

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

FOOD FIND

BURSTING WITH FUN

CAPTIVA, Fla. — Eye-popping colors, toy trains, Christmas lights, ragtime on the sound system, zany servers in Scout uniforms — oh, and did we mention the desserts? The Bubble Room on Captiva Island has been packing them in since 1979 when the Farquharson family set up a few tables in their living room, added some vintage toys to liven up the decor, and started serving meals. Today the restaurant has three floors, five dining rooms, and more than 3,500 vintage items on display. Toy trains chug around suspended tracks, chandeliers with red and green bubble lights rotate and twinkle, walls and ceilings are plastered with movie photographs from Hollywood's glamour years, and Christmas decorations stay up all yearlong.

The restaurant still serves several original menu items offered by the Farquharsons, including Bubble bread — a seven-cheese garlic bread — sticky buns, and Carolina moons, a potato chips-fries hybrid you can order plain or topped with bacon and cheese. (Bubble bread and sticky buns come with every dinner.) Meals focus on local seafood, meat, and poultry, but the restaurant is perhaps best known for its desserts, all made on site. Among the favorites are chocolate cake with fudge, toffee, and pecan-crunch icing; buttermilk-based red velvet cake; and the best-selling, award-winning confection, "orange crunch": yellow cake layered with an almond-brown sugar crunch, covered with orange cream-cheese icing. Slices are large enough to share. What's that? You say you resolved to cut back this year? OK, just have dessert.

THE BUBBLE ROOM

15001 Captiva Drive, Captiva, Fla. 239-472-5558, www.bubble-roomrestaurant.com

ELLEN ALBANESE

DRIVEN MAD BY TEXTING MOTORISTS

Tailgating finishes a distant second in report on behaviors that incite road rage



TONY AVELAR/THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR/GETTY IMAGES

By Emerald Jensen-Roberts
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Whatever you do, do not press "send." Texting while driving has been rated the top offense in this year's Road Rage Report of what grinds the gears of Americans behind the wheel, compiled annually by Expedia and released last week.

Using data gathered from more than 1,000 participants, the violator rankings start with The Red Light Racer, which got 1 percent of all votes, and peaked with The Texter, which claimed a whopping 26 percent. Other top provocateurs include The Tailgater (13 percent) and The Left Lane Hog (12 percent), while The Honker earned a mere 2 percent, proving that these days, actions speak louder than beeps.

This is the second straight year texting ranked most annoying. Expedia also ranked the least popular passenger behavior. At the top of the list is back-seat driving, a habit loathed by 52 percent of those polled. It puts to shame other top annoyances, including reluctant co-piloting, hogging the radio, and taking a snooze, which combined claimed 30 percent of the votes.

"We've set out to examine what sorts of behavior make travel more pleasurable, and what sorts of behavior should be avoided," says John Morrey, vice president and general manager of Expedia. "The study demonstrates that travelers expect courtesy and respect."

Asked to look within, 97 percent of those polled rated themselves as "careful" drivers, yet 61 percent also admitted to speeding, 29 percent said they follow other vehicles too closely, and 26 percent confessed to cursing other drivers. Perhaps most extreme are the 4 percent of drivers who reported having left their cars to angrily engage with another driver, and the 13 percent who have felt physically threatened by other motorists.

However, it's not all tire squeals and angry words. Forty percent of poll respondents also reported having pulled over to help a driver in distress.

Emeralde Jensen-Roberts can be reached at emeralde.roberts@globe.com.

HERE

SURF STYLE HOTEL IN RHODE ISLAND

On June 19, Lark Hotels debuts The Break, a boutique property designed with a vintage surfer vibe in the historic seaside town of Narragansett, R.I. Located one block from the beach, the hotel features 16 guest rooms and suites, each with king beds, luxe linens, fireplaces, rainfall shower heads, heated bathroom floors, and more. Most also feature private balconies with ocean or sunset views. Guests can enjoy light bites and cocktails in the rooftop lounge (with panoramic views), heated outdoor swimming pool, hot tub and sun deck, fitness center, plus small spa and salon. Personalized concierge services include the arranging of surfing and stand-up paddle boarding lessons, board and kayak rentals, beach picnics, and fishing excursions. Rates \$159-\$459 per night, depending on room type and season; includes small plates breakfast. 401-363-9800, www.thebreakhotel.com



SMELL THE ROSES IN NEWPORT

Inspired by the iconic American Beauty Rose, the Newport Flower Show celebrates its 20th anniversary June 19-21 with special events, guest speakers, floral designs, garden displays, horticulture exhibits, photography, children's programs, and shopping opportunities (for specialty plants, flowers, and garden and lifestyle-related products and services) staged throughout the elegant reception rooms of Rosecliff (one of the Gilded Age mansions), its oceanfront terrace and lawn. The weekend, themed "American Beauty - Timeless Style," kicks off with an opening-night party featuring a seaside supper, cocktails, live music, and dancing, and continue with lecture luncheons by Jane Godshalk and Peter Hatch, authors' afternoon tea reception, champagne and

jazz brunch, and more. Single day \$20-\$25, children ages 6-17 \$6, special events \$40-\$190, packages \$275-\$475. 401-847-1000, www.newport-flowershow.org

THERE

NEW COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT, WILDLIFE AREA

Outdoor enthusiasts may want to check out Colorado's newest wildlife area. Designated a national monument by President Obama in 2015, Browns Canyon — located in the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation area — is a pristine, nearly 22,000-acre park for camping, mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, fishing (pictured above), and white-water rafting, and for spotting bighorn sheep, elk, deer, golden eagles, falcons, and much other wildlife. Colorado Tourism provides a handy guide to this and seven other of its national monuments, including tips on why to go, what not to miss, what else to see around each monument and what cities are near each park. www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-national-monuments

SWEET DEALS FOR EUROPEAN RAIL TRAVEL

Just in time for summer travel overseas, Eurail has introduced a variety of new ways to travel farther and cheaper with its Eurail Pass portfolio, including the Children Travel Free initiative allowing up to two children (age 11 and under) to travel free per each adult using an Adult Eurail Pass; first-class Youth Pass (for ages 12-25) offering a 20 percent discount off an adult fare; and 5 in 10 Days Global Pass option, permitting five travel days within a 10-day span to visit non-bordering countries. (Pictured below, the TGV, France's high-speed rail.) In addition, four countries — Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Poland, and Serbia — have joined Eurail's Global Pass this year, bringing the total to 28 countries connected with the rail pass. Want more flexibility? The Attica Pass, a new One Country Pass to the Greek islands by ferry, offers six ferry crossings within one month (two international trips between Italy and Greece, and four domestic trips for island hopping), and includes a rail and/or bus transfer from the international port of Patras to the

domestic port of Piraeus. www.eurailgroup.org/eurail-vendors

EVERYWHERE

FREE APP EXPEDITES US REENTRY

When you arrive back in the United States after a lengthy overseas flight, waiting to pass through Customs can be exhausting. Now you can skip the lines — and the aggravation — with the Mobile Passport App by Airside Mobile. Simply set up your profile information as it appears on your passport, and answer four brief questions provided by US Customs and Border Protection. Once you land, submit the data by means of a wireless or Wi-Fi connection and receive an encrypted bar code. Then take the Mobile Passport Control express lane, show your passport to the CBP officer, scan your barcode, and be on your way. CBP introduced the program at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, and recently expanded it to include Miami, Chicago-O'Hare, and Seattle-Tacoma international airports. Free. mobilepassport.us

CONTROL HOME ALARM WHILE ON VACATION

Worried about someone breaking into your home when you are traveling? The SkylinkNet Alarm System Kit aims to alleviate your anxiety. The all-in-one, do-it-yourself kit offers a complete alarm system solution that is conveniently controlled by a smartphone app. Includes an Internet hub, motion sensor, keychain remote, and two door or window sensors, and may be paired with up to 10 wireless cameras. Travelers can remotely arm and



disarm the alarm system with a smartphone and — if a sensor is triggered — automatically receive a push notification alert. The app also allows users to turn lights and appliances on and off remotely, after integration with Skylink HomeControl receivers. No monthly fees. \$149.99. W800-304-1187, skylinkhome.com/usa/skylinknet_alarmsystem_overview.html NECEE REGIS



BOB WICK, BLM (TOP LEFT)