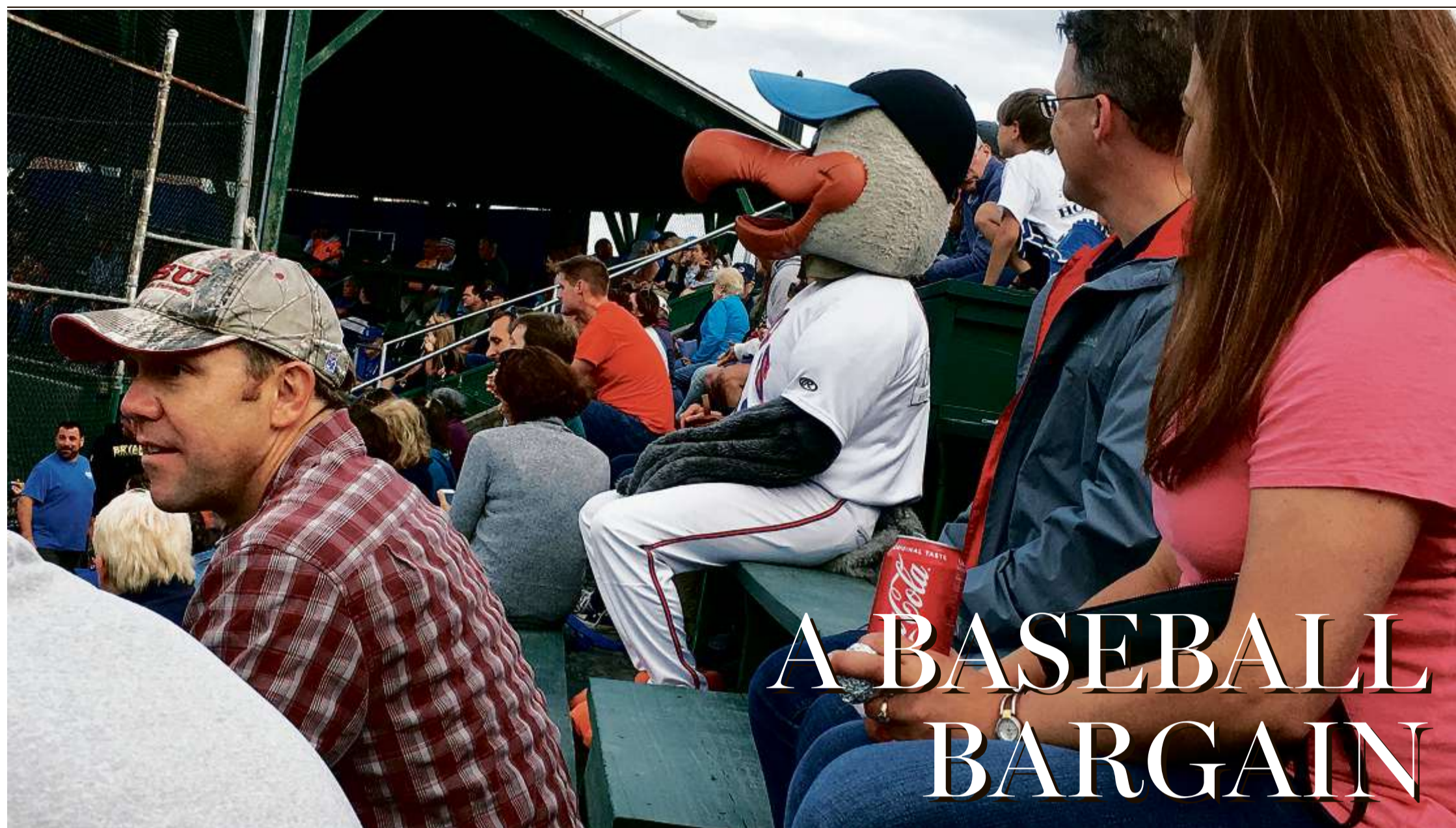


# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



## A BASEBALL BARGAIN

PHOTOS BY LOREN KING FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Gully the mascot sits among fans at Cardines Field.

The Newport, R.I., stadium predates Fenway Park.



By Loren King  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Visitors flock to Newport, R.I., during summer for many things: sailing regattas; the Gilded Age mansions; the Cliff Walk; the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Few would add taking in a baseball game at a historic park to that itinerary. But for many locals and vacationers alike, watching baseball games in the cozy confines of Cardines Field, nestled on America's Cup Avenue smack in Newport's downtown, are highlights of summer nights in the City by the Sea.

Cardines Field predates even Fen-

way Park. Originally a water basin, it was cleared in the late-1800s so nascent baseball leagues could play in Newport. Later named for Bernardo Cardines, who was Newport's first casualty in World War I, it became home in 1919 to the Sunset League (before floodlights were installed in 1938, the games ended at dusk), now one of the oldest amateur baseball leagues in the country. Illustrious Negro League teams like the Baltimore Elite Giants, the Boston Royal Giants, and the New York Black Yankees played at Cardines. Legend has it that Babe Ruth once pitched at the field and that Satchel Paige rested in a rocking chair outside the dugout.

By the 1980s, as tourism boomed in Newport, the dilapidated field faced the wrecking ball to make room for increased parking downtown. Civic and preservation-minded folks stepped up to save it, refurbishing the park and designated it a historical landmark. But Cardines, its wood and stone construction reminiscent of Fenway and Wrigley Field, isn't just a monument to the past.

Since 2001, Cardines Field has been home to the Newport Gulls, one of 13 teams in the New England Collegiate Baseball League, formed 25 years ago. Gulls players live with area host families while they hone their skills in games that run from early June through the playoffs in mid-Au-

gust, playing against other NECBL teams such as the Valley Blue Sox from Holyoke; the Mystic Schooners from Mystic, Conn.; the New Bedford Bay Sox; and the Winnepesaukee Muskrats from Laconia, N.H.

With admission at \$5 for adults; \$2 for seniors and teens; and \$1 for youngsters under 12, this is one of Newport's best bargains. Little surprise that the Gulls have led the league in attendance for the last three years — it's one of the reasons Baseball America magazine named Cardines Field one of the five best places to play summer college baseball. It also doesn't hurt that the Gulls have won six NECBL championships since 2001, the last one in 2014.

The 3,000-capacity bleacher seats are close enough for fans to chat with players or, seated higher up, gaze down at bustling America's Cup Avenue. The home games are spirited, community affairs, from the hijinks of Gully the mascot to doughnut-eating contests to local honorees singing the national anthem. There's some pretty good baseball, too. Players come from top baseball programs around the country, from Stanford University to Tulane. Two players, catcher John Mazza of Lexington and pitcher David Stiehl of Manchester, Conn., attend Northeastern University.

The concession is basic foodstand



fare and relatively inexpensive: \$3 for a hot dog or a grilled cheese; \$1.50 for a bottle of water. There's no alcohol, adding to the low-key, family-friendly atmosphere. The souvenir stand sells Gulls gear in the bright blue and orange team colors.

There's a homespun atmosphere that makes games at Cardines a throwback experience to when baseball was America's leisurely pastime. As the sounds of wooden bats cracking against balls and the announcer's voice fill the air, you might swear you caught a glimpse of Satchel Paige sitting by the dugout.

Loren King can be reached at [loren.king@comcast.net](mailto:loren.king@comcast.net).

Newport Gulls play in the New England Collegiate Baseball League.

## HERE

### MASTER ILLUSTRATORS EXHIBIT IN STOCKBRIDGE

Lantern-bearing clowns, an Indian paddling a canoe, a young girl studying her reflection in a mirror. What do these wildly different images have in common? All are stunning artworks created by master illustrators Maxfield Parrish, N.C. Wyeth, and Norman Rockwell. Art lovers will find all of these images and more in "Keepers of the Flame," the newest exhibit at the Norman Rockwell Museum. Examining the work of these three artists in relation to the history of Western art, the show features more than 60 works by 25 American and European painters, along with more than 300 digital representations of some 50 other artists. The exhibition occupies four galleries, and is located on the museum's 36 acres in Stockbridge, Rockwell's hometown for the last 25 years of his life. *General admission \$20; seniors \$18; military veterans \$17; students \$10; ages 18 and under free. 413-298-4100, [www.nrm.org](http://www.nrm.org)*

### LOCAL FOOD & CULTURE TOURS IN RHODE ISLAND

You've walked the historic streets of Providence and visited the Roger Williams Park Zoo. You've toured the mansions and ogled the yachts in Newport. What else can you do in the Ocean State? On one of the Rhode Island Red Food Tours, you can stroll off the beaten path into interesting neighborhoods, explore the evolving local culinary landscape, and learn about the architectural and cultural elements of Rhode Island's history — all



the while tasting some truly yummy food from local eateries. The three-plus-hour tours take place rain or shine in both cities, and are limited to 14 people. *Available weekend dates through November. \$69 includes food; \$85 includes food and three alcohol tastings. 866-736-6343, [www.rhodeislandredfoodtours.com/](http://www.rhodeislandredfoodtours.com/)*

## THERE

### INTERACTIVE IMMERSIVE ART MUSEUM OPENS

Immerse yourself into three-dimensional artworks and explore a never-seen-before colorful world at the recently opened Mori Building Digital Art Museum in Tokyo. In collaboration with art collective group team-Lab, the extraordinary 100,000-square-foot museum features some 50

borderless interactive artworks that come to life as you enter the various galleries. The space's 520 computers and 470 projectors offer visitors unique experiences as pieces of art move freely around the galleries, form connections and relationships with viewers, and communicate with other art pieces. *Ages 15 and over \$19; children 4-14 \$9. [borderless.teamlab.art](http://borderless.teamlab.art)*

### TREE HOUSE AERIES DEBUT IN OHIO

Reconnect with nature in one of two new tree houses at The Mohicans, a family-run getaway in Ohio that is dedicated to sustainable design concepts and protecting the en-

vironment. The new Tin Shed Tree House brings the outside in with a full-size garage door on the back, lots of windows for viewing the tree top canopy, and full wrap-around deck. Access this accommodation by climbing a 25-foot-high spiral steel staircase and traversing a 100-foot-long extension bridge. *(Rates from \$290.)* The Nest Tree House is a round single room — a perfect honeymoon or couples-getaway suite — with decorative cathedral windows, rich chocolate-colored walnut floor, pewter chandelier, and black wrought iron canopy bed draped in sheer white curtains. *(Rates from \$220.)* *Primarily a wedding venue and corporate retreat center, the guest cabins and houses can also be booked individually in advance. 740-599-9030, [www.themohicans.net](http://www.themohicans.net)*

## EVERYWHERE

### DISCOVER HISTORY WITH SCHOLAR-VETTED APP

Add a bit of culture and history to your road trip with Clío, a new geo-lo-



cation app offering an interactive map and historian-vetted information about thousands of landmarks, historical and cultural sites. Thanks to the National Endowment for the Humanities and hundreds of universities and local organizations, Clío provides details and multiple perspectives about historic sites, along with links to related websites and articles, including sites where there is no physical marker. For example, Clío can guide users to the precise location of a civil rights protest or a historic building that was lost to time. The entry will offer information about the site or event along with images, recorded oral histories, and even old newsreel footage. *Clío is nonprofit and free for everyone, with a growing library that includes 350 complete walking tours and 30,000 individual entries created by local historians and organizations across the United States. [www.the-clio.com/web](http://www.the-clio.com/web)*

### SPACE AGE SUN PROTECTION

Protect yourself from damaging sun rays with new hats created by Alchemi Labs. A series of river hats, sun caps, desert and expedition hats are all crafted from the same materials used by NASA to protect astronauts from extreme solar rays and temperatures in space. Designed to block 99.8 percent of skin damaging UV rays, and reflect up to 80 percent of the sun's heat waves, the hats are perfect for runners, beach lovers, and outdoor adventure seekers. Moisture wicking sweatband and ventilation aid in cooling. *Available in various styles and colors. \$32-\$39. [www.alchemilabs.com](http://www.alchemilabs.com)*

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