantra. Curating her candles to what her customers want and being efficient and non-wasteful in creating candles are core values of her shop.

The allure of candles is in the different reasons customers enjoy them. Some enjoy the scents while others laud the ambiance and calmness candles bring to their homes. Teachers will buy small heat plates with



*Alexandrea Peralta pours by hand the wax that leads to non-toxic candles that are free of harmful ingredients. (VBR)*

blocks of wax melts that when lit have a soothing effect on students and fill up a classroom with pleasant scents, Peralta said.

Harlingen is her first shop and she intends it to be one of three locations in the Rio Grande Valley. Brownsville and the Edinburg/McAllen area are in Peralta's expansion plans.

"It's about finding out what notes my customers want," she said. "My goal is to keep growing and to branch out."

**Community Minded**

Part of Peralta's branching out includes the park across the street from her business.

Gutierrez Park is located along Harrison Avenue – one of Harlingen's main thoroughfares – a few blocks west of the city's downtown district. It's well-kept and maintained by the city and has long been a gathering place for homeless residents who congregate on park benches. Harlingen Mayor Norma Sepulveda has said in public meetings that the park "needs to be completely reimagined" and reintegrated back to the community.

Peralta agrees with that viewpoint and

*Harlingen's Gutierrez Park is seen across the street from Jade Candle Co., and the business owner is working with the city to improve the park's image. (VBR)*



*Jade Candles are stylish and its vessels are refillable, making the Harlingen shop unique among RGV candlemakers. (Courtesy)*



*Jade Candle Co. connects its customers with handmade products that are also made of non-toxic ingredients. (Courtesy)*



has participated in public forums discussing the future of Gutierrez Park. Addressing the homeless residents situation is one piece of the issue, Peralta said in observing that the topic was also prevalent in her years of living in Austin. Her chief criticism of city government was that it had given up on improving Gutierrez.

“There ought to be a better solution than just accepting things as they are,” she said. “Improve policing of the park. We have to have events there like outdoor markets and tell the community that this is a good place to be.”

A new business is moving in next door to Peralta’s shop, a sign perhaps that the park area’s image is improving.

“Helping my community is why I’m here,” she said. “I want to do my part in working with the city to improve Gutierrez Park.”

*Jade Candle Co. is located at 602 W. Harrison Avenue, Suite B, in Harlingen, with more information available at 956-990-5655.*



*Small heat plates and blocks of wax are popular items with teachers seeking to calm classrooms and fill up learning spaces with pleasant scents. (VBR)*



*Alexandrea Peralta returned to Harlingen after years away in Austin to open a candle shop and give back to her community. (VBR)*

# Anzalduas Expanding Trade Possibilities

By Ricardo D. Cavazos, *Content Editor*

The \$83 million project to transform the Anzalduas International Bridge into a full-service cross-border commercial port is entering its final stages of construction.

A first quarter completion in 2025 is now anticipated. In late July, the governor of San Luis Potosi, Ricardo Gallardo Cardona, visited the bridge south of Mission to see the work being done and to meet with city leaders from Mission, McAllen and Hidalgo. The bridge opened in 2009 as a predominantly vehicular passenger bridge with empty commercial trucks allowed to go southbound into Mexico.

Anzalduas' expansion will change that dynamic with the addition of six commercial lanes for trucks. Inspection bays and booths are under construction to facilitate the movement of commercial truck traffic. A command center will oversee cargo processing and administrative functions. A U.S. Customs and Border Protection news release says the new facilities "will support the processing of fully laden southbound and northbound commercial

traffic."

The bridge's expansion is of particular interest to Cordona, whose state has become a hot spot in Mexico's automotive industry. Over the last year, San Luis Potosi has attracted 10 projects worth more than \$1.6 billion in making the state one of Mexico's leading automotive industrial areas. Cardona sees Anzalduas as playing a key role in the movement of goods and products once the bridge's expansion is complete.

"For us, to have a bridge like this will facilitate logistics, reduce costs, and most importantly, boost the companies that come to our city to invest and grow their business," Cardona said in remarks at Anzalduas on July 31. "We are here to support and affirm the support of San Luis Potosi to these (U.S.) cities on the border."

## Exploring Potential Of Trade

The cities of McAllen, Mission and Hidalgo own the Anzalduas bridge with McAllen's bridge system overseeing daily operations.

The expansion of the bridge just south of Mission represents a major upgrade for Hidalgo County in facilitating the movement of loaded commercial trucks to and from Mexico. The Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge – about 25 miles to the east of Anzalduas – is currently the only bridge in the county that accepts commercially loaded trucks.

The Mission Economic Development Corporation estimates that 1,500 commercial trucks will cross Anzalduas daily when the bridge expansion is completed early next year. It is a port of entry that will focus on dry goods. Products and components will come from Reynosa's maquiladoras and points further south like the manufacturing facilities in San Luis Potosi, which is 400 miles from the U.S./Mexican border.

"The Anzalduas International Bridge is more than just a structure," said Mission Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza. "It's a vital link facilitating trade, travel and cultural exchange. We're excited to explore the potential of trade and

*Juan Olaguibel, the superintendent of the McAllen bridge system, provides a presentation recently highlighting the capabilities of expanded services at the Anzalduas International Bridge. (Courtesy)*



## Anzalduas Full Cargo Project – Northbound Construction Ongoing Project



investment that this partnership holds.”

For Mission, the Anzalduas expansion represents the first opportunity the city will have to see international trade make a direct impact on its growth and development. The Mission EDC’s chief executive officer, Tecló Garcia, has made multiple trips to San Luis Potosi over the last year to develop contacts with the automotive industry there. He says the Mexican state “has really leveraged the nearshoring phenomenon.”

**‘Game Changer’**

Nearshoring includes the relocation of manufacturing facilities from Asia to Mexico to cut costs and make supply chains more efficient in moving products to North American markets. The Mexican states of Nuevo Leon and San Luis Potosi have surged with industrial growth since nearshoring trends began accelerating in 2021.

“What’s important is commerce and trade,” said McAllen Mayor Javier Villalobos. “We know what is happening with nearshoring and incredible things are happening right here in our area. I think this truly opens up the Rio Grande Valley as a leader in international trade.”

Garcia of the Mission EDC described the Anzalduas expansion as a “business game-changer for Mission and McAllen.”

“Cargo will not only boost the bridge’s bottom line, but it will spur economic development with the advent of investment, logistics, retail firms and new jobs,” Garcia said.

The bulk of the funding for the Anzalduas bridge expansion comes from a \$63 million loan from the North American Development Bank to the City of McAllen. The remaining funding is sourced by a \$25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation and a \$22 million grant from the Texas Department of Transportation.



*Mission Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza welcomes Ricardo Gallardo Cardona, the governor of San Luis Potosi, to Mission during a recent ceremony at the Anzalduas International Bridge. (Courtesy)*



*San Luis Potosi Gov. Ricardo Gallardo Cardona, left, and McAllen Mayor Javier Villalobos, right, listen as Juan Olaguibel of the McAllen bridge system provides an overview of the expansion project at the Anzalduas International Bridge. (Courtesy)*

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# Hardware Store Serves ‘Working Town’

By Ricardo D. Cavazos, *Content Editor*

The motto of a local hardware store speaks to its place in its community and the area around it.

“Heart of a Working Town,” it says on a store window by an entrance of Express Hardware in Elsa. The store is located about a block away from the intersection on FM 88 and state Highway 107. It has become a crossroads corner for the communities that make up what’s known as the Delta Area, a name derived from a lake in that section of the Rio Grande Valley.

The flow of traffic along Broadway Street – Elsa’s city name for FM 88 – heads north to Monte Alto. For other motorists, Broadway heads south and then east to Edcouch and La Villa after taking a left on 107. These are communities filled with “very prideful people,” said Rafael Aguilera, who with his wife, Mirtha, own Express Hardware. The store occupies historic space in Elsa. One of the community’s first banks in the early 1900s once did business where Aguilera today sells nuts and bolts, screws and paints to everyone from DIY customers to subcontractors.

“Customers are very loyal to their city,” he said of his store’s standing in the Delta Area. “People tell us, ‘I want you guys to succeed here. We need a hardware store in our community.’”

## Customer Collaboration

Aguilera recounts a story of a customer asking for help after her husband became ill and was unable to complete a bathroom project.

The couple are steady Express Hardware customers. After explaining her predicament, Aguilera said he began the kind of collaboration his store is known for when it comes to serving customers.

“The customer didn’t know what to do,” he said. “She got here and said, ‘I know you’re going to help me.’”

Going through the project step by step, Aguilera guided his customer through the process of completing the DIY project at her home. It was representative of the customers Express Hardware serves, he said, describing them as “citizens who are prideful in maintaining their homes.”

The Delta Area has a foundation of

residents who have lived in the area all their lives. Newer residents like Aguilera are reinvigorating the area, leaving more populous Valley communities for life on larger lots. The store owner and his wife lived in an Edinburg subdivision for many years. Aguilera found a larger patch of land to build a new home north of Elsa after he retired from years of working for a state agency. He and his wife are enjoying a more rural lifestyle.

“People are proud to have a home on an acre of land,” he said of newer Delta Area residents. “They want to experience that, the feeling of having more space but not being so far from civilization. They want

their grocery stores, restaurants, a hardware store to be not that far away.”

That’s a niche Express Hardware is filling for the Delta Area with its essential plumbing supplies, electrical parts, nuts and bolts, door latches, paints and basic lumber supplies.

“One aisle at a time,” Aguilera said of ongoing efforts to improve a hardware store he acquired from his brother in 2022. “It’s a marathon, not a sprint.”

## ‘My Retirement’

In a prior work life, Aguilera worked for the JC Penney store at McAllen’s La Plaza Mall in its 1990s heyday.



*Rafael Aguilera is now owning and running a hardware store in his ‘retirement’ from a state agency job. (VBR)*

The years Aguilera spent working on the sales floor of a large department store gave him a grounding in retail that has come in handy when taking over a small-town hardware store. It was Home Hardware Plus when his brother Ray Aguilera owned it from 2009 to 2022. When Rafael acquired it two years ago, he renamed it Express Hardware and began sorting out important questions.

“What kind of store are we?” he recalls asking in analyzing the store. “What’s my customer base?”

It all led to the “Heart of a Working Town” theme, a store for plumbers and subcontractors as well as everyday residents who take pride in maintaining their homes. With the help of his sister Olivia, who had worked at the store prior to 2022, Aguilera has forged ahead, leaving retirement behind.

“This is my retirement right here,” he said in his office that was once a small bank vault. “I love coming here every day and working with customers and learning from them because sometimes you’re the student and taking advice from them.”



*Express Hardware is a hometown hardware store that prides itself on helping customers in the growing Delta Area. (VBR)*



*Rafael Aguilera confers with a customer in looking over inventory at Express Hardware. (VBR)*

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# Merchandisers Tout 956 Culture & Pride

By Ricardo D. Cavazos, *Content Editor*

David Salinas and his creative partners at 9INE 5IVE 6EIS grew up in the Rio Grande Valley of the 1990s.

The touchstones of their RGV era included listening to B104 on the radio and shopping for groceries at Carl's Supermarkets. The nostalgia connected to their youth is one reason for starting a merchandising company that celebrates the region's culture and history. The 956 as in the region's area code has become a catchphrase term for Millennials and younger generations growing up in the Valley.

The snappy moniker is recast in 9INE 5IVE 6EIS. Salinas, a Mission native, believes the Valley should have a higher national and state

profile beyond negative portrayals. He sees a "a lack of celebration about the identity of the Valley." Salinas hopes his company's RGV imagery on hats, t-shirts, tote bags and other merchandising can boost "the pride of being from the Valley."

"We saw a vacuum, so we started a business that expresses a cultural identity of the Valley," he said.

## 'Magic & Style'

Salinas, Devin Garcia and Andy Pena each bring content creation and design skills to their McAllen-based company.

They are longtime friends and have other business interests that at times overlap with

9INE 5IVE 6EIS. Their talents in technology and creative energy are reflective of their Millennial-era upbringing. They are bound together by those generational traits along with a love of the place where they grew up. The mission of their company seeks to bring "magic, style and just the right amount of nostalgia to the Valley that any local will claim as their own."

Those words on the company's website are affirmed by Salinas in expressing a wish for greater value to be placed on the uniqueness of the region's history and culture.

"We've had a real rich history, but that's not the narrative you often hear," he said. "It should be more celebrated. That's part of



Pride in the 956 is promoted by the merchandising company, 9INE 5IVE 6EIS. (Courtesy)

what we're trying to do.”

Salinas says one line of his company's products is “vintage Valley.” One t-shirt design features Gorilla George's, a favorite party venue in McAllen for children's parties and events in the 1980s and 1990s. Another design harkens back to the Goldie & Gus swimming lessons offered for years by the McAllen Parks & Recreation Department. Then there's a t-shirt showcasing the flash-in-the-pan Super Splash Adventure Park in Edinburg, which lasted all of three years,

from 1998 to 2000.

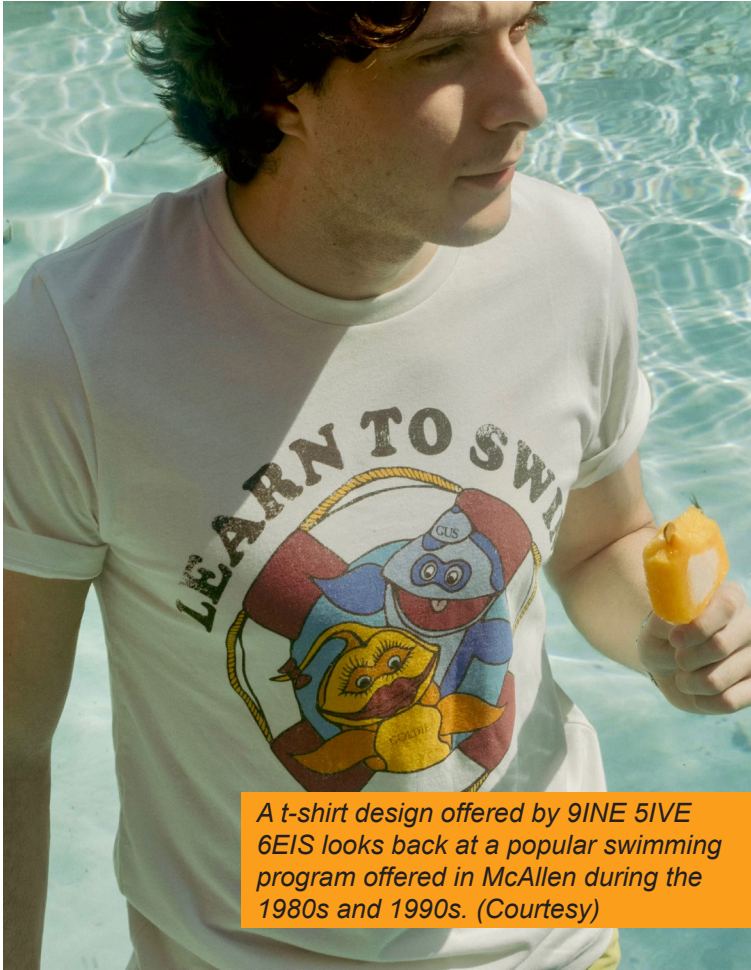
Salinas calls it “exploring spaces and brands” of a RGV that continues to develop and evolve. The region has moved on from some iconic places and venues even as those who knew them treasure their memories.

**RGV Pride**

Beyond the nostalgic vibes, there's straight-up Valley pride in the 9INE 5IVE 6EIS collection.

A light brown t-shirt with a red outline of

the Valley's four counties declares, “Born And Raised” over the image. A white shirt with large black numbers says, “956” with the word “mode” in cursive underneath the figures. One of the more interesting designs reflects the intersection of Millennial tastes and RGV culture. It features a t-shirt with San Benito's Freddy Fender and the title of one of his hit songs – “Before The Teardrop Falls.” The Millennial twist are the words “The Cure” above Fender's image in a simultaneous recognition of the British rock



A t-shirt design offered by 9INE 5IVE 6EIS looks back at a popular swimming program offered in McAllen during the 1980s and 1990s. (Courtesy)



Pride in the 956 is reflected by Harlingen business owner Ashley Garcia while doing grocery shopping. (Courtesy)



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band and a Valley legend.

“There’s a plurality of voices,” said Salinas, expressing an interest to learn more about Valley history beyond his generation’s understanding. “One of our objectives is to get people to start asking questions and include more voices in our storytelling.”

Be it old motor hotels or ballrooms that hosted quinceaneras, 9INE 5IVE 6EIS wants their creativity to bolster RGV-centric pride.

“We should value our identity,” Salinas said. “There’s a pride we all feel in being from the Valley.”

For a look at the company’s collection, go to 9INE5IVE6EIS.com, with more images by the same name on Instagram.



9INE 5IVE 6EIS seeks to promote RGV pride through its collection of products. (Courtesy)



956 tote bags, as seen at Bandera Coffee in Harlingen, promote pride in the Rio Grande Valley. (VBR)

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# Academy Program Links STC, A&M

By Ricardo D. Cavazos, *Content Editor*

A partnership with Texas A&M University is bringing the Aggie spirit to South Texas College students who aspire to be part of the university's renowned engineering program.

The Texas A&M Engineering Academy at the STC McAllen campus is one of 10 such partnerships in Texas. The program links Texas A&M's flagship campus in College Station with higher educational institutions around the state. The academy introduces A&M's engineering program to first-and-second year college students who will work toward transitioning to the flagship university in College Station, or in STC's case, the A&M's campus in McAllen is also an option.

"We have a lot of students who want to go to A&M," said Maricruz Hinojosa, a project manager with the Texas A&M Engineering Academic Program. "The students in the program are Aggies from day one."

This fall, 36 STC students are enrolled in the Texas A&M engineering academy. The program was launched last year with nine students.

"We're having some growing pains," Hinojosa said. "Our plan is to aim higher in having more students in continuing to grow the program."

## 'Already Aggies'

Vanessa Ortiz is one of the 36 students starting classes this fall as an enrollee in the A&M/STC partnership program.

The 19-year-old student is the daughter of a longtime Mexican factory worker. Ortiz moved to the Rio Grande Valley during her high school years. Her career ambition is to be a mechanical engineer.

"Participating in the engineering academy is great because I grew up in manufacturing,

which is something I have known all my life, but I want to do better," Ortiz said in a news release provided by STC's public relations office.

Hinojosa says students like Ortiz have full access to all of the services provided by STC and Texas A&M. The latter provides an instructor from the A&M System to the engineering academy at STC. The academy curriculum highlights courses in mathematics and the sciences along with general engineering studies. There's the added perk of STC students in the program traveling to Texas A&M's College Station campus for visits. One of those visits this fall will include a football game at A&M's Kyle Field to get a real-life feel of Aggie culture.

"They're already Aggies," Hinojosa said of the student trips to College Station. "That's the beauty of this program."



*The Texas A&M Engineering Academy saw enrollment more than triple from its first to second year of existence. (Courtesy)*

**Not A Transfer Program'**

The Texas A&M System has elevated its presence in the Valley with its establishment of its Higher Education Center in the Tres Lagos area of far north McAllen.

Among the programs offered at the Texas A&M Higher Education Center at McAllen are a bachelor of science in multidisciplinary engineering technology. There is an additional undergraduate engineering degree focusing on hardware and control systems. The STC students interested in those programs and who are part of the engineering academy can earn undergraduate A&M degrees without leaving the Valley.

"It's not a transfer program," said Kelli Davis, the director of the transfer and educational advancement center at STC. "Seats are allotted to A&M, so it's a transition to complete an engineering degree in College Station or McAllen."

Hinojosa wants the academy's students to explore all of their options and connect with engineering industry executives and manager in the Valley and across the state.

"That's what their time in the Academy is all about, learning what majors are available and seeing what is the best fit for them," she said.



*The engineering academy partnership between Texas A&M and South Texas College makes students Aggies from day one of enrollment. (Courtesy)*



*Students enrolled in Texas A&M's Engineering Academy become Aggies while attending classes at South Texas College in McAllen. (Courtesy)*

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# Restoration Honors History Of School

By Chris Ardis

Angela Diaz-Millis and her husband, Marc, noticed a desolate building four years ago that is bordered by 16th and 17th streets in McAllen.

A sign declared the property was for sale. The couple are licensed realtors and own Millis Real Estate Group. They couldn't overlook the distinct architectural elements of the building, which told their trained eyes that it held historic significance. The property was under contract, they discovered, but three years later, the for-sale sign was back up.

"We came to the property and walked it," Angela said. "We walked in and saw the high ceilings, and we said, 'We can't let anyone tear it down.'"

The couple went home that afternoon and drew up the contract.

## A Past Life

The vacant building has countless stories to tell. Historical records show that it was known as the "Mexican Ward School" when it was completed on Jan. 29, 1921. Its purpose as defined by the McAllen school board of that era was for it to serve as a new school for the city's Mexican-American population. It would shortly thereafter be officially named Theodore Roosevelt School.

An annex facing Galveston Avenue to the north was built when enrollment at the school grew. The building features Aztec ornaments atop the exterior doorways and tiles on the outdoor entrance ceilings. Records state the addition was completed in 1927. The property in later years housed school district offices and the Instruction & Guidance Center.

## The Annie'

The Millises began their restoration work on the annex, which they call "The Annie."

"We name all of our properties," Angela said. "It's just one of those things where you bring life back to it. We're bringing her back to her old glory and add a modern flair, but not too modern."

For the Millises, restoring and repurposing community landmarks means staying true to the historical aspects of the building. One of the first things they uncovered inside The Annie was that carpeting hid and protected the original hardwood floors.

"We can deal with staples and nails all day

long," Angela said.

After removing them, sanding, and applying polyurethane, more of The Annie's original glory returned. They revealed more hidden history after speculating there had to be windows in the main hallway for cross-circulation. After removing a small piece of sheetrock, they discovered treasure in the form of original, but covered, windows along the top of both hallway walls.

"It was likely done to contain sound," Angela said.

Covering windows also provides more wall space, she said. All of the sheetrock has now been removed, allowing the light to shine on The Annie's history. Old green chalkboards are now painted with black chalkboard paint. Original pieces of wood from the structure were used to create a zebra-effect backsplash in the east-side restrooms, with their floors finished in onyx concrete.

Vintage chandeliers, cedar countertops and antique furniture pieces tie everything together. There is a wheelchair ramp, and



*Angela and Marc Millis stand near the hound/beagle mosaic on the east side of The Annie, the couple's second sign that they should purchase the historic property. (Courtesy)*

doorways are wheelchair accessible. Exposed ceilings throughout the building will add to what Angela calls “that modern vintage flair.”

**‘Keeping History Alive’**

The city of McAllen designated the property a “City Landmark.”

The Millises have submitted documents for the exterior paint colors and all other exterior restoration. They will then go to the City’s Historic Preservation Council for approval. The project has diligently honored time appropriateness and The Annie’s history throughout the interior.

The next chapter in the building annex’s history will be for it to house the studio of Barbara Delgado Photography.

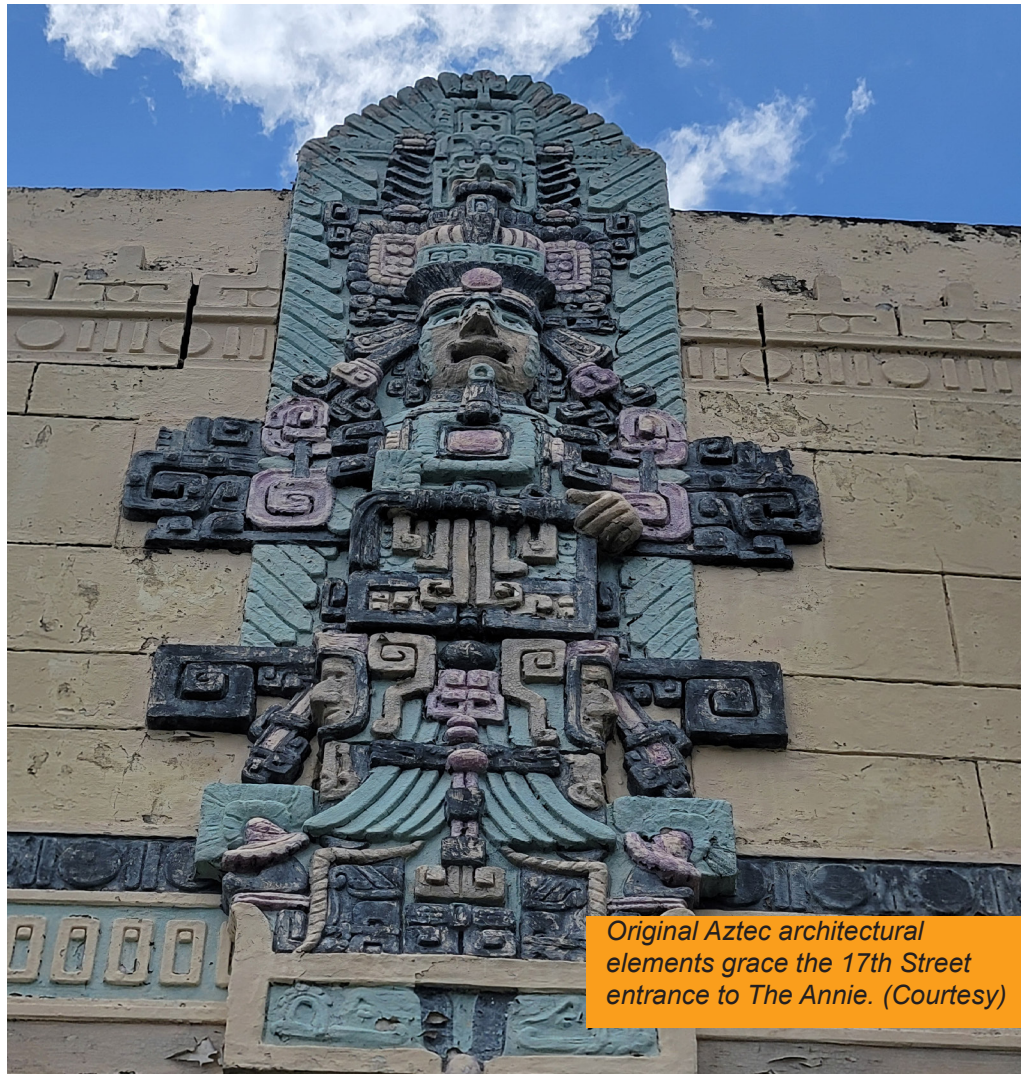
“We love that they restore old buildings,” said Delgado, a friend of the Millis couple. “I love the idea of the old with the new. It’s a dream. We get to keep history alive.”

Delgado’s business will fully settle this month into The Annie. Work will now begin on the original building. When completed, Angela said, it would make a perfect site for an event center or a brewery.

“It has one-and-a-half acres of usable space and an outdoor courtyard,” she said. The building has good bones and historical value.

“It’s an incredible architectural masterpiece,” Marc said.

Now, instead of being lost, its history will continue.



Original Aztec architectural elements grace the 17th Street entrance to The Annie. (Courtesy)



The Galveston Avenue entrance to The Annie has retained its 1920s architectural elements. (Courtesy)



Historic, metal-gridded windows are an architectural feature throughout The Annie. (Courtesy)

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