MONTEREY HERAL



Priday, June 27, 2025

montereyherald.com

Military's role at border expands

Newly designated national defense area spans two Texas counties

By Morgan Lee

SANTAPE, S.M. . The Department of Defense is expanding a mili-turized zone along the southern: emergency at the border. U.S. border where troops are au-thorized to detain people who enter for possible federal prosecu-tion on charges of trespassing in

nounced the annexation of a serpentine 250-mile stretch of the border in Texas amid a buildup of military forces under President Trump's declaration of a national

The newly designated na-tional delense area along the Rio Grande spans two Texas counties and runs alongside cities, includa national defense area. ing Brownsville and McAllen. It The Air Force on Monday an-will be treated as an extension ing Brownsville and McAllen. It

of Joint Base San Antonio, The Air Force said it's prepared to install warning signs immediately against entry to the area.

The military strategy was pio-neered in April along a 170-mile stretch of the border in New Mes-ico and expanded to a swath of western Texas in May. Hunters, hikers and humanitarian aid

MILITARY - PAGE 4



vehicle surveys the southern U.S. border on Suntand Park N.M., on April

MONGARUST - THE ASSOCIATION PRODUCTS

HISTORIC INN REIMAGINED AS INCLUSIVE BOUTIQUE HOTEL



The Charles in Pacific Grove, with the owners priding themselves on creating a bed and breakfast that is inclusive and for everyone.

'The Charles' will have a grand opening Saturday

By Kyarra Harris

introduction throat com-

PACIFIC GROVE a After years of sitting vacant, one of Pacific Grove's most iconic inns is reopening with a new name, a new vision and a commitment to inclusive hospitality.

The former Pacific Grove Inn. been completely reimagined and rebranded as The Charles, an "actfully designed, inclusive inn" that advertises itself as blending Victorian charm with modern design and a mission rooted in diversity, equity and

A grand opening is slated for I p.m. Saturday, marking the return of the 135-year-old Victorian mansion to Pacific Grow's. bed and breakfast some and edobeating Pride with live music.

For the inn's co-owner and lead designer Charles Grewell, this isn't just a restoration.

to a hoophality experience," Gru-well said. "We are a space for the LCBTQ+ community, their fam-

lites and allies - so recrosse:

Grawell, a nationally recog-nized boutique betel designer who has spent docades designing luxury properties around the world, partnered with hospitality veterans Don and Jay Desai to breathe new life into the property. After decades away, Gruwell returned to his home-"The premise behind the hotel town of Facific Grove with a

"Coming home felt like a

DOMESTICATION IS

PANETTA INSTITUTE SURVEY

Many feel democracy is failing

College students express doubt in American Dream

By Andrea Valades

SEASON - Results of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy's na-tionwide survey of college students indicate cost of living is by far the top-concern for college students. A record 55% of students surveyed also felt American de-

mocracy is not working well. The 25th Youth Civic Engagement Survey reflects the opin ions of 809 college students from across the country. With multiple record-breaking responses, the most notable concern for college students today is inflation and cost of living, with 50% believing the economy will get worse over the next year.

"I think it's a disturbing verdict by college students in this country that our democracy is failing to live up to its promise." 5300 Institute Chairman and former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta. "I am very disturbed that

SURVEY - PAGE 1



An annual survey from the Panetta Institute for Public Policy noted that college students are becoming increasingly concerned about the future of the country.

Revolutionary War-era boat being rebuilt

More than 600 please from the 50-foot vessel are being pains takingly put back together, mucha-



State failed to report vehicular manslaughter

State courts have failed to report hundreds of vehicular the DMX read at

DESCRIPTION

Dow Jones 43,385,84 (+404,41)

SAP 500 8343.02 (*48.88)

Mandag 20,767.01 (+194.36)

REST OF THE BOST

The county's top prepfemale athletes

Mere's a look at who turned out to be the top high school female athletes in the county.

FROM PAGE 1

return to the most beautiful place in the world," he said. "We used to call it the 'circle of enchantment' -Monterey, Pacific Grove, Big. Sur, Carmel, Seaside, Marina. So many microcosms of beauty."

The idea, he said, began two years ago when Dawn Desai approached him with a challenge: remodel the shuttered P.G. Inn and turn it into a space that specifically welcomes the LGBTQ+ community, their families, friends and allies, across all backgrounds.

'Most hotels include the LGBTQ community, but they don't actually declare it.' Gruwell said. "We are raising the bar - our website says it, our rainbow flag says it, and every detail of this hotel says: you are welcome here."

The Pacific Grove Inn closed abruptly back in 2018 after its operator, Malibu businessman Gary Peterson, filed for bankruptcy.

Peterson, who served as president of PG Inn Inc., had managed the 16-room hotel since 2009 but had fallen behind on multiple financial obligations in the months leading up to the closure.

Despite the mounting financial issues, the hotel closed without notifying guests, employees or local businesses - many of whom found out via a note taped to the front door.

After the height of the pandemic, the hotel operated in a contactless format, guests received codes via email and had no interaction with staff. Gruwell said that model may have worked post-COVID, but it lacked warmth and community.

"There was no breakfast, no social hour, no one to greet you - it was basic," Gruwell said. "We wanted something different. We brought back the innkeeper model because hospitality is about people."

Now, The Charles features 11 rooms and suites,



PHOTO BY MARY E. NICHOLS

The Charles in Pacific Grove, with the owners priding themselves on creating a bed and breakfast that is inclusive and for everyone.

tal breakfast, afternoon wine and charcuterie and personalized service from live-in innkeepers Gruwell describes as "like a personal concierge for every guest."

Staying true to the build-

well leaned into traditional British interior aesthetics, inspired by a recent trip to London where he and his partner toured more than 30 bed-and-breakfasts.

"The mansion's Victorian

a daily elevated continen- ing's historical roots, Gru- architecture deserved classical, elegant design," Gru-well said. "But I also wanted it to reflect my artistic sensibilities and my identity as a gay designer. Everyone gay, straight, and every-

a beautiful, inclusive place to stay."

Gruwell said The Charles is designed for families. couples, solo travelers and even pets.

'Everybody's welcome. It's warm, comfortable and feels like a private residence. That's what people say when they walk in."

The Charles is also a fullcircle moment for Gruwell. Raised in Pacific Grove, he's a P.G. High School and Monterey Peninsula College graduate who taught in Salinas before pursuing hotel design full-time.

"I love hotels. I love design. I love architecture. To combine all those passions into a property with my name on it is like a dream come true," he said.

And he credits his partner and client, Don Desai, with helping that dream become reality.

"This was his idea. I have tremendous gratitude for Don. He gave me an opportunity I never imagined. I couldn't ask for a better one in between - deserves partner or friend."