



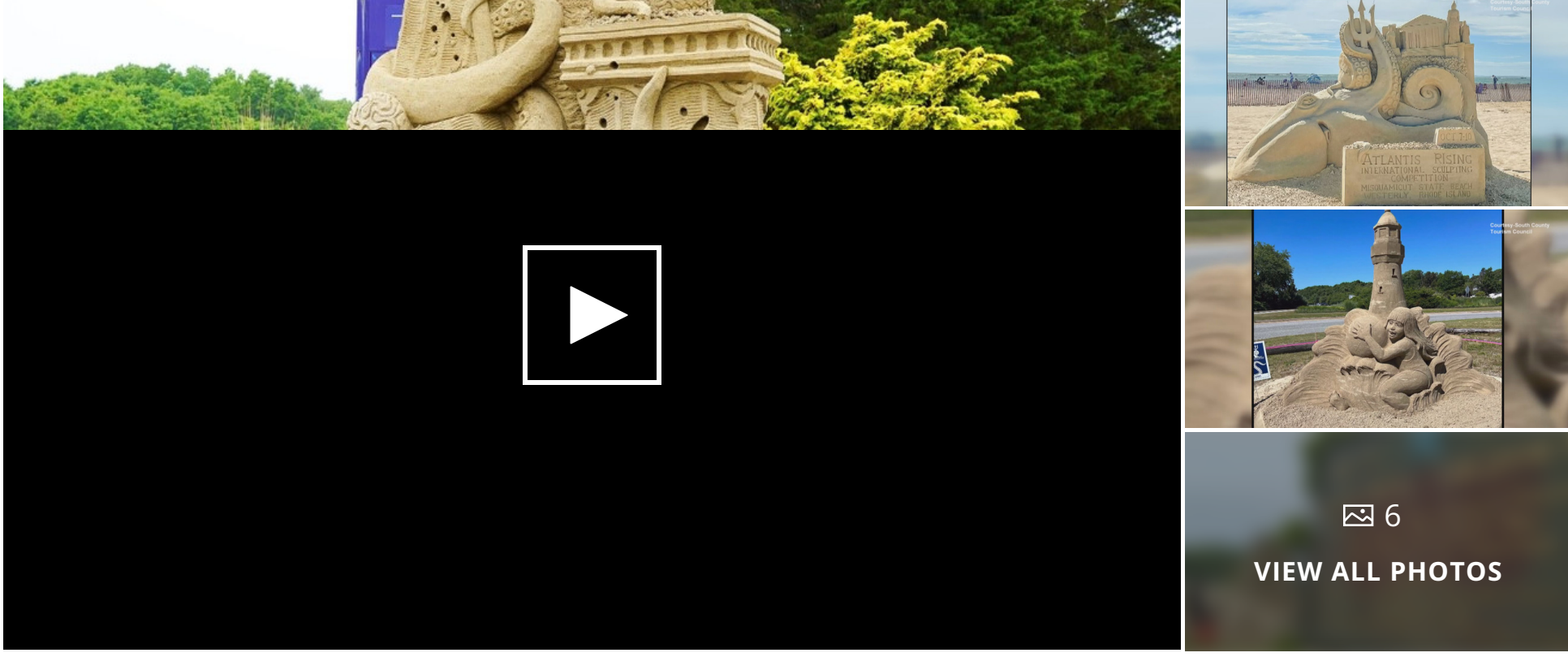
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Giant sand sculptures popping up in coastal areas are teasers for first-ever competition

by SAM READ, NBC 10 NEWS | Tuesday, June 28th 2022



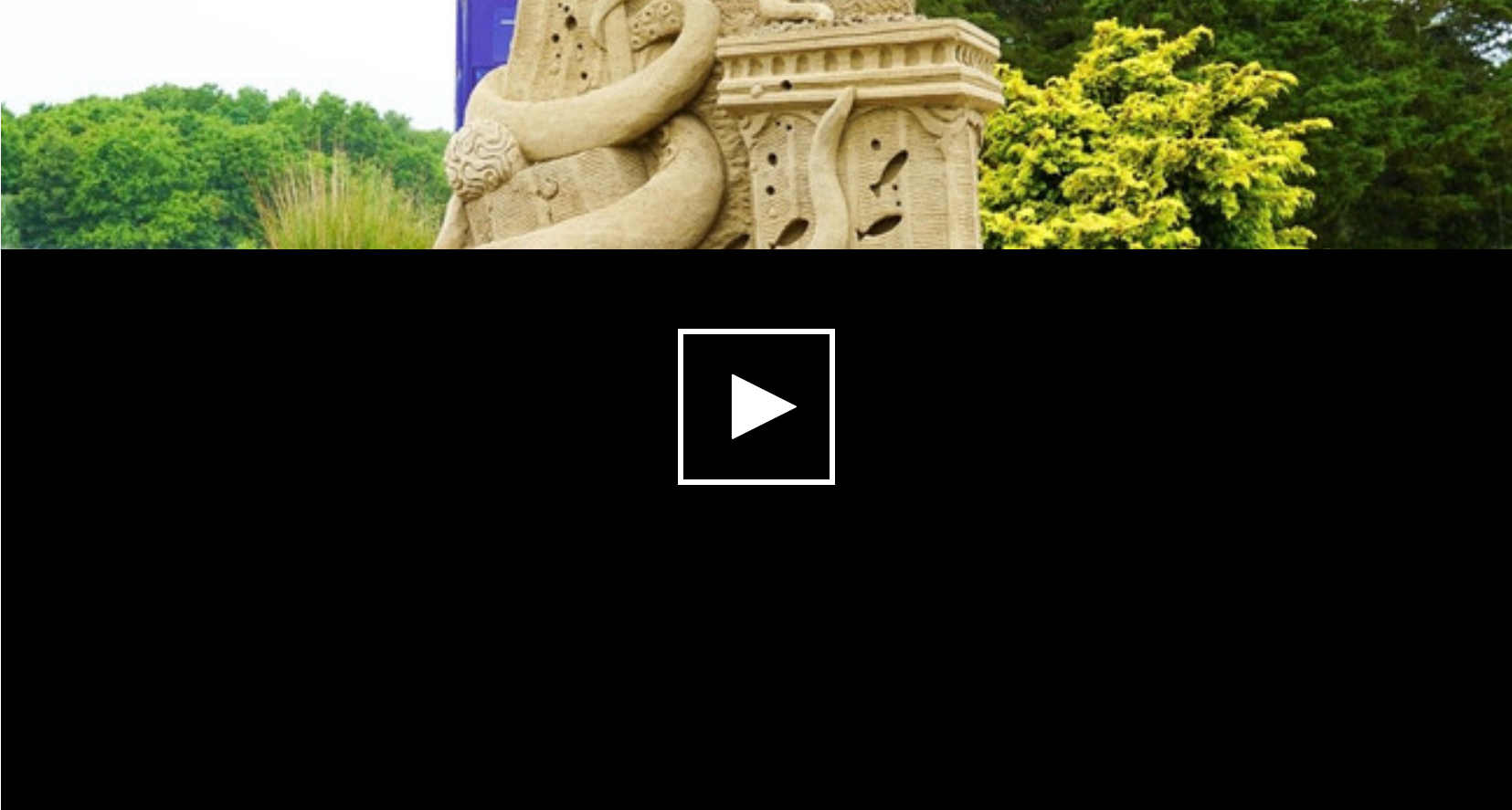
Mélineige Beauregard created an installation with her partner, Chris Guinto outside of the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce located off of Route 1 in Westerly, (WJAR)



WESTERLY, R.I. (WJAR) — You may have noticed giant sand sculptures popping up in popular coastal locations.

The South County Tourism Council recently commissioned them to be built as part of a teaser for an exciting new event that'll be coming to Rhode Island in the fall.

For the first time, what will be an Annual International Sand Sculpture Competition, will be held at Misquamicut Beach.



NBC 10's Sam Read looks into a giant sand sculpture competition being held at Misquamicut beach in the fall.



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"Basically, it's a teaser for our event which is October 7 through the 10th, Columbus Day weekend. It is to let people know what is coming and if you've never seen one before, to help you understand it is a magnificent work of art," said Louise Bishop, the President of the South County Tourism Council.

The competition is called "Atlantis Rising." It was an idea about five years in the making.

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Ten solo artists from all over the world are traveling to the ocean state to participate in the competition.

"They're from South Korea, the Netherlands, Canada, Italy, Hawaii and the United States," said Bishop. "The master sculptures will be making these creations that are under a 350-foot long tent, so weather dependent we have the tent, in the parking lot of Misquamicut State Beach."



Sand sculpture teaser for this fall's giant sand sculpture competition at Misquamicut Beach. (South County Tourism Council)

To give guests an idea as to what they can expect, last week the council hired sculptors to create similar sandcastles that'll be made during the competition outside of areas that see a lot of traffic.

Mélineige Beauregard created an installation with her partner, Chris Guinto outside of the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce located off of Route 1 in Westerly.

"I've been sculpting sand for more than 20 years. It's a very small community in this world," said Beauregard. "The teaser is working. People stop, come over a lot of horns. We already have a great response for it by creating visibility and excitement, so they want to come to see the actual event in October. It's going to be very amazing."



Mélineige Beauregard created an installation with her partner, Chris Guinto outside of the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce located off of Route 1 in Westerly. (WJAR)

Beauregard will be participating in the competition.

She recently won first place at the Hampton Beach Sand Sculpting Classic in New Hampshire.

"We're very excited about this new competition there's not so many new ones. It looks like it's going to be a great one, so we're excited to be a part of it," she said.

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Two other sculptures are generating attention.

One of them is outside of the Sandy Shore Motel along Atlantic Avenue in Westerly. The other is in front of the Charlestown Chamber of Commerce.



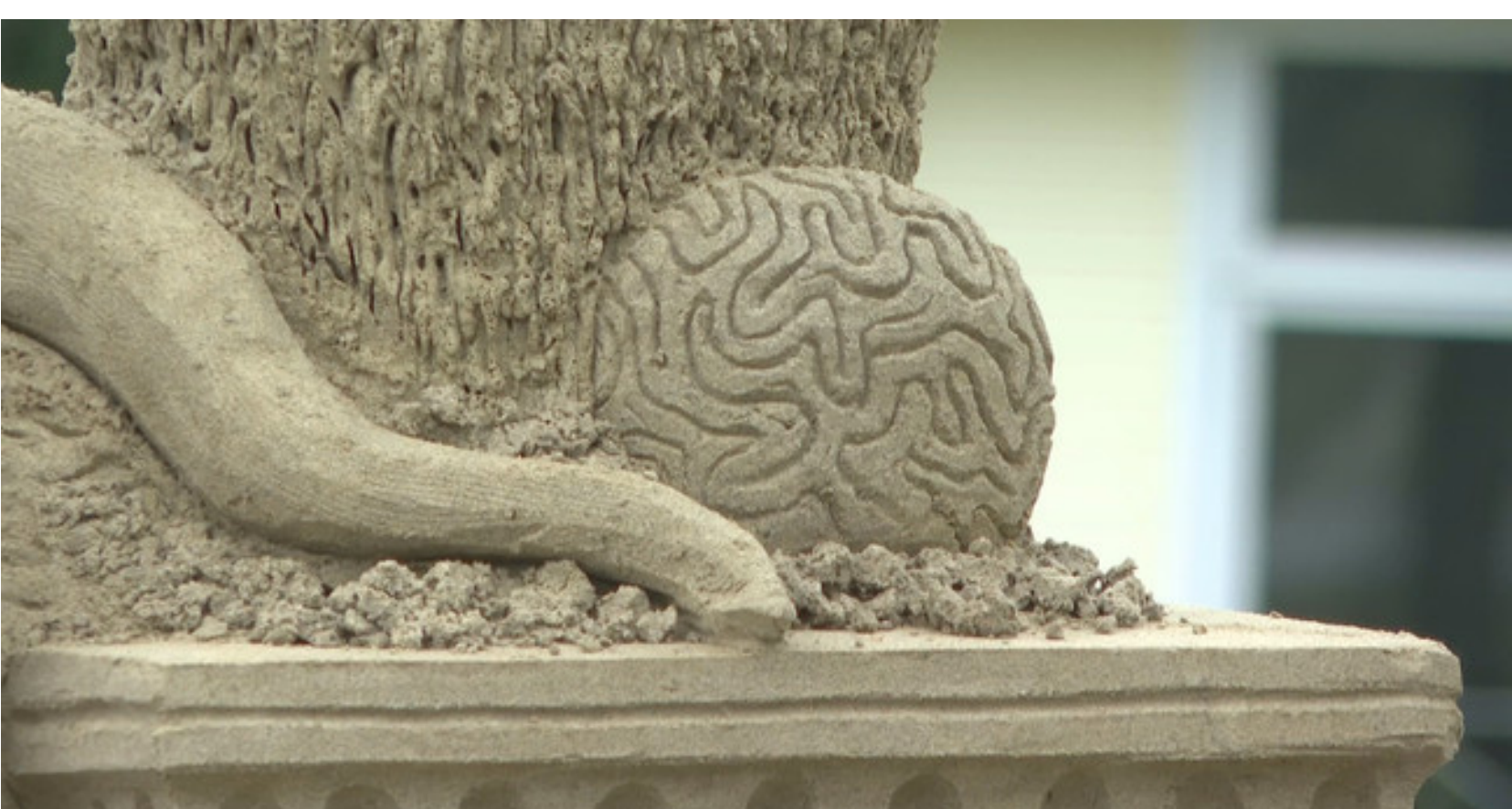
Sand sculpture teaser for this fall's giant sand sculpture competition at Misquamicut Beach. (South County Tourism Council)

"They're magnificent, truly a work of art, and with care can be maintained for several months," said Bishop. "It's really incredible to see the work that they do. The installs that are out there now are anywhere from 10 to 12 tons of sand and it's quarry sand from quarry right here in Rhode Island."

Those competing in the October event are hoping to win the cash prizes and bragging rights.

The local art community will be judging and picking a winner.

Attendees can also cast a vote for 'Viewers' Choice.'



Part of giant sand sculpture installation outside of the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce in Westerly. (WJAR)

The three day event will also offer live music, vendors, food trucks and other family friendly activities.

"We just need more attractions to help with our shoulder seasons and since the pandemic what we realize is everyone wants to be outside and enjoy the outdoors and this helps them do it," said Bishop.

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