

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

HERE

HANDS-ON PHYSICS FUN

Race golf balls along winding tracks and explore how gravity, friction, speed, and acceleration affect moving objects in a new exhibit at Acton's Discovery Museum, the Velocity Engineering Lab. This hands-on exhibit, which runs through April 28, encourages visitors to conduct their own experiments and compare the results of multiple test tracks, which include a roller coaster, jump track, loop track, half pipe, and dish. Head for the Community Gallery, a space that hosts traveling exhibits such as this one, community events, and cultural presentations, and that is supported by Natick-based Middlesex Savings Bank. The recently renovated Discovery Museum blends science, nature, art, and play, and has an outdoor playscape and massive treehouse on its 4.5-acre property. *Admission: \$14.50 ages 1 and up; \$13.50 for 60 and older; free for under 1, all teachers, and all visitors during certain admission hours (see website). Closed Mondays except certain holidays. 978-264-4200, www.discoveryacton.org*

EXHIBIT CHRONICLES NATURE THROUGH ART

View iconic and rarely seen works by Ansel Adams, Winslow Homer, Georgia O'Keeffe, and other artists during a new exhibition at Salem's Peabody Essex Museum, on show through May 5. "Nature's Nation: American Art and Environment" chronicles evolving ideas about the environment through more than 120 paintings, photos, sculptures, videos, and other works from artists dating back to the 1700s. The show, organized by the Princeton University Art Museum, includes masterpieces by Andrew Wyeth, Dorothea

Lange, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, and Thomas Cole, and everything from Native American basketry and colonial furniture to modernist abstraction paintings. The works show how artists have helped shape and reflect environmental attitudes over the past 300 years. *Admission: free for visitors 16 and under to \$20 for adults. Closed Mondays, except holidays. 978-745-9500, www.pem.org*

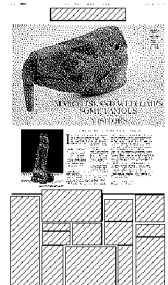
THERE

LUXE HOTEL WITH SWEET LOCATION AND VIEWS

On a clear day, few views can rival the one from the 16th-floor bar and lounge of the Charter Hotel, one of Seattle's newest hotels. From this rooftop perch, called the Fog Room, enjoy stunning views of Puget Sound, the ferry terminal, iconic Ferris wheel, and city skyline while sipping cocktails by the outdoor fire or in the cozy indoor lounge. The hotel, part of the Curio Collection by Hilton, is located on 2nd Avenue in the heart of the city, an easy walk to Pike Place Market, Pioneer Square, and the monorail that whisks you to Seattle Center (home to the Space Needle and more). The hotel has 13 one-bedroom suites and 229 spacious rooms with a modern earthy décor (and giant drawers for unpacking), a fitness and wellness center, and Patagon restaurant, which has an Argentine-style grill for preparing dishes using locally sourced Northwest ingredients (try the arctic char or the gaucho ribeye). *Room rates start at \$199. 800-445-8667, curiocollection3.hilton.com*

PEDAL IRELAND'S RUGGED COAST

Explore Dingle's beehive huts, Beara's



rugged landscapes, and the Iveragh peninsula during a seven-day cycling tour through Ireland's Kingdom of Kerry run by Wilderness Ireland. On this fully guided trip, geared to seasoned cyclists, riders will pass Ireland's highest mountain range (the soaring Macgillcuddy's Reeks mountains), visit the country's westernmost point at Sleah Head, and stay in old-world accommodations (think Downtown Abbey vibe). The tour will take you along three of the region's classic cycling routes: Molls Gap, the Gap of Dunloe, and the Healy Pass. Rates start at \$2,300 per person, including six nights of accommodations, pickup and transport throughout trip, most meals, luggage transfers, and applicable entry taxes; airfare not included. *Trips depart May 4, July 20, Aug. 17, and Sept. 14.* 844-235-6240, www.wildernessireland.com

EVERYWHERE

GADGETS TO KEEP YOU ORGANIZED

Forgetting your passport, laptop cord, toiletries bag, or other important items can put a damper on a trip. Ade-

ro has come up with a clever system for helping you remember critical items. This "intelligent organization system" includes three smart tags about the size of a silver dollar that you attach to your main bags, such as your carry-on, checked bag, or purse. It also includes three nickel-size taglets that you can affix to a wallet, passport, or laptop — or even slip into the pouch of a favorite stuffed animal. Then assign these taglets to the smart tags through the Adero app. Before you leave home, your hotel room, or the airplane, for instance, hit the button on a smart tag and it flashes green if all the items assigned to it are with you, or red if you have forgotten something (assign up to three taglets per tag). Use the app to see what's missing, and even to find misplaced smart tags. \$119 for kit with three tags and three taglets. Compatible with Apple and Android devices. www.adero.com

KARI BODNARCHUK



PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM



KARI BODNARCHUK FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE