INSIDE: Looking for fun this summer? It's just an ax throw away ...

JUNE 2024

Summer is a time to make memories that will last a lifetime and, in South County, the only limit to a season's worth of adventure is your imagination.

YOUR CANVAS AWAITS
Enjoy an afternoon aboard Rhode Island Fast Ferry’s Lighthouse & Newport Harbor Sightseeing Cruise. Our tour will provide you with the best way to see Narragansett Bay aboard the largest most luxurious sightseeing catamaran in all of New England.

This 95 minute narrated tour will view 10 lighthouses, 10 islands and other popular sights including sailing under the Jamestown and Newport Bridges, past Castle Hill, Hammersmith Farm, Ocean Cliff, Clingstone “House on the Rock”, Fort Adams State Park, and many waterfront mansions. You will also sail through famous Newport Harbor viewing multi-million dollar yachts, and numerous vintage sailing vessels. Advance reservations are highly recommended.

Did you know you can hop on the fast ferry from Rhode Island and arrive in the heart of Martha’s Vineyard in only 95-minutes? Our ferry avoids all the Cape Cod traffic and offers convenient dockside parking. Depart from Quonset Point, North Kingstown and save 3 to 4 hours of travel time each way. You will enjoy scenic views down Narragansett Bay and through Vineyard Sound past the Elizabeth Islands.

The ferry arrives in Oak Bluffs, with white sand beaches, numerous gift shops, restaurants and hotels just steps away. With five other towns close by, you can rent a bike, scooter, a car or purchase an advanced sightseeing tour of the entire island.

Advance reservations are recommended.
Operates May through September

Lighthouse CRUISES & Newport Harbor Tours

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Martha’s Vineyard Fast Ferry
Robotic Knee Replacement at Newport Hospital

Where Technology Meets Expertise

Combine the skill of experienced orthopedic surgeons with the precision of robot-assisted knee replacement surgery at Newport Hospital and rediscover your freedom.

To learn more, visit lifespan.org/newportjointreplacement
It’s getting hot out there ...

There’s a different energy in South County when the calendar turns from spring to summer. You can feel it in the air and see it everywhere you go. Restaurants are packed, the beaches are crowded and whether you’re a local who has lived in the area all your life or a tourist visiting for the first time, there’s an excitement and a buzz about the hottest season of the year.

We’re excited too. In fact, we’re so excited we don’t even know where to begin to talk about the season because, quite honestly, there’s so much to see and so much to do in our little corner of the world this summer.

Which is why our cover story is all about taking full advantage of what summer has to offer. In Liz Boardman’s “Soak Up The Sun,” we look beyond the beach and showcase some of the must-see events and activities worth your time this season.

If you’re like us, though, chances are you are really looking for some new adventures and, boy, do we have you covered there.

In reporter Mara Hagen’s “Thy Kingdom Come,” we introduce you to the sport of ax throwing and, even if you’ve tried this fast-growing activity before, we promise Kingdom Axe can take you to the next level as their brand new business has a unique spin on the popular past time ... it brings the party to you.

If you really want to turn up the heat this season, though, Charlestown also has another new way for you to push yourself to your limits as Caroline Keene has expanded her Bend Studio yoga practice to the area’s historic Wilcox Tavern. Hagen talks to Keene all about the unique challenges this move created in “The Warrior Within.”

Rounding out our features this month, we have two great profiles that serve as tremendous bookends to this, our first of three magazine issues dedicated to the summer this year.

In “A Steward of History,” Boardman talks to North Kingstown historian Tim Cranston, who recently celebrated his 25th anniversary charting the town of North Kingstown’s illustrious history in a weekly column for the Independent Newspaper.

Cranston’s “The View from Swamptown” has been THE go-to resource for some of the most interesting and legendary stories of NK’s past and this month reflects not only on why he started writing the columns each week since 1998 but why and how they’ve changed him since.

If the past isn’t your cup of tea, how about the future? That’s the attitude that’s helped the Stand by William Wright & Co. thrive. Read all about it in reporter Rachel Philipson’s story on the small business in “Standing Out.”

Regardless of how you choose to spend your summer, we’re glad you decided to take us along for the ride and if there’s one thing we wish to leave you with, it’s this: Summer days go fast but the memories you make will last a lifetime. Now, let’s get out there and make some magic, shall we?
Smith’s Castle in North Kingstown celebrated its 2024 opening last month with the unveiling of “Black Hands/White Objects,” an art exhibit meant to offer visitors a “profound glimpse into the untold stories of those who labored behind the scenes” within the Updike household. Pictured above and below are some of the pieces included in the exhibit, which will be on display through October.

By Flora Fan

NORTH KINGSTOWN — Last month, Smith’s Castle unveiled a powerful new exhibit, “Black Hands/White Objects,” offering visitors a unique opportunity to explore the untold stories of enslaved individuals who maintained the daily operations behind the grandeur of the historic Updike household.

Located at the National Historic Landmark archeological site in North Kingstown, this exhibit aims to present a more inclusive narrative through the eyes of those who once lived in the shadows.

It highlights the essential tasks performed by these individuals, from handling exquisite tea sets and dinnerware to managing all aspects of household maintenance.

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Robert Geake, chair of the Education Committee at Smith’s Castle and an author recognized for his work on New England slavery, shared that the inspiration for the exhibition came from a book on the presentation of Atlantic slavery in museums by Ana Lucia Araujo, a scholar from Howard University.

“One of the things she pointed out, in a chapter about small house museums like ours at Smith’s Castle, is that slavery is rarely mentioned there,” Geake said. “And if it is, it’s usually in the kitchen where enslaved people worked.”

The aim is to make visitors recognize that enslaved people were integral in all areas of the house, not just the background.

“It was important for us to convey that the enslaved people were everywhere, handling everything,” Geake explained. “We often focus on the grandeur and the aesthetics of such historical homes, ignoring the hands that actually maintained that lifestyle.”

According to Geake, the exhibited items such as a silver tray and a tea set, with each piece accompanied by narratives that connect directly to the Atlantic slave trade and the labor of enslaved people. This connection can be told through the sourcing of materials, such as mahogany and tea, which were products of colonial trade economies reliant on slave labor.

Smith’s Castle, with a history dating back to 1678, was nearly demolished in 1948 but was saved by a preservation group and opened as a museum in 1954. The house serves as a critical medium for educating the public about the complexities of colonial economies and the integral role enslaved people played in them.

“Black Hands and White Objects” not only invites visitors to reconsider the narratives commonly presented in historical settings but also integrates seamlessly with the regular tours offered at Smith’s Castle.

“This exhibit is a step toward addressing the historical injustices and providing a voice to the often overlooked,” Geake added. The museum plans to continue developing the exhibit, possibly adding more objects and stories as the season progresses.

As the exhibit opens to the public, the reactions have varied, with some visitors finding the representation of black hands on white objects profound and others slightly unsettling. These mixed reactions resonate with the exhibit’s purpose: to provoke thought and reevaluation of the historical narrative typically celebrated in such estates.

“It’s a little creepy seeing hands on, on the shoulders of the dresses and the elegant vests and so forth,” said Geake, “I think that’s important. You don’t [Otherwise] think about the details of how they live that life, how they came to live that life, but who supported that way? So this is what we’re trying to convey here.”

Araujo praised the exhibit, describing it as a “beautiful initiative bringing to light that enslaved people were those performing all kinds of tasks in these rich mansions of the colonial North.”

Crafted by the Education Committee of The Cocumscussoc Association, this thought-provoking installation runs through October.
The Personal Touch

You can’t celebrate summer in South County without talking about the annual Wickford Art Festival, a place where art and artists thrive.

By Flora Fan

Creativity will come alive this summer as the Wickford Art Festival returns to Wilson Park in North Kingstown for its 61st annual celebration, promising an immersive experience of art, culture, entertainment, and family-friendly activities.

From Saturday, July 13 to Sunday, July 14, with new hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the festival will host a carefully curated selection of juried fine art by 200 renowned artists from across Rhode Island and the country.

“We are thrilled to welcome so many new and returning talented artists of all ages, and from near and far, to Wickford this summer,” said Festival Director Ainslie Daly.

Visitors will have the opportunity to engage with a diverse...
The 61st Annual Wickford Art Festival is expected to attract some of the best artists from throughout the country to North Kingstown this July. The two-day festival will feature a wide assortment of art on display and for sale in a variety of mediums. Some of the artists expected to exhibit are Judith Secco, whose piece “Magpie” can be seen at top left; Caroline Christie, whose work can be seen at top right; Myra Mo, whose watercolor piece “Through Thick and Thin” is shown above left, Jeremy Schilling, whose oil on masonite piece of Apollo Astronaut Buzz Aldrin is above center and artist Sweeney Patrick, whose work can be seen above right.

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range of mediums including ceramics, wood, wearable and decorative fiber, furniture, fine jewelry, drawing, etching, glass, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, pyrography, and sculptures.

“We have a blend of emerging artists and seasoned veterans,” shared Daly. “We look at creativity, overall professionalism, and the quality of work. It’s about maintaining a balance and keeping the festival fresh and engaging.”

Among the returning artists is North Kingstown native Cate Brown, a fine photographer known for her vibrant ocean and outdoor pieces.

“I first started getting interested in photography when I was about 13 years old. My mom had an old film camera that she showed me how to use, and I just loved it,” Brown recalled.

Her deep connection to the water, cultivated through sailing and spending time at the beach, profoundly influences her work. “I always like to think that my work transports people back to the water, back to the beach,” she added. Brown’s abstracts and aerials, showcasing the beaches and water from a bird’s-eye view, are among the pieces she will be featuring at the festival.

In addition to the awe-inspiring artworks, visitors can enjoy a dynamic lineup of entertainment and activities for all ages. Follow the scenic Bush Hill Trail with the Eco-Land Art Project to explore your own “Path to Creativity.” Along the trail, enjoy live music by local artists at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., courtesy of the North Kingstown Arts
Council. The trail leads to the First Baptist Church of Wickford, offering legendary strawberry shortcakes, family fun, crafts, and entertainment.

“We’re excited about these partnerships,” Daly continued. “They add a new dimension to the festival, making it not just about visual art but a holistic experience that includes music and nature.”

Food enthusiasts will delight in some of Rhode Island’s best food trucks, including Sunset Farm, Gansett Poke, Newport Chowder Company, Sam’s NY System, Mummy’s Ice Cream, Little B’s BBQ, and Kettle Corn Express. Cool off with a famous Del’s Lemonade or get your coffee fix from local expert roasters North Koffee.

The festival’s deep ties to the local community are evident in its collaborative efforts. Nonprofit booths, volunteers from the North Kingstown Education Foundation, and the North Kingstown Rotary all play crucial roles in the festival’s success.

A complimentary shuttle, courtesy of the North Kingstown Rotary, will run from parking lots at Wickford Middle School, First Church of Science, to Wilson Park and Brown Street in Wickford Village.

“We’re reaching out to different community groups, and they kind of all jump in and lend a hand with putting on the event. It’s really all hands on deck,” Daly highlighted.

Since its inception in 1962, the Wickford Art Festival has evolved from a small sidewalk art sale to a major cultural event. The move to Wilson Park during the COVID-19 pandemic allowed for a more spacious and accessible setup.

“The village is still there, obviously, and beautiful and open for people to stroll and explore and enjoy all the shops and boutiques and restaurants and everything that they have to offer there as well,” said Daly.

Upon arrival, visitors can stop by the Wickford Art Association information booth to purchase unique festival apparel, including an event poster featuring work by North Kingstown artist Jodi Manca, or enter to win a piece of art in support of the scholarship raffle.

With a legacy stretching back over six decades, the Wickford Art Festival has become a cornerstone of the East Coast’s cultural calendar. Whether you’re an art connoisseur, a casual observer, or simply looking for a delightful way to spend a summer weekend, the festival offers something for everyone.

For more information about the festival, including a list of participating artists and event details, visit www.wickfordart.org.
North Kingstown’s history is full of colorful tales and memorable people. And for Tim Cranston, telling their stories has been a 25-year journey.

By Liz Boardman

It was 1998 and Tim Cranston felt like his mind was turning to mush. He had a good job, a challenging job even, but it wasn’t mentally stimulating. He needed to use his mind. Always one to write, he wondered if he could parlay his interest in his family’s long history in Wickford (more on that in a minute), into a column about genealogy and Wickford history. He wrote a sample column and pitched it to Rudi Hempe, then editor of the Standard Times.

As Tim remembers it, Rudi said the paper’s readers were sophisticated about local history and Tim had no real background in the subject, so he passed on it.

Rudi remembers it differently.

“I awaited for the OK from the higher ups, Continued on page 12
and they dragged it out,” Rudi says. “I was bummed as I had known Tim for a long time and am a fan of his vast knowledge of North Kingstown history.”

Discouraged, Tim let it go. But a year later, a new paper arrived in town — the NorthEast Independent. Tim tweaked his pitch in a letter to Betty Cotter, then managing editor of NorthEast Independent and its sister paper, South County Independent. He would tell the stories of historic buildings in Wickford.

“I wanted it to be story-based,” Tim recalls. “I don’t want to stretch the truth, but I wanted it to read like a story.”

Kristen Cyr, NorthEast Independent’s first editor, remembers the pitch well. “When I started as editor on Feb. 1, 1999, Betty handed me some items she’d been collecting — possible story leads, etc. — and Tim’s letter was in there,” Kristen said. “I called him right away and we met in our little Post Road office. It was perfect for the kind of weekly newspaper we wanted to create. His excitement for history and his hometown was palpable; he and his family have had a long tenure in North Kingstown and we welcomed adding his voice to the paper.

“I was jealous because while we had many good columnists at the South County Independent, we had no one doing what he did,” Betty adds.

His first column debuted April 18, 1999. More than 25 years — and more than 1,300 columns — later, it remains one of the most popular parts of what is now The Independent, covering North Kingstown, Narragansett, and South Kingstown.

“I remember saying to myself, I don’t even...
know if I can keep this up for six months,” Tim said.

He has not only kept it up for 25 years, his columns spawned books, walking tours, interpretive signs in Wickford, videos, classroom materials, and lectures. They fostered pride in the historic buildings of Wickford.

“Tim’s columns champion the preservation of North Kingstown’s unique heritage, resonating with residents who value the town’s historical character and, hopefully, subtly nudging leaders to consider the delicate balance between growth and preservation when making development decisions,” Kristen said.

His advocacy led to historical preservation protections for Brown Street, for example.

So how does he do it?

Long roots

Let’s just say for Tim, 25 years is a grain of sand on the beach. He traces his Rhode Island roots to 1637, when John Cranston, age 12, boarded a sailing ship bound to the British colonies to escape unrest in England. John Cranston later served as colonial governor, as did his son, Samuel, who also married the granddaughter of Rhode Island’s founder, Roger Williams. Tim’s kin eventually settled in the North Kingstown villages of Wickford and Swamptown. In other words, Tim has earned his moniker “Swamp Yankee” and his position as Town Historian of “Ye Old North Kingstown, South Kingstown, and all of Rhode Island.”

But the story telling gene? That came from Tim’s maternal grandfather, who didn’t have the Cranston pedigree but loved history just the same.

“He was an amateur archaeologist, fairly well renowned,” Tim said. “He taught me about nature and Narragansett people ... He loved finding stuff, old things. We’d go dig bottles, gold metal detecting — and everything we found would have a story that went along with it.

His grandfather didn’t buy into what Tim calls “the Pilgrim myth” of the early European settlers, like the traditional Thanksgiving story. Instead, Tim learned the settlers weren’t always fair to the Narragansetts. And that there was much we could learn from the indigenous peoples.

It’s a lesson that’s stuck with Tim through the years. Being aware of — as the line from the musical, “Hamilton” goes — “who lives, who dies, who tells your story.”

In Wickford, much of Tim’s source material — the old newspapers, personal diaries, ledgers and journals, many from private collections — were written from the point of view of the property owners.

“I call it the rich white guy story,” Tim said. “The people in the 1890s up to the 1930s who had the time and the wherewithal and education to do this stuff are, by and large, rich white men.”

They realized the world was changing, and wanted to document how it was, and what it was becoming.

“They just told the story as it was for them,” Tim said. “Regular people were written out, and women were written out, and people of color were completely written out.”

While Tim has told many rich white man stories, in the last 10 years, he’s sought out the stories of women, the Narragansetts and other indigenous peoples, and the Black people of Wickford. His readers help — over the last 25 years, they have offered tips, family stories and historical documents to help him along.

“Wickford was an amazing place in the 1700s,” Tim said. “The practicalities of having to run a village when all the men are at sea is that the shipyard gave people of color and women opportunities they wouldn’t be allowed in places like Boston or Providence or Salem. Women were business owners here.”

To read their words and tell all the diverse stories, including those of rich white men, you learn who we are as a community, Tim said.

“He is a true treasure for North Kingstown,” Betty Cotter said. “His columns help keep the rich heritage of South County alive.”

“His columns help keep the rich heritage of South County alive.”

“I try to point out that all of them, from textile kings like Robert Rodman and Syria Vaughn, to slaves and former slaves like Thankful Onion and Pero Roome, the farmers and the farmers’ wives, and the mariners and their widows alike, are equally important parts of that story — we owe them our attention.”

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There’s nothing like summer in South County but how do you make the most of the warm days and even hotter nights? Think beyond the beach with these must-see sights and sounds of a season to remember.

Story by Liz Boardman

You’ve visited South County’s amazing beaches, walked the seawall, and filled yourself with quahogs, lobster roll, and Brickley’s ice cream. Now what? There’s still A LOT to see and do. Whether you’re a local or a visitor, here are some summer experiences you shouldn’t miss.

Festivals

From seafood to sand sculpture, fine art to bands and beer tents, South County’s fairs and festivals offer entertainment for all ages. Here’s a sample:

• Charlestown Seafood Festival
  Seafood, fireworks, carnival rides, crafts, a car show, and an AD/DC cover band. It’s a Rhode Island combo as popular as chowder and clam cakes. Eating a lobster roll on a warm summer night while you watch a cover band and fireworks under the stars — it’s a magical South County experience.
  August 2-4 | Charlestown | charlestownseafoodfestival.com

• Wickford Art Festival
  For more than 60 years, art lovers and people watchers have flocked to Wickford for the annual Wickford Art Festival. Spend an afternoon at Wilson Park browsing (and buying) fine art from artists in South County, New England, and beyond.
  July 13-14 | Wickford | wickfordart.org/wickford-art-festival
You don’t have to be a fan of clamcakes and lobsters to attend and have fun at the Charlestown Seafood Festival. The annual three-day event takes place in Ninigret Park and has plenty of rides, music and activities for the whole family.

• **Atlantis Rising**
  Take the opportunity to see world-class sand sculpture artists taking on a new theme: Halloween, at this year’s Atlantis Rising at Ninigret Park, Charlestown. The festival also includes music, food, and a laser firework show.
  **Oct. 11-14 | Charlestown | southcountyri.com/atlantis-rising**

• **Blessing of the Fleet**
  The ultimate see-and-be-seen festival in South County, the Blessing features a beer tent and live bands on Thursday through Saturday night, a 10-mile road race on Friday, and honest-to-God blessing of the Galilee fishing fleet and other vessels on Saturday.
  **July 25-27 | Narragansett | narragansettlionsclub.org/annual-events/blessing-of-the-fleet-celebration/**

**Live music**
From national headliners to local bands, you can always find live music in South County.

• **Rhythm & Roots**
  While the folk and jazz festivals in Newport get all the press, Rhythm & Roots has been South County’s scrappy favorite since 1998. This year, EmmyLou Harris headlines, with Old Crow Medicine Show, and Drive-By Truckers also on the bill. Go camp, enjoy the music, food, and craft, and honor the memory of founder Chuck Wentworth, who died earlier this year.
  **Aug. 30-31 and Sept. 1 | Charlestown | rhythmandroots.com**

• **RiverFire**
  Fires glow along the Saugatucket River in Wakefield on Thursday evenings in July and August. Have a bite to eat at one of Wakefield’s many restaurants, then check out the live music, local artisan wares, and, of course, the river.
  **Thursdays, July 11 – Aug. 8 | Wakefield | wakefieldvillageassociation.com/riverfire**

• **Theatre by the Sea**
  Enjoy a taste of Broadway in a restored barn theater in Matunuck. Seeing a show here is a South County experience you’ll never forget. This season includes classics like “Sound of Music,” and “A Chorus Line.”
  **Various | Matunuck | theatrebythesea.com**

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• Pump House Music Works
  Don’t miss this former pump house turned restaurant turned non-profit music venue in Peace Dale. You’ll find musical acts or comedy on the bill Friday through Sunday. Have a bite to eat or a beverage and enjoy the likes of Becky Chace & the Silver Linings, Roy Bookbinder, and Poppy Champlin on the stage.
  Friday - Sunday | Peace Dale | pumphousemusicworks.com

For the foodies
  Looking for something beyond seafood? Here are a few restaurants to check out.

  • Jayd Bun
    How about dumplings or chilled noodles? Jayd Bun serves up authentic and handmade Chinese food most days from a spot just off the Peace Dale rotary.
    Peace Dale | jaydbun.us

  • Sly Fox Den Two
    Chef and founder Sherry Pocknatt, a James Beard Award winner, serves breakfast, lunch and dinner that celebrates authentic Indigenous cuisine of the Northeast. Keep an eye out for Sly Fox Den Restaurant and Cultural Center’s opening this year.
    Charlestown | slyfoxdenrestaurant.com

  • Celeste
    Expect “coastal European” style at Celeste, the newcomer in Narragansett, where Trio used to be.
    Narragansett | celesteri.com

  • Twin Willows
    Craving a beer and a burger? You can’t go wrong with Twin Willows in Saunderstown—they’ve been serving up bar staples for 40 years.
    Narragansett | twinwillowsri.com

Get indoors
  Need a break from sun and sand? Or the rain? Head indoors to these South County gems.

  • World War II Foundation Global Education Center & Museum
    Documentarian Tim Gray—he creates the World War II documentaries aired on PBS—and a knowledgeable staff tell the story of the war through artifacts and personal memorabilia. Visiting is a great way to honor the legacy of these vets.
    Wakefield | wwiifoundation.org

  • Tomaquag Museum
    The Tomaquag Museum has told the story of Rhode Island’s first people since 1958—and is entirely Indigenous-led and -staffed. Programs include tours, crafts, outdoor activities and more. While you’re there, learn about their plan to move to a larger facility near University of Rhode Island in Kingston.
    Exeter | tomaquagmuseum.org

  • Biomes Marine Biology Center
    If you have kids, don’t miss this gem—the most hands-on aquarium in New England. While you’re entertained by the variety of marine life here, you’ll learn more about their habitats in Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.
    North Kingstown | biomescenter.com
Looking for a way to spice up your next party? Want to plan a unique night of fun this summer? With Kingdom Axe, South County’s new mobile ax throwing company, all it takes is learning to let go.

Reporter Mara Hagen throws an axe in Kingdom Axe’s mobile axe-throwing trailer. Kingdom Axe, which is based in South Kingstown, opened in the spring and offers customers a unique, fun and physical way to entertain guests for their events.

Story by Mara Hagen, Photography by Michael Derr
When driving there are certain things that are hard to miss. Things we are apt to pay attention to, like a particularly nice house, a grandiose building, a partier walking in an elaborate costume, a caged trailer with whirling axes and large targets being towed by a truck.

Justin and Eva Gallant’s mobile ax throwing facility, Kingdom Axe, is a playground on wheels. This caged, gleaming, behemoth sits immobile behind an electric truck at Tuckertown park, as though awaiting for my arrival. There’s no other cars in the parking lot, and I am thankfully relieved that I will not have to deal with the embarrassment of mistaking one mobile ax-throwing company for another.

The Gallants are waiting for me on the wooden platform of their custom masterpiece by Champlin Welding off Pt. Judith. Justin, a tall easy looking man with sport sunglasses that ward off the surprisingly hot spring sun, beckons me on board the vessel. Eva, also sporting cool glasses, is just as welcoming. I feel as though I’m back in high school, catching a ride in a popular kid’s car for the first time. As I walk into one of the two lanes separated by barbed wire, with a large wooden, beaten-up bullseye at the end, Justin hands me an ax, “it’s all about the hand placement. It’s all about physics.” He proceeds to show me where to put my hands on the handle, how to aim my sight at the red eye, and how to let go.

What eventually happens is me awkwardly hurtling the ax across the trailer until it hits the bullseye in every way but the center, with a mortifyingly loud thud each time. The Gallant’s are nothing but supportive, cheering me on as each ax trundles to the ground.

I’m not sure if they’d let me give up, but I silently tell myself this is my last attempt as I lower my elbows and the ax behind my head, squinting at the target. Eva looks at me through the caged wires, fingers poking through the diamond holes, “forget about everything. Forget about everything else, your job, your obligations, whatever you have to do, and just focus.” With this encouragement of mindfulness, I breathe, and sure enough, the ax sticks on the board.

The Gallant’s started Kingdom Axe in April but they have been business owners long before. They began their journey with
the creation of South County classic, Pier Pizza, which had its humble beginnings on Boon Street in 2000. After they sold Pier Pizza they opened a small real estate brokerage, but because of rising mortgage rates, the market wasn’t as lucrative as they wanted it to be. So, they decided to turn to the mobile ax truck.

Ax throwing has been a relatively new addition to the entertainment industry, but not many people are doing it mobile. The Gallants got the idea from the ax throwing facility in Burlington, Vermont. Justin says, “we’ve always been self-employed. When we got back from Vermont we had so much fun that we wanted to do it, we just weren’t sure if a brick and mortar spot would do it, so we decided to make a mobile where we can bring the fun to everyone.” These two are all about fun. Eva tells me, “life is way too serious sometimes, you turn on the news and it’s horrible. It’s not that you have to not pay attention, but we can give you a break.”

The nature of the Kingdom Axe is also sustainably focused, because the truck is electric, and the trailer is powered off the truck and requires no fuel. Not only is it unharmful for the environment, but it is also a bit of a workout. Eva says that, “there is a sense of satisfaction when you throw it. It’s under three pounds, so when you throw it you’re stretching yourself out. You’re also just focusing on throwing the ax, giving yourself that time.” Justin loves to see the satisfaction from people who finally hit the mark, “working with people is the best, showing them how to do it. A couple more throws, you get that hit, and there’s that huge smile on your face after you do it.” Both are incredibly enthusiastic about the simple joy this game can give you.

Although the Gallant’s didn’t believe a mobile ax throwing company would be their dream job, it seems like they may have found it.

You can hire Kingdom Axe to bring the fun to your event at their website, Kingdomaxe.com.
Kevin Wilbur of Providence picks up his dog, "Oakley" after taking photos of her on a giant troll sculpture named "Erik Rock", which was constructed of recycled materials by Danish artist Thomas Dambo in Ninigret Park.
Don’t be scared if you see giant creatures in the woods this summer. South County’s newest tourist attraction might be daunting in size but they come with a message: You’re never too old to dream big.

Story by Mara Hagen, Photography by Michael Derr
Artist Thomas Dambo’s pair of troll sculptures in Ninigret Park in Charlestown are named Erik Rock and Greta Granite. Greta is pictured above.
As children, we believed in fairytales. We would gather sticks and stones, pretend their earthy elements could cast spells to disrupt the mundaneness of an adult world. The buses racing by were not simply city buses, they were magical steel spaceships to another realm; the people walking past us on the street could drop their coats at any moment to transform into a wizard, the night was filled with horrible groanings of wild creatures, the morning a sweet salvation from monstrous terror. Everything had a story, everything had a fantastical meaning, and we were certain of it. As children, we lived a life veiled with this sense of mysterious adventure.

As adults, we grew away from our natural curiosity, our innate connection with our feelings, nature, and the stories that surrounded us. Thomas Dambo, a renowned Dutch sculptor, has made it his earthly mission to uncover the child in us that we have managed to pave over.

Dambo was born in 1979 in Odense, Denmark; a small, picturesque town with brick-paved streets and colored cottages. He comes from a family of tinkerers; his father was a bicycle smith, and his mother was a kindergarten teacher and seamstress. Between both jobs, his mother even used to create small treasure hunts for him when he was a child to keep him occupied.

Dambo began experimenting with the parallels between human and nature very early on, saying in an interview with the BBC that, “when I was a little boy I started...”
building my first tree homes and skateboard ramps. I loved going around my neighborhood, finding whatever trash I could find. I would jump on my little bicycle and go around looking in dumpers for trash that could be the new little wall for my house or piece for my ramp.” When he wanted to play with his action figures he would dig a big hole, fill it with water, and make a ship to float upon. While many kids his age would play in their room, young Dambo would be spending 3-5 days digging a hole for his own little seascape.

As a teenager, Dambo integrated into skate culture. This community practiced graffiti and revered hip-hop, so Dambo threw himself into both. He loved graffiti tagging because it relied on finding abandoned buildings to go and decorate. Tagging became, in a larger sense, an artistic treasure hunt for him. It allowed him to dive into a deep exploration of his world to find the perfect blank canvas.

Ever the artist, Dambo’s life walked a zigzagged path. After his love for visual art was solidified, he turned further towards hip-hop, becoming a prolific beatboxer, touring with a Norwegian rapper, and forming his own rap group. He rapped for 10 years, until, in 2006, he decided to get an MA in Interaction Design at the Kolding School of Design. In his biography, Dambo speaks of his time there, “I quickly became a well-known character on campus with my quirky design ideas, and when I made myself a secret bedroom inside one of the campus buildings.”

By accident, Dambo found a warehouse that was throwing away mass amounts of...
plywood and turned them into 250 birdhouses that he spread across the city in a project he called “Happy City Birds,” to bring awareness to urban bird conservation.

Dambo continued making interactive art displays, using recycled materials, to convey his respect for the Earth and his fascination with regenerative art. The first trolls he made, Mr. and Mrs. Limbo for a Danish music festival in 2014, began Dambos massive Den Kempestore Troldefolkefest, or the “Giant Trollfolk Festival.”

The ginormous trolls are made of entirely recycled material, and more than 10 years later, Dambo’s trolls are found all over the world. A press release from the South County Tourism Council states that “his art is in more than 20 countries on 5 continents, including the USA, China, Brazil, Australia, GB, Germany, France, South Korea, Chile, and Puerto Rico. There are 125 Thomas Dambo trolls in the world, and 44 of those are in the USA.”

This year, the famous trolls migrated to our tiny state, finding a home in the idyllic nooks of Charlestown Ninigret park.

Ninigret trolls Erik Rock and Greta Granite not only add to the natural splendor of the park but include Rhode Island in Dambo’s international effort to bring attention to the things we waste, and how they can be reimagined. South County President, Louise Bishop, is a lover of public art and when he first saw Dambo’s trolls lounging in Maine she knew that she had to bring them to Rhode Island.

These trolls are not just amazing pieces of art, they serve as lighthouses for a future generation. In an article for The Guardian, Dambo is quoted as saying, “I think it’s really important that the next generation is connected to nature, you can’t isolate all the humans in a city and believe they are going to care about the natural world. That’s why I tried to gamify the giants, to appeal to younger people who are so used to discovering the world through a screen.”

In a world filled with the tempting allure of bright lights it is hard to find the one that will guide you out of the dark, and into the truth. Thomas Dambo’s trolls are a reminder to have compassion for the Earth; to do this we must shroud ourselves with a child-like sense of adventure and mystery to mend the fraying connection between our bodies and the land.
Practicing yoga requires patience, the ability to find balance and an eagerness to stretch yourself beyond what your limits. For Caroline Keene, the same was true for opening Bend Studio in Charlestown’s historic Wilcox Tavern.

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Story by Mara Hagen,
Photography by Michael Derr
Emily Riendeau, of South Kingstown attends a yoga class at Bend Studio in Charlestown. Bend Studio is owned by Caroline Keene and recently opened a second location inside the historic Wilcox Tavern in Charlestown.
Charlestown's Wilcox Tavern pops out of the side of Route 1 like a wildflower. Its classic faded white sign with large black font that dates to 1730 has the energy of a beacon in a storm; a cozy wooden bar that people once traveled to rain or storm, on horse and buggy, to drink cheap mugs of beer and connect with friends. The history of the place is palpable, and according to its new owner, Yogi Caroline Keene, the people that once visited haven't left.

“Oh, it's definitely haunted,” Keene says, as she sits in the newly renovated tavern turned yoga studio. Apparently, back in 1600s an Indian princess was captured and a young man rescued her back from her captors. This young man was Joseph Stanton’s grandfather, who would become Rhode Island’s first senator. In return for her safety from her captors, the Indian Princess granted him a large plot of land in Charlestown. Stanton built the house that is now the Wilcox Tavern, renamed and turned into a bar once it was purchased from Edward and Hannah Wilcox in the 1820s. Now it is recognized in the U.S National Register of Historic Places, and it is even rumored that George Washington once visited the tavern.

Keene owns Bend Studio in Kingston in the URI emporium and was looking around at different buildings when the Wilcox Tavern caught her eye. She was a bit hesitant at first, but she says that, “I'm impulsive, I don't know. At first it seemed too daunting, too big. I had no idea what I was going to do with it. But I said, I want that building. I
There is an element of fate to Keene’s life. She was mostly a gym rat, she loved running and working out, and never considered yoga as an alternative to these things. In 2017, when she was sophomore in engineering at URI, she started going to this writing circle in a gym basement. Keene laughs, “it was kind of creepy. Instead of writing we started talking about all these crazy things, that’s how I found about yoga and spiritual practice.” If you were a teachers assistant at a yoga studio you got free yoga, so she began doing that at the studio she now owns, and loved it.

When Keene’s grandmother passed away in 2022, she left her a bit of money that Keene had no idea what to do with. She remembers this time, “I had just quit my PhD, I was lost. But I went to talk to the owner of the studio and she said she wanted to sell, so I bought it from her. And that was that.” It was all very kismet.

By opening the new studio in Charlestown, Keene believes that she is making yoga more accessible for Rhode Islander’s. Not only geographically, but economically. Yoga has a recent reputation of rising prices and exclusivity, but Bend strives fight against this narrative. “I love numbers, I am a numbers whiz,” Keene says, “I ran the numbers, and I do comparative pricing so that I stay on the low end. I also try to create a space that is very non-judgmental, a 60 year old commercial fisherman or lululu lemon hot mom can exist in the same space.”

Keene is firm on that idea that yoga will change everyone’s life.

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Yoga instructor Giana Giarrusso leads a class at Bend Studio in Charlestown. It is not just a workout, it is a mindful practice that has the ability to transform your perspective. She comments that, “it’s not just physical, it’s a mental, emotional, and physical practice that you get all in one. People will do it to workout but they don’t realize that when they do it consecutively their entire temperament is changing.” Her words for people beginning yoga are, “try it more than once, try a few different teachers, try a few different types, see how it feels and give it time.”

The new Charlestown studio is an exciting beginning for Keene. Her dreams of the future include a healthy café, a wine and paint night, and many more fun events. She is very humble about her success, noting that none of it would have been possible without the team of people behind her. Keene stresses that, “I don’t own a yoga studio. I hold this place for people to make their dreams come true.” Like with creation of any good, healthy community, it takes a village.

On changing the name of the Wilcox Tavern to reflect Bend more outwardly, Keene is adamantly against. She looks around her, the heavy, wooden walls, the well-trodden floors, the air thick with memories. “No way,” she says. “I want to honor the history.”

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a Newport Restaurant Group experience
fifteen-year-old Rebecca Wright worked three jobs, seven days a week due to familial financial necessity. As she grew up, she cultivated a rigorous work ethic, a trait she was fiercely proud of and helped her become an executive in the health and wellness industry in New York.

Fast forward to March 2020.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wright family reconvened at their home in Stonington, Connecticut. Wright said she was saddened to see her children learning virtually every day – especially her oldest who was finishing her senior year of undergraduate studies. She fretted over their inability to leave their screens and connect in-person with their local community.

She recalled her previous work as a board member at Stone Acres Farm, a 63-acre working farm located in Stonington, Connecticut, where she successfully created a farm stand on their property. Inspired by her upbringing and her drive to give her daughters an environment to connect with, The Stand by William Wright & Co. was born.

The Stand by William Wright & Co., now affectionately referred to by the locals as just “The Stand” opens this month for its 2024 season. For its fourth season, Wright, in her role as owner and founder, is looking to expand the number of local makers and farmers on their shelves, such as Warwick Ice Cream in cups and cones.

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What will never change, however, is Wright’s determination to connect local farms to the greater Watch Hill and Westerly communities. She said the pandemic increased the demand for sustainably farmed food and well-made, useful items, meaning a local outlet was a great business venture.

“In Watch Hill, they could afford to eat locally, but there was nowhere convenient for them to go,” Wright said. “I knew that they were eating food that had been shipped in from Chile, Mexico, California, and it just killed me.”

The majority of The Stand’s products are from a nearby geographical radius, including, but not limited to, Mystic Cheese, Mystic Drawbridge Ice Cream by the pint, Sacred Cow granola made in Providence, Sweet Grass milk and yogurt and bread by chef James Wayman’s Nana’s. Wright’s only exceptions are from handcrafted products that have a personal connection to her, such as cutting boards from Michigan.

“I was really intent on selling local Rhode Island or southeastern Connecticut vegetables and food,” Wright said. “Everything else I sell, anything I sell, it has some meaning to me and it has a story that I could tell my customers.”

She also believed that this small, organic farmstand could be the perfect opportunity for young women to roll up their sleeves and learn how to become entrepreneurs from the ground up — something she noted is a rare opportunity.

In a letter to the editor Wright wrote in the Independent Newspaper earlier this spring (“The Stand is a great place for young women,” The Independent, Apr. 4, 2024), she said The Stand is a “hive of experiential learning” where young women are given a platform to learn and succeed in a business setting as both individuals and as a team.

In the earlier years, Wright’s daughters worked on The Stand’s external communications, internal farmer relationships, making the staff schedule, buying produce, scooping ice cream and running the cash register. Now, The Stand has expanded to additional female identifying staff including “summer kids” from Watch Hill and Westerly High School students.

Wright said she is proud of the hard work she witnessed her daughters and fellow young women put into The Stand. She said the business wouldn’t be the same without them.

“I am totally transparent about the business. This is not a 500-employee business where you have to have controls in place and everyone is in their own silo,” Wright said. “I don’t know of any other business where you can get in there and learn about inventory, sales, merchandising, social media, website design, QuickBooks, Wix, Google Business Profile … just to see the basics of how a
Another passion Wright has is that she loves sharing tips on how to best use her favorite products. According to The Stand’s website, the farmstand strives to educate its customers about the benefits of eating responsibly farmed food and using organic personal products (like lip balm). Wright said it’s equally as important to pay attention to the quality of what goes into and on one’s body.

“I find that people love learning this stuff and hearing about it,” Wright said. “I absorb hours and hours of this information because I am passionate about it and if I can distill it and pass it along, it’s helpful for the business and the community too.”

One of her biggest educational efforts is spreading the awareness of the numerous benefits to buying local. From reducing fossil fuel emissions to potential higher levels of nutrients, Wright said purchasing local products is good for everyone involved – even the seller.

“You are also supporting your local economy and if you stop at a farm stand, that money is really going to a small business or family in your community,” Wright said. “If you go to Stop and Shop or Costco, you are just supporting a big national chain.”

An unexpected benefit Wright discovered patrons enjoying was simply the convenience factor. With The Stand being in close proximity to the heart of both Watch Hill and Westerly, Wright noticed locals and tourists alike being thankful to have a nearby place to grab high quality products.

“People come from Boston, they come from New York, they race up there to get as much of the weekend as possible, and they get to their weekend place, the last thing they want is get back in the car and go to Stop and Shop or go all the way into Westerly,” Wright said. “They love the fact they can zip right over and get everything they need for dinner, including, as of the past summer, lemons, limes, vinegar, and some of the cooking basics.”

The Strand has both proximity and luxury for Watch Hill locals – a statement Wright finds marvelous. She believes The Stand is going to have a promising future, with the hopes of continuing to bring new local products to the farmstand.

“I am proud to bring a little bit of that New York City refinement, variety, and attention to detail to [our] little corner of Rhode Island,” Wright said.

The Stand by William Wright & Co. is located at 95 Watch Hill Road, Westerly, RI. During the summer season, The Stand’s hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, visit The Stand website at williamwrightandco.com/ and Instagram page @williamwrightandco.
Cast members of Theatre by the Sea's production of "A Chorus Line" practice their roles during a rehearsal held in Wakefield. "A Chorus Line" is the first of four shows scheduled for the Matunuck theater’s summer slate of programming, with performances of the musical scheduled through June 22.

**ONGOING**

**Members Invitational** — Art Exhibit featuring the work of SCAA artist members. On display through June 15. South County Art Association, 2587 Kingstown Rd, Kingston. southcountyart.org.


**Land, Sea, Sky** — Art Exhibit on display through June 23. Wickford Art Association, 36 Beach Street, North Kingstown. 401-294-6840.


**To Be Continued … An Improvised Soap Opera** — Live Theater. Thursday performances through Aug. 15 (No show July 4) at 8 p.m. $12.50-$47.50. Contemporary Theater Company, 327 Main Street, Wakefield. contemporarytheatecompany.com.

**Musical Bingo** — Event. Every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**Casey Farm Open Farm Day** — Event (with Rhode Island Black Storytellers). 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Casey Farm, 2325 Boston Neck Road, Saugus.

**Steve Hodge** — Live Music, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit java madness.com.

**Fairy Tea Party** — Event, 1 p.m. $17.50-$22.50. Contemporary Theater Company Riverfront Patio, 321 Main Street, Wakefield. 218-0282, contemporarytheatecompany.com.

**Foo Fighters: The Best of Foo** — Event 7:30-10 p.m. $27-$32. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-792-1018. courhousearts.org.

**The Dead Tongues** — Live Music. 8 p.m. $15 advance, $18 day of show. The Knickerbocker Music Center, 35 Railroad Ave, Westerly. 401-315-5070. knickmusic.com.


**Kabaka Pyramid** — Live Music. 9 p.m. $29.50 advance, $35 day of show. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

**Top Gun** — Film Screening. 9 p.m. $25. Misquamicut Beach Pondsides, 316 Atlantic Avenue, Westerly. mbadrivein.com.

**JUN. 15**

**Peter Carney** — Live Music, 12 p.m.-2 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.

**Mark & Lori** — Live Music. 4-8 p.m. Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**Sunday Funday w. Rugburn** — Live Music. 4-7 p.m. $5 cover. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.


**Kala Farnham** — Live Music. 8 p.m. Free. 21+.

**JUN. 17**
A Broadway Celebration 2024 — Concert. 7:30 p.m. $39-$59. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**JUN. 18**
Tower of Power— Concert. 8 p.m., $73-$83. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.

**JUN. 19**
Upstairs at the Odeum Jazz Night— Event. 7:30-9:30 p.m., No Cover. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.

**JUN 20-JUL. 13**
All Media Open Juried Exhibition — Art Exhibit. Original works in any media with the theme of “From Where I Stand.” South County Art Association, 2587 Kingstown Rd, Kingston. southcountyart.org.

**JUN. 21**

**JUN 22**
Steve Lyon— Live Music, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.


Hera Gallery: Past & Present Opening Reception — Event. 5-8 p.m. Hera Gallery, 10 High Street, Wakefield. hegallery.org.

Jackson Browne— Runnin on Jackson — Event. 7-10 p.m. $26-$36. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.


Eight to the Bar — Live Music. 8-11 p.m., $10 online, $15 at the door. The Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

Nattali Rize— Live Music. 8 p.m. $15 advance, $20 day of show. The Knickerbocker Music Center, 35 Railroad Ave, Westerly. 401-315-5070. knickmusic.com.

Mystic Bowie’s Talking Dreads— Live Music. 9 p.m. $15 advance, $20 day of show. 21+. Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

**JUN. 21-JUL. 20**
The Ruby Sunrise — Live Theater. Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. $12.50-$47.50. Contemporary Theater Company, 327 Main Street, Wakefield. contemporarytheatercompany.com.

**JUN. 21**
Bad Company-Rock Steady— Event. 7:30-10 p.m. $20-$35. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

Another Tequila Surise (Eagles Tribute) — Live Music. 8-11 p.m., No Cover. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.

Mason Jennings— Live Music. 8 p.m. $25 advance, $30 day of show. The Knickerbocker Music Center, 35 Railroad Ave, Westerly. 401-315-5070. knickmusic.com.

Pat Barone— Live Music. 8 p.m. Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.


Jaws— Film Screening. 9 p.m. $25. Misquamicut Beach Pondside, 316 Atlantic Avenue, Westerly. mbadrivein.com.

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**Tangent 2.0**—Live Music. 8 p.m. Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**Goonies**—Film Screening. 9 p.m. $25. Misquamicut Beach Pondside, 316 Atlantic Avenue, Westerly. mbadriveren.com.

**Thurston Howell—A Premier Yacht Rock Spectacular**—Live Music. 9 p.m. $20 advance, $25 day of show. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

**JUN. 23**

**Marie Claude**—Live Music, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.

**Viking Lords**—Live Music. 4-8 p.m. Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**Sunday Funday w/ Angelus Hall**—Live Music. 4-7 p.m. $5 cover. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

**Take it to the Bridge Trio**—Live Music. 4-7 p.m. Free. The Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.


**JUN. 24**

**Roland Comtois—Signs of Spirit & Purple Papers**—Event. 6-8 p.m. $65. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**JUN. 26-JUL. 20**


**JUN. 26**

**Casey Rivers**—Live Music. 8 p.m. Free. 21+. The Knickerbocker Music Center, 35 Railroad Ave, Westerly 401-315-5070. knickmu sic.com.

**JUN. 27**


**Rumours Atl: A Fleetwood Mac Tribute**—Concert. 8 p.m., $46-$52. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000, greenwichodeum.com.

**JUN. 28-JUL. 28**

**Small Works: Ocean State**—Art Exhibit. Wickford Art Association, 36 Beach Street, North Kingstown. 401-294-6840.

**JUN. 28**

**Summer Soirée**—Event. 6-9 p.m. Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street, Jamestown. 401-560-0979. jamestownartcenter.org.
World Premier Band — Live Music. 8-11 p.m., $15 online. July 29 at the Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

John Fuzek Duo — Live Music. 8 p.m. Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingston. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

Johnny and the East Coast Rockers — Live Music. 8 p.m. $15. The Knickerbocker Music Center, 35 Railroad Ave, Westerly. 401-315-5070. knickmusic.com.

Dirty Dancing — Film Screening. 9 p.m. $25. Misquamicut Beach Pondside, 316 Atlantic Avenue, Westerly. mbadrivein.com.

Neutral Nation — Live Music. 9 p.m. $10 advance, $15 day of show. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

JUL. 29
Mary Pierce — Live Music, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.


Everybody Wants Some (Van Halen Tribute) — Live Music. 8-11 p.m., $20 online, $25 at the door. The Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.


Chris Monti — Live Music. 8 p.m. Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingston. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.


Lost Boys — Film Screening. 9 p.m. $25. Misquamicut Beach Pondside, 316 Atlantic Avenue, Westerly. mbadrivein.com.

Crooked Coast — Live Music. 9 p.m. $15 advance, $20 day of show. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

JUL. 30
We B 3 — Live Music, 12 p.m.-2 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.

Kearsley — Live Music. 4-8 p.m. Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingston. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.
JUL. 8
Simply Barbra — Concert. Starring Steve Brinberg. 7:30 p.m. $39-$59. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. theatrebythesea.com.

JUL. 9

JUL. 10

S.C. Fogarty Young Adult Art Program Gallery Gala — Event. 5-8 p.m. Free. Courthouse Center for the Arts. 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousethearts.org.


JUL. 11

JUL. 12
The Airborne Comedians — Event. Shows at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. $15. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. theatrebythesea.com.

Eric Lutes Gallery Opening — Event. 5-8:30 p.m. Free. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousethearts.org.

Dave Mathews Tribute Band — Live Music. 8-11 p.m. $20 online, $25 at the door. The Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.


Mark Hummel-Tribute to Little Walter — Live Music. 8 p.m. $20 advance, $25 day of show. The Knickerbocker Music Center, 35 Railroad Ave, Westerly. 401-315-5070. knickmusic.com.

JUL. 13
Rich Kasper — Live Music. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visitjavamadness.com.

Allman Brothers-Brother’s Project — Event. 7:30-10 p.m. $27-$37. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd. 401-782-1018. courthousethearts.org.

Those Guys — Live Music. 8-11 p.m. $10 on line, $15 at the door. The Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

Eight to the Bar — Live Music. 8 p.m. $15. The Knickerbocker Music Center, 35 Railroad Ave, Westerly. 401-315-5070. knickmusic.com.


Guess Method w/ Special Guest The Trichomes — Live Music. 9 p.m. $12 advance, $15 day of show 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingston. oceanmist.net.

National Lampion’s Vacation — Film Screening. 9 p.m. $25. Misquamicut Beach Pondside, 316 Atlantic Avenue, Westerly. mbadrivein.com.

JUL. 14
Josh Schurman — Live Music. 12 p.m.-2 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Rd. Wakefield. For more information, visitjavamadness.com.

Apple Hill — Live Music. 4-8 p.m. Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Rd, North Kingston. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

Justus — Live Music. 4-7 p.m. Free. The Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

Sunday Funday w/ The Mallet Brothers Band — Live Music. 4-7 p.m. $5 cover. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingston. oceanmist.net.


Jaws 2 — Film Screening. 9 p.m. $25. Misquamicut Beach Pondside, 316 Atlantic Avenue, Westerly. mbadrivein.com.

JUL. 15
Adventures Onstage Camp — Theater Summer Camp with JT Cunha for ages 7-10. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. $252.50 including fees. Contemporary Theater Company, 327 Main Street, Wakefield. contemporarytheatercompany.com.

JUL. 16

The Breakfast Club — Film Screening. 9 p.m. $2.5. Misquamicut Beach Pondside, 316 Atlantic Avenue, Westerly. mbadrivein.com.

JUL. 17
Hera Gallery: Past & Present Artist Talk — Event. 7 p.m. Hera Gallery. 10 High Street, Wakefield. heragal- lery.org.


Stanley Jordan — Concert. 8 p.m., $35-$40. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.

Deer Tick (With Special Guest Sourpunch) — Live Music. 9 p.m. SOLD OUT. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingston. oceanmist.net.

Lost Boys — Film Screening. 9 p.m. $25. Misquamicut Beach Pondside, 316 Atlantic Avenue, Westerly. mbadrivein.com.

JUL. 19
I Love The Beach — Event. Shows at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. $15. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. theatrebythesea.com.

Lynryd Skynyrd Experience-Sons of Skynyrd — Event. 7:30-10 p.m. $23-$33. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousethearts.org.

Take it to the Bridge — Live Music. 8-11 p.m, $10 online, $15 at the door.The Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

The Carleans — Live Music. 8 p.m. $20. The Knickerbocker Music Center, 35 Railroad Ave, Westerly. 401-315-5070. knickmusic.com.

Duane Betts & Palmetto Motel (With special guests Wilson & Walsh) — Concert. 8 p.m., $35. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.


Deer Tick (With Special Guest Looker) — Live Music. 9 p.m. SOLD OUT. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingston. oceanmist.net.

Goonies — Film Screening. 9 p.m. $25. Misquamicut Beach Pondside, 316 Atlantic Avenue, Westerly. mbadrivein.com.

JUL. 20
Mike Iula — Live Music. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Rd. Wakefield. For more information, visitjavamadness.com.

Corvettes-Doo Wop Revue — Event. 7:30-10 p.m. $25-$35. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousethearts.org.
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