

TRAVEL



GEOQUIZ

Cape Horn is part of which country?
Answer: Chile. It's located on Hornos Island at the southern tip of South America.

Rundown motels getting new life

ONCE-FORGOTTEN PLACES HAVE A SECOND CHANCE TO BE COOL IN COLORADO

BY AMANDA HANCOCK
 COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—In the first episode of the series “Schitt’s Creek,” a suddenly broke family has to leave their lavish mansion to begrudgingly live in a rundown motel.

By the finale in April 2020, the made-over motel turned into something the fictional family—and viewers of the hit show—adored.

The motel’s redemption story mirrored a trend happening beyond the television screen: Forgotten roadside stays were getting a second chance at the spotlight.

There was this real-life scene from 2017: Jody Corey and her friends planned a wine-tasting trip to Palisade in western Colorado. They booked a little motel with no Google reviews or website. They hoped for the best.

When they arrived, “We were horrified,” Corey said.

When the wine trip was over, though, Corey kept thinking: “We should buy that place.”

The place fit the picture many have in mind of old motor lodges: “Dingy rooms with 1970s décor, popcorn ceilings, showers you couldn’t turn around in, shady managers, and dirt-cheap prices.”

That description comes from the website of Spoke and Vine Motel, the new name of the 1955 motel that Corey stayed in. She and her husband, Jeff, bought it in 2018 and opened the remodeled version in May 2019.

“I saw the potential in how cute we could make it,” said Corey, who owned a property management company in Steamboat Springs. “We like a challenge.”

And it was a challenge to update the 17-room property that showed signs of little care over the past decades, Corey said.

“If we would’ve torn it down, it would’ve been a lot easier,” Corey said. “But we liked the idea of saving the past and keeping the history of it.”

That’s what draws visitors to these places, among options like chain hotels or brand-new boutiques. Colorado is home to trendy remodels, such as Mellow Moon Lodge in Del Norte and the Amigo Motor Lodge in Salida.

They have a vintage feel, because they are vintage.

The rise of roadside motels can be traced back to the 1950s, in the early days of the quintessential American road trip.

These long trips were fueled by affordable places you could easily find in the days without GPS tracking. In many cases, the motel was just a place to rest while on the way to the next place.

Carrying on this spirit of adventure is one mission of Loge Camps, a company that finds motels near outdoorsy towns and brings them back to life.

Of Loge’s five renovated motels, a Breckenridge location opened in 2019. The roadside stay is just a 10-minute trip to Keystone Ski Resort and 15 minutes to Copper Mountain.

Edward Solan was a self-proclaimed “fan boy” of the company behind “hotels that get you to the outdoors,” which is Loge’s motto. He first heard about Loge a couple of years ago while studying hospitality in graduate school in Georgia.

“It just sparked something in me, like this is what hospitality should be trying to be,” he

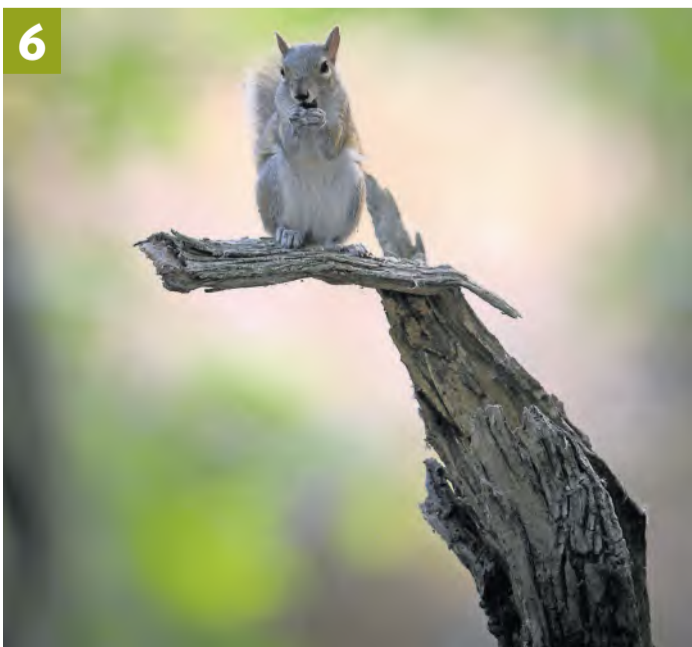
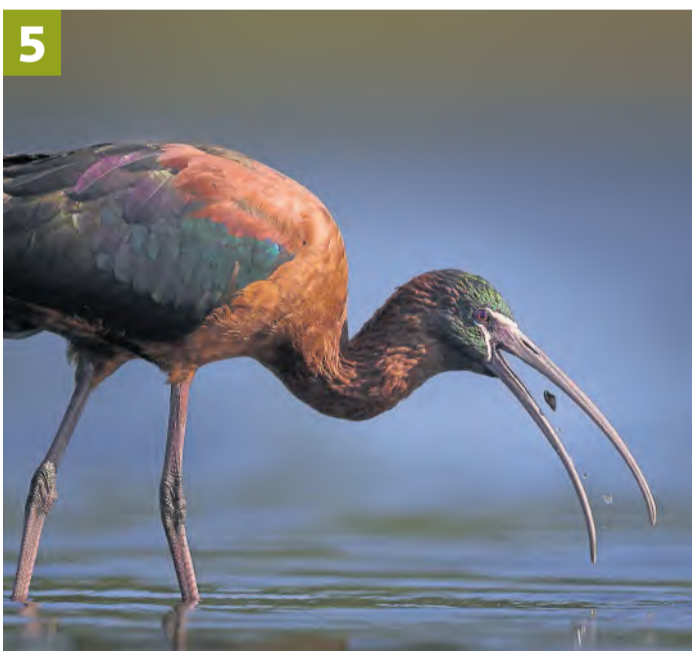
SEE MOTELS, C5

TAKE YOUR CAMERA AND HIT THE ROAD



PHOTOS BY TIM SULLIVAN

Spring is the perfect time for ‘bird traveling’



SPRING HAS definitely sprung, and never more so than heading into May. Despite some near-freezing nights in late April, nature could only be put off so long.

ARMCHAIR VENTURES
 Paul Sullivan



Everything seems to be on the move now, human and otherwise. Of course, the great spring migration of birds is well underway. In North America, that means the flyways that most of the birds follow are highly active now.

Three days ago, I heard the first hummingbird at the feeder I actually remembered to put up last week. A few days before that I heard a Bobwhite Quail. The quail, once a familiar bird in my neighborhood, and much of America, has all but disappeared in recent years, so hearing a quail’s distinctive whistling call several days in a row was exciting.

This month also means the people who are enamored of birds are out hunting for them with binoculars and cameras. I know from experience that if birds number in the millions, the humans who seek them out easily number in at least the hundreds of thousands, if not consider-

THE PHOTOS

1. A reddish egret herds small fish into shallow water before devouring them in Florida’s Myakka State Park.
2. A Florida sandhill crane, one of the oldest avian species, is a sight to behold. This sub-species can also be found in Georgia’s legendary Okefenokee Swamp.
3. A barred owl in a Florida swamp keeps a wary eye on an intruder near her young owls.
4. No, it isn’t a bird but no photographer could pass up a massive alligator posing at the water’s edge.
5. The glossy ibis in breeding plumage is a spectacular bird, and this one at Myakka River State Park near Sarasota has just scored a morsel of lunch.
6. A gray squirrel munches on a morsel it has uncovered, keeping ever alert in a Florida swamp.

ably more.

I know that because those members of the human tribe included me, when I was younger, and I wore out four—count ’em, four—VW Beetles in my 20s and a lot of that was driving to cool places to see migratory birds.

Everywhere I went, there were plenty of people doing the same thing.

Well, I thought about these things when my son, Tim, went to Florida last week

SEE SULLIVAN, C5

happy new year

The Free Lance-Star

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WEATHER: HIGH 71, LOW 63. B6

FREDERICKSBURG, VA. FOR 24-HOUR UPDATES, GO TO FREDERICKSBURG.COM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022

Variant sending more to hospital

MWHC DATA SHOW PATIENTS INCLUDE BOTH VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED

BY CATHY DYSON
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

After Virginia set a new record for COVID-19 cases on Wednesday—a number that was soundly trounced each of the next two days—Gov. Ralph Northam said rising case numbers were cause for concern, not panic, because of the prevalence of vaccines.

Data from around the world has shown that if people get vaccinated and then get COVID, their symptoms are likely to be minor, the governor said, stressing: “Nearly everyone going to the hospital with COVID is unvaccinated.”

That’s not what data from Mary Washington Healthcare and the state show.

Since September, MWHC has posted graphics in which gold stick figures represent unvaccinated patients and green stick figures represent vaccinated ones. When the graphics began, the charts were mostly honey-colored images, noting those who had not been inoculated.

The graphics have gotten a bit greener since Thanksgiving as the number of vaccinated people admitted to the hospital with COVID-19 has risen, according to MWHC data.

Friday’s chart shows that 41 people—more than one-third of the 115 patients at Mary Washington Hospital and Stafford Hospital with the virus—were vaccinated.

Among the older set—
SEE HOSPITALIZATIONS, A6

COVID-19 RECORDS

Three times this week and even with limited tests available, Virginia set new pandemic records for the most COVID-19 cases in a single day: 12,112 on Wednesday, 13,500 on Thursday and 17,618 on Friday.

The Rappahannock Area Health District did the same, but a few days apart. It reported 556 new cases on Christmas Eve, then broke that record on Thursday with 720 new cases and again on Friday with 943 cases. By year’s end, 50,838 people in the RAHD had been infected by the virus since the pandemic began and 412 had died from it.

—Cathy Dyson

REVIEWING THE TRIUMPHS OF AN OFTEN TRAGIC YEAR



FILE / DAVE ELLIS FOR THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Chancellor High’s Jonas Lohr is hoisted in the air by his teammates after the Chargers defeated Patrick Henry 3-1.



FILE / TRISTAN LOREI / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

William Gardner hugs his wife, Allison Bragg, after renewing their wedding vows in their custom-made Christmas village.

Picturing joy in the silver lining of 2021

This year, COVID-19 and its variants endured, tarnishing many aspects of life in the Fredericksburg area. But amid the tumult, there have been moments of hope, perseverance and even normalcy. We hope these photographs, captured by Free Lance-Star staff and contributing photographers, convey the resiliency of local residents and the natural beauty of our region.



FILE / MIKE MORONES / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Snow falls near Chancellorsville on Feb. 7. There wasn’t a lot of snow in 2021, but even a dusting can bring out the beauty.



FILE / PETER CIHELKA / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Theresa DiCicco and her 9-year-old grandson, Tanner Hall, join in a swing dance event at Picker’s Supply in downtown Fredericksburg.



FILE / PETER CIHELKA / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Ed Clark, president of the Wildlife Center of Virginia, releases a juvenile female bald eagle.

CONTINUED >> What Free Lance-Star photographers saw in 2021, page A10.

FOOD



« CONSIDER SALMON
Think of this delicious fish that welcomes a world of flavors when planning dinner. C3

A NEW TAKE ON PESTO
Don't waste your carrot tops. Put them to good use in a tasty sauce instead. C3

INSIDE

THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCK OF A MARVELOUS MEAL



ANGEL HAIR



CASCATELLI



ANELLETTI



FARFALLE



TAGLIATELLE



ORZO



CAVATELLI



PENNE



GEMELLI



RIGATONI



STELLE



RADIATORI

PHOTOS BY ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

For perfect pasta, consider the shape

BY BECKY KRSTAL
THE WASHINGTON POST

If you've ever put a sauce and pasta together and thought the combination wasn't quite right, there may be a reason: Not all pastas are ideal for all dishes.

There are well over 300 pasta shapes out there, so you'd be forgiven for making the occasional misstep.

"I get super-pumped when I see a shape I don't know or hadn't thought about in a long time," says cookbook author Katie Parla, whose books in-

clude "Food of the Italian South" and, with Evan Funke, "American Sfoglino: A Master Class in Handmade Pasta."

Parla straddles two schools of thought in choosing pasta shapes. The American side says, "do whatever you want." The two-decade Italian resident side takes into consideration the traditions of her adopted country. (In "Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking," the legendary Marcella Hazan says the principles of pairing pasta and sauce "cannot be ignored by anyone who wants to achieve the full and har-

monious expression of flavor of which Italian cooking is capable.")

Parla's diplomatic take: "There can be opportunities for a delicious texture experience if you're not strictly following tradition."

Still, you need to put some thought into which pasta shapes you use for which dishes. Here's a rundown of some major categories, as well as examples and suggestions on how to use them. Keep in mind that shapes may be classified several ways.

SEE PASTAS, C2



ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

When the temperature soars and the sun is shining at 7 p.m., you know rosé days are underway again.

What people call the "happy wine" has always been something to sip without taking it, or yourself, too seriously. Rosé is about embracing fun, the beach, day-drinking and personal style, which is surely why we all guzzled it during the doom and gloom of a pandemic that isn't over yet.

Get ready. As more wineries rush to cash in on the popularity of pink, styles are expanding. This year brings a wave of new-spin versions worth sipping; some others are, predictably, more marketing hype than taste.

For example, the number of pricey prestige rosés aged in French oak barrels is growing rapidly, especially in the \$35 to \$50 category. The idea is to create the kind of complexity that repays aging. Keep in mind that few have that thirst-quenching juiciness that makes rosés great aperitifs around the pool. They're best served with food.

New celebrity rosés just keep coming, too, but they rarely distinguish themselves as wines. The latest is from Reese Witherspoon, who's pushing her just-launched \$19 Editor's Collection, made by Sonoma's Simi winery, as the essential sipper while reading one of the picks of her book club.

After overcoming a legal brouhaha, George Clooney finally closed on 425-acre Provence estate Domaine du Canadel, 30 minutes from Brad Pitt's Miraval. Stay tuned for the inevitable rosé launch. Maybe next year?

France's new hot spot for bargain rosé is Languedoc, which sells 25% more pink wine than Provence, though the latter is still the ur-region. Not only is demand for favorites pushing prices up, wine tourism in Provence is also booming, with grand estates wooing enophiles with luxury digs and spas.

The 2021s arriving on shelves survived a challenging year in the south of France, with the first April frosts in 50 years and August wildfires that af-

SEE ROSÉ, C2



SWEDISH TEA RING

HILLARY LEVIN / ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

These classic recipes are kitchen keepers

BY DANIEL NEMAN
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Far away on a distant sea lies the Island of Old-Fashioned Baked Goods.

There, slices of apple-sauce cake play in the tall green grass. Charlotte ruses dance in the dappled sunlight. Coconut cream pies huddle with

date-nut bread to gossip about pineapple upside-down cake.

But despite the appearances, all is not happy on the island. The pleasant, hopeful veneer hides an undercurrent of sorrow.

These baked goods were once beloved. They were in every magazine,

they were on everyone's tongue. But now they are all but forgotten.

Does that diminish their inherent quality? Does that make them any less worthy of being eaten?

Does that make them ... stale?

I say no. I say it is time for these brave and stal-

wart baked goods of yore to make a stand, to leave the peaceable comforts of their isle and to find their way back to our tables—for the sake of nostalgia, if nothing else.

I went back to some old cookbooks (and one cookbook that went back to old

SEE OLD-FASHIONED, C6

COMING UP IN WEEKENDER » EVENTS HAPPENING AROUND THE AREA