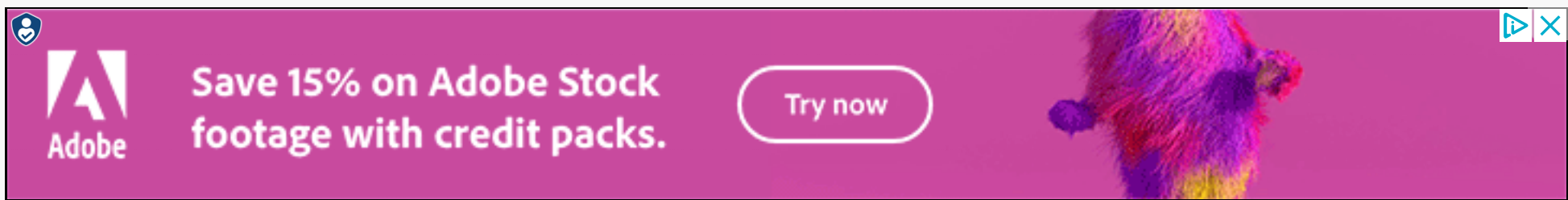


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LOCAL

See giant sand-sculptures in South County, a preview of a contest coming to Misquamicut

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The Providence Journal

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Sand Sculptures Preview Competition

Three sand sculptures in South County preview the upcoming Atlantis Rising International Sand Sculpture Competition in October.

WESTERLY — Three giant sand sculptures in Westerly and Charlestown are harbingers of an international competition slated for Columbus Day weekend at Misquamicut State Beach.

The competition, called Atlantis Rising, is being run by the [South County Tourism Council](#) as a way to perk up business during normally slower October, said Louise Bishop, the group's president and chief executive.

Where can I see the sand sculptures?

The sculptures, made on June 23, are outside the Sandy Shore Motel, Atlantic Avenue, Misquamicut; the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce, [1 Chamber Way \(off Route 1\)](#), Westerly; and the Charlestown Chamber of Commerce, [4945 Old Post Rd., Charlestown](#).

They are free and accessible to the public.

Contrary to what might seem obvious, neither the preview sculptures nor the ones to be made in October at Misquamicut are made from beach sand, according to Bishop.

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When is the Westerly sand-sculpting competition?

Rhode Island beach sand does not compact well, so the tourism council has to truck in sand from a quarry in the northern part of the state, 15 to 18 tons per sculpture for the October competition.

The sculptures, to be made in the parking lot of the state beach, will be open to the public with an admission ticket beginning Friday, Oct. 7. Work on the sculptures, under a giant tent to protect from the weather, will begin Saturday, Oct. 1.

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Bishop said that admission prices haven't been set yet, but are expected to be "family-friendly."

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Sand sculptors from Canada and Europe have already signed up

As of Friday, 11 competitors had signed up, including some from Canada, the Netherlands and Italy, Bishop said. The top prize will be \$7,500, and entries will be judged on qualities including creativity, depth of design and execution.

The tourism council has budgeted \$400,000 for the event, with part of the money coming from sponsors.

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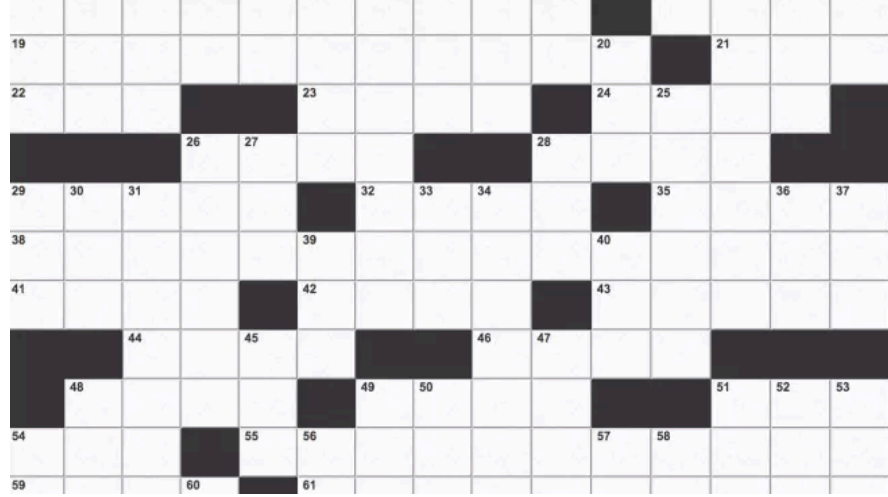


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