

Briefs

Colonial Theatre announces Summer Theatre Festival lineup

WESTERLY — The Colonial Theatre will present two productions as part of its annual Summer Theatre Festival in Wilcox Park beginning July 24.

The festival opens with ‘The Roommate,’ a play by Jen Silverman directed by Colonial Theatre Artistic Director Marion Markham. The production stars Lori Evans as Sharon and Lee Fitzpatrick as Robyn. Performances begin July 24 at 6 p.m., and will go until Aug. 9.

The play follows Sharon, a recently divorced Iowa woman who takes in a new roommate, Robyn, whose mysterious past leads the two women into an unlikely friendship that changes both of their lives.

The festival will conclude from Aug. 12 to Aug. 15 with the Colonial Theatre’s third season of Shakespeare’s Summer Shorts, featuring a staged reading of Merry Wives, an adaptation of William Shakespeare’s ‘The Merry Wives of Windsor’ by Bob Durwood Madison. Casting for the production has not yet been announced.

All performances will begin at 6 p.m. Admission is free, though advance registration is requested through Eventbrite.

More information about the Summer Theatre Festival, including registration, is available through the Colonial Theatre’s Eventbrite page.

The Colonial Theatre has presented its Summer Theatre Festival in Wilcox Park since 1991. The annual outdoor series features free performances during the summer and is one of the organization’s signature community programs.

In addition to the summer festival, the Colonial Theatre produces professional stage productions throughout the year and offers educational theater programs for children and adults. The nonprofit organization also partners with community groups and seeks to keep its performances accessible through free or affordable admission.

— Sun staff

Police Logs

WESTERLY

- A juvenile was arrested on July 17 and charged with reckless driving, eluding officers with a motor vehicle in a high speed pursuit.
- Hannah Wilkinson, 30, of 5 Maybrey Drive, Apt. #A, was arrested on July 17 and charged with shoplifting.
- Joshua T. Sullivan, 44, of 21 Greenman Ave., Apt. #2, was arrested on July 18 and charged with driving after denial, revocation, or suspension of certain violations, first offense.
- Brian D. Moore, 51, of 12 Old Colony Road, North Stonington, was arrested on July 18 and charged with shoplifting.

Court dispositions of local arrests can be found at the websites www.courts.ri.gov/ and www.jud.ct.gov/crim.



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McCabe

From A1

both really beautiful and really straightforward,” she said of coming up with the idea of printing the designs on the trays.

But the highlight of her store is the Swedish rugs, which range in price from \$800 to \$3,000 – with most running for about \$2,500. McCabe has been collecting rugs for years and said the price reflects the cost of shipping them over from Sweden. “The rugs are something that I both love and also want to introduce people to,” she said.

The interior designer says new pieces will be coming in all the time and is always on the hunt for new items, which she finds in a variety of places, from estate sales to online shopping.

The store is named Mor, the Swedish and Norwegian word for mother, after McCabe’s own mother and grandmother. Her mother was born in Norway and her grandmother in Sweden. “I just liked the idea of having a little ode of recognition to both of them because they were both big people in my life,” she said. “A lot of the visual world came from these two people.”

She noted her grandmother was a thrifty lady who knitted and sewed her own clothes, and her mother was a jack of many trades, who knitted and did photography, too.

Given the name and inspiration, McCabe tries to look for Scandinavian-style items, as a nod to her family



Emma Grunwald, The Westerly Sun

The interior of Mor, designer Kari McCabe’s new shop at 61 Water St. in Stonington Borough.

heritage and aesthetic. “Anything that has a simplicity of line,” she said.

“I’m either looking for things that are actually Scandinavian or have some of those ideas behind them.” She highlights natural materials and minimalism but says she doesn’t have one particular look or perspective. “I’m not all modern, I’m certainly not all traditional, and I’m not this, and I’m not that.”

She says her store’s inspiration comes from having worked with clients as an interior designer, helping them find a space that both

matched the space and their personality. “So the store is kind of an outgrowth of that. It’s not any one label. It’s a real mix of different sources and items,” she said. McCabe cited Austrian artist Joseph Frank, painter Richard Diebenkorn, and real homes and real people as sources of inspiration. “I love seeing how people live in their own surroundings,” she said.

McCabe hopes people take the time to shop in her store, especially in the age of the internet and online shopping. “As much as I buy tons of stuff online, we all do, I

really love going to stores. Especially stores that have a really distinct personality. I want to go back and see what they’re doing,” she said.

She also sees her store as a perfect place people can go when they need to get a last-minute birthday present or party favor. “I’d like someone to think, ‘Oh wait, I need to bring something to the dinner party or whatever. I want to get my mother-in-law a birthday present or something,” she said.

As a business owner, she’s also been leveraging her social media for online sales. She uses her Instagram account to gain more customers and have a larger reach despite having a “very small footprint in town,” and said she has had customers order from as far away as Montana.

But she also emphasized how having a store has led to being part of the community. McCabe has been spending time in Stonington since the late 1960s; After her parents purchased a home in the borough in 1968, she spent most of her summers there growing up. About 10 years ago, she and her husband purchased a home in the area to live in Stonington full-time. “I like being a part of the community. Being connected to this town, that’s been so meaningful to me,” she said.

Mor is currently open Friday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be found on Instagram under the username handle: mor-homestonington.

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Hallock’s

From A1

a chance for the Veces to welcome the community and also show off the re-fresh of the building. Inside the bright showroom, rows of refrigerators, dish washers, washing machines and dryers, gas grills, ovens and more beckon shoppers.

A key for both of the Veces is their desire to continue a legacy that began in 1929 with Morrone Electric.

“The name is changing, but our commitment to quality appliances, exceptional service, and community involvement remains exactly the same,” Gerry said. “We’re continuing as a family-run business that cares deeply about the communities we serve. By bringing multiple locations together under one brand, we’re able to offer greater selection, more competitive pricing, and additional resources for our customers.”

The store’s next chapter builds on the growth of Shore Appliances, founded in 1957 and expanded by Gerry and Tara throughout the Connecticut and Rhode Island shoreline region.

Shore Appliance was a family-owned and operated business established in 1957 in Clinton, Connecticut, by Gerry’s father, Bud Vece. Gerry took over the three-person operation in 1982 and grew the business exponentially.

In 2011, Gerry’s daughter, Tara, joined the company and opened a location in Groton. The location saw rapid growth in its short tenure. As co-owners, they acquired Hallock’s Appliance in 2023 — one of Connecticut’s oldest and largest independent appliance retailers. Hallock’s was started in New Haven in the 1920s. The expansion continued in 2024 with the acquisition of



Photos by Karen Stellmaker, Special to The Sun

The ribbon flutters down to the ground at the grand opening of Hallock’s Appliances on Main Street on June 29 in Westerly.

Morrone Electric.

Now, Morrone, Hallock’s and Shore have been put under a single brand “roof.”

Drawing from a shared backgrounds in athletics, Gerry and Tara operate with a strong team mentality. They believe their employees are not only teammates, but family.

Hallock’s offers refrigerators, ranges, dishwashers, laundry appliances, outdoor grills, expert guidance, flexible financing, professional delivery, installation, and in-house appliance service throughout Rhode Island and Connecticut, the duo explained.

The transition combines Morrone Electric’s decades of trusted local service with Hallock’s Appliances’ expanded resources, product selection, and regional presence.



The balloons mark the grand opening of Hallock’s Appliances.

“It’s important to us to preserve the personal relationships and local service that have defined Morrone Electric for generations,” Tara said. “It’s truly big box pricing with small-town service.”

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