



Oodles of Doodles
Why 'drawn-on' clothes are trending **D2**

OFF DUTY

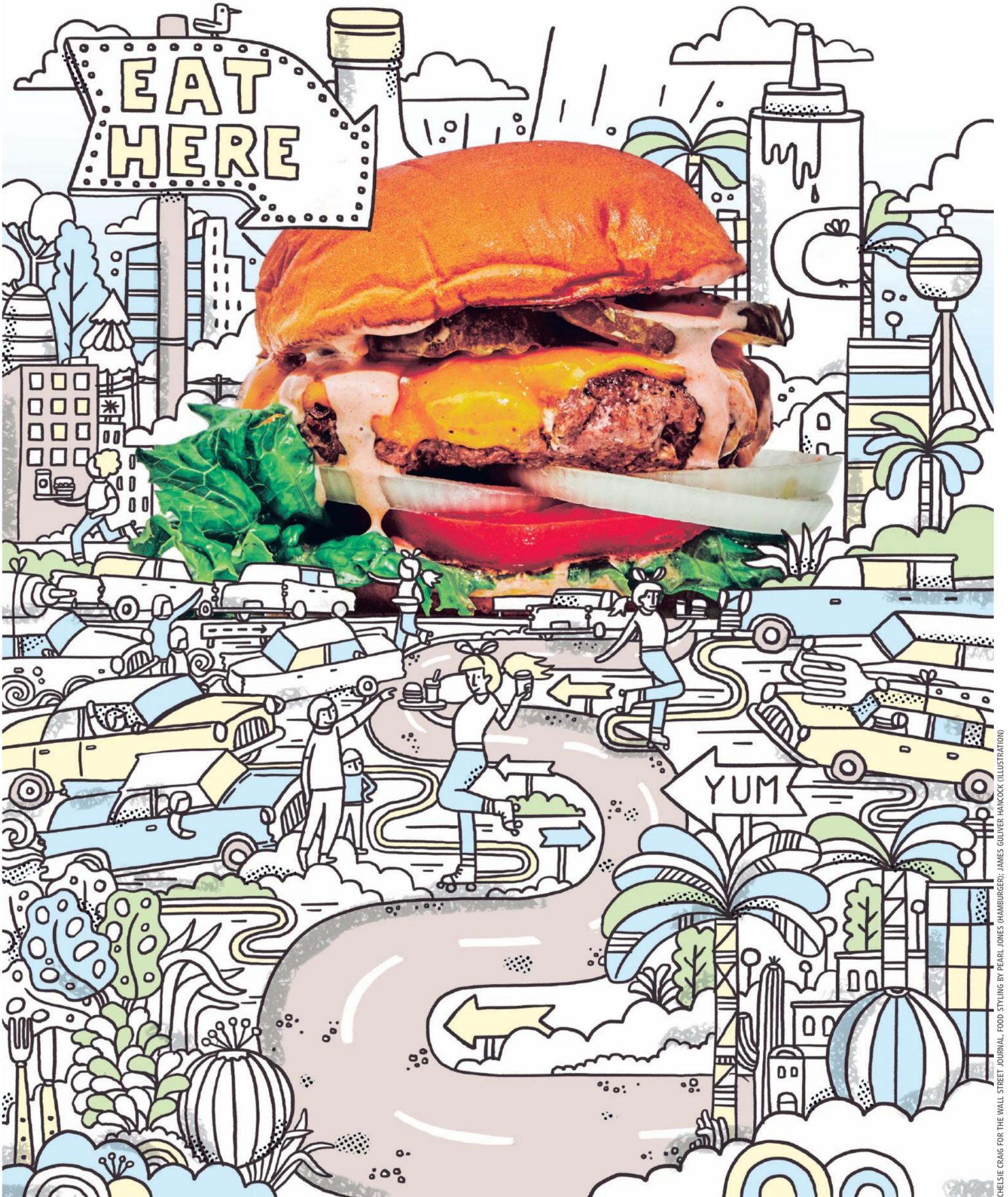
Cool-Headed ACs
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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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CHELSEIE CRAIG FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. FOOD STYLING BY PEARL JONES (HAMBURGER); JAMES GULLIVER, HANCOCK (ILLUSTRATION)

By ELEANORE PARK

A S A TEENAGER in Los Altos, Calif., one of my first jobs was at Brian's Place, the sort of neighborhood diner fairly common in suburban America. The vinyl booths matched the covers on the menus. More than anything, the no-frills burger, served with iceberg lettuce on a squishy bun, kept me working there through high school.

You know this burger. Maybe you've had it at your own go-to diner, drive-thru, old-school drive-in or neighborhood tavern. With its thin patty, generally a quarter-pound or under, and minimal garnishing, this one-handed meal is the great culinary legacy of 20th-century American car culture.

As a new millennium dawned, this unpretentious and delicious burger was eclipsed by a big-

One for The Road

It's the fuel for summer adventures and what memories are made of. No wonder the classic drive-in burger is back.

ger, beefier style loaded with ever more outré toppings. In 2003, Jeff Weinstein opened the Counter in Los Angeles, boasting ultra-customizable burgers with 10 different cheeses, 26 toppings, 17 sauces and 8 buns to choose from. Patties came in three sizes, the heaviest a 1-pound behemoth. This period also brought us chef Daniel Boulud's DB Burger, a patty of ground sirloin with a core of wine-braised short rib, foie gras and black truffles.

In the last few years, thankfully, the classic diner/drive-thru-style burger has made a comeback, showing up even at fine-dining and Michelin-starred restaurants such as Lazy Bear in San Francisco and the Four Horsemen in Brooklyn. More than ever, during the Covid-19 pandemic the humble thin-patty burger is striking a chord.

"I think it's coming back around because people
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ADVENTURE & TRAVEL



NIGHT CLUB Westcliffe/Silver Cliff in Colorado is an officially designated International Dark-Sky Community.

FROM TOP: MIKE PACCH; JOHN GILLIES

Things Are Looking Up

‘Dark Sky’ parks around the U.S. offer superior stargazing experiences, whether you decide to visit them in the flesh or not

By ADAM H. GRAHAM

IT'S TOO HOT to bake yet another peach pie and too late in the season to start a Victory garden, but it is a prime time to ponder the night sky. More than 60 places around the country have been designated as exemplary stargazing sites by the International Dark-Sky Association, which is not, as the name suggests, the bureaucratic arm of the League of Villains, but a conservation organization devoted to reducing light pollution. Not only do these Dark Sky sites provide a high-def upgrade to backyard stargazing, but, since they're often in fairly remote locales, they're also conducive to social distancing. For those who'd rather stay in their own orbit, several Dark Sky sites

offer up a hefty menu of virtual astronomy programs.

Like many conservation movements, the notion of preserving night skies took off in the 1970s, fueled by amateur astronomers concerned about excessive urban light. In 1988, the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) was incorporated in Tucson, Ariz., by founders David Crawford, a professional astronomer, and Tim Hunter, a physician/amateur astronomer. IDA now represents 145 destinations in 21 countries.

Five types of Dark Sky designations exist, each with its own set of criteria: International Dark Sky Communities, Parks, Reserves, Sanctuaries and Urban Night Sky Places. You can find the sites in every corner of the country, so you needn't drive far to access one. DIY activities like firefly spotting and moonrise picnics appeal to both amateur astronomers and romantics in search of a little cosmic recreation. But the sites also offer Coronavirus-era activities for family and friend bubbles seeking starry solitude.

Here, a sampling of three Dark Sky sites in the U.S.; you can check IDA's map at darksky.org to find the places closest to you.

Big and Bright in Texas

The Lone Star State is home to 15 official Dark Sky places, including Big Bend National Park and neighboring Big Bend Ranch State Park, both at a far enough remove from city life to promise a million-plus acres of protected night sky. While some programming is on hiatus due to coronavirus regulations, you can still hire private guides for astronomy walks, a chance to spot three of the Southern Cross's four stars. Two hours away, the McDonald Observatory live-streams its telescope-viewing programs on YouTube, using its powerful telescope to give virtual visitors a glimpse of the skies above West Texas's Davis Mountains.

Colorado's Star Power

Westcliffe and Silver Cliff, about 2.5 hours south of Denver in the Wet Mountain Valley, together make up Colorado's first designated International Dark-Sky Association Community. Local residents adopt stringent outdoor lighting ordinances. The result: reliably glittery skies crowning the Sangre de Cristo

Mountains. The site's iconic Smokey Jack Observatory, housed in a barn with a retractable roof, no longer hosts its usual star parties but Dark Skies Colorado posts images and videos on the group's

Smokey Jack Observatory is housed in a barn with a retractable roof.



Facebook page several times a week.

Pennsylvania's Space Station

The Milky Way is so bright at Cherry Springs State Park (pictured below), in north central Pennsylvania, that rangers say it casts a shadow. The park—about a five-hour drive from the city glows of New York City, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia—is considered to have the darkest skies in the east. According to IDA, those skies typically turn out 60 to 85 clear nights a year, which makes for crystal-clear ogling of constellations and galaxies like Andromeda. From September to March, you might catch a peek at the Aurora Borealis. North Star Outdoor Guides offer private tours to help you spot meteor showers (wildasaphoutfitters.com). Or you can opt for a nightscape photo workshop (pbase.com/cwphoto). Serious astronomers will appreciate the Overnight Astronomy Observation Field, which prohibits campfires and all forms of white light, but there's another campsite with picnic tables and fire pits. Stuck at home? Starting Aug. 21, the park's website will post night-sky walking tours.



SOUND TRACKS A good road trip playlist should be a mix of old favorites and new discoveries.

Spotify Down the Highway

Still belting out classic-rock clichés on your road trips? For a more ‘I’m alive in 2020’ mix, consider adding these new releases (or rereleases) to your cross-country playlist



Metropolitan Meandering
Lianne La Havas, 'Lianne La Havas'

On this self-titled third album, Ms. La Havas, a London-born guitarist and protégé of Prince in his final years, conjures the kind of “quiet storm” that made Sade's music iconic. Opening track “Bittersweet” sets the mood with a chiming Isaac Hayes sample and laid-back vocals. It's music made for night drives, twinkling city lights in the rear view mirror.



Southern Exposure
Bessie Jones, 'Get in Union'

Long before folklorist Alan Lomax first recorded her in 1959, Bessie Jones was a performer and teacher of traditional songs, some of which she learned from her step-grandfather, who was born in Africa and sold into slavery as a child. Among the 60 recordings in

this collection are children's ditties like “Old Lady From Brewster,” a rollicking singalong that'll hook even iPhone-generation kids as well as an ecstatic version of the spiritual “Got on My Traveling Shoes.”



Country Rock Revival
Neil Young, 'Homegrown'

Call it a new old record, or an old new record, but either way Neil Young's Homegrown, which was recorded in 1974 and 75, feels like a classic. Highlights include “Vacancy,” a steering-wheel-slapping stomper, and the aching “Try,” which has Emmylou Harris singing backup over a loping cowboy beat provided by Levon Helm.



Beach Party
Bad Bunny, 'YHLQMDLG'

If you're familiar with the irrepressible Puerto Rican reggaeton star Bad Bunny, it's probably from his appearance with

Shakira at this year's Super Bowl halftime show or his guest verses on Cardi B's “I Like It.” The ungainly title of this, his sophomore release, stands for “Yo Hago Lo Que Me Da La Gana,” or “I do what I want,” and what Mr. Bunny mostly wants is to make you dance. Start with the infectious first single “Yo Perreo Sola,” roughly translated as “I twerk alone,” and don't stop.



Western Wandering
Orville Peck, 'Show Pony'

Last year, Orville Peck intrigued the alt-country scene with his gorgeous debut album “Pony,” and with his look; his visage is always hidden behind a fringed mask. His new release, “Show Pony,” is no less captivating. Highlights include “Legends Never Die,” a raucous duet with Shania Twain, and the melancholic waltz “No Glory in the West,” which was seemingly created for lonely roads and wide vistas.

—Matthew Kronsberg



JOURNALISTS DON'T 'JUST WRITE STORIES.'

THEY RECORD HISTORY.



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