South End *News*

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Inside

Make It Your Moment: One Boston Day

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

The Boston Marathon showcases the best of Boston. People from all backgrounds and all neighborhoods line the streets and celebrate one another and our city. Runners are cheered on by complete strangers, because everyone is in it together. And even when the finish line is nowhere in sight, we lift each other up and we keep going.

This April 15 marks the third year our city will celebrate One Boston Day. It honors those we lost, and those whose lives changed forever on April 15, 2013. As we honor our friends, neighbors and community

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Ink Underground coming in May

Submitted by KP Strategies

National Development, developer of Ink Block, today announced details of Ink Underground, a new urban park that extends from Albany Street to Fort Point Channel. On track for completion in May 2017, the project will transform 8-acres of underutilized space located between Boston's South End and South Boston neighborhoods into an active urban park, cultural attraction and mixed-use parking facility.

Pedestrian boardwalks and bicycle paths along the Fort Point Channel will create new connections between communities previously separated by highway infrastructure. Ink Underground has

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cutline

"Taste" a grand success

Taste of the South End , held Tuesday, March 28 at the Cyclorama in Boston's South End, was the most successful fundraiser n the event's twenty-plus year history. Over $170,000 in support of the programs and services of AIDS Action Committee.

The 2017 AIDS Walk & Run Boston will be held on June 4, marking the 32nd year of AIDS Walk & Run Boston, New England's largest HIV/AIDS fundraising and awareness event.

Every year thousands of people

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Photo Credit Mariyn Humphries

Councilors Clash

Over elimination of two 'transitional' programs for homeless addicts at city shelter

Courtsey Adam Gaffin
WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM

The Boston City Council agreed last week to hold a hearing on the recent decision of the Boston Public Health Commission to shutter two programs, with a total of 40 beds at the Southampton Street shelter, aimed at helping homeless people—in particular those who are HIV positive—gradually reenter society.

The hearing could become a debate between Councilor Tito Jackson (Roxbury), who wants the beds restored, and Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George (at large), who said the end of the programs is a good thing because it's part of a national "rapid rehousing" effort that aims to get the homeless into longterm housing —with continuing support —as fast as possible. The commission is not eliminating the beds but will instead use them simply to give the homeless a place to sleep overnight. At a council meeting today, Jackson said the shutdown of the beds two weeks ago is inexcusable in a city that has at least 300 homeless HIV-positive people who need immediate help.

"These are the most vulnerable people in our city and we must do better," he said. The commission knew two years ago the federal government would end funding for the programs and the administration—Jackson is running against Mayor Walsh this fall—could certainly have afforded to maintain them, what with spending $15 million last year out of operating funds on the still useless Northern Avenue Bridge. But Essaibi-George, who will run the hearing as chairwoman of the council's Committee on Homelessness, Mental Health and Recovery, politely, and without directly saying so, suggested Jackson does not know what he's talking about.

After first praising Jackson's strong advocacy for the homeless, she said that even aside from the loss of the federal funds, trying to get homeless people into permanent

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Apply for an Ellis scholarship

Scholarship applications being accepted for The Ellis South End Neighborhood Association Career Technical Education (CTE) Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to a senior high school student or recent high school graduate who plans on pursuing or is pursuing a technical degree at an accredited institution.

The awarded scholarship will be $2,000 to be paid directly to the institution to offset costs for tuition or fees. To be eligible for this award, the student must graduate from high school or have a GED and reside in the South End or Lower Roxbury.

For more information contact: scholarship@ellisneighborhood.org. Applications are due by May 1, 2017

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Online

A balanced Coyote on a Fence

Coyote on a Fence,
Hub Theatre Company of Boston, First Church in Boston (Marlborough at Berkeley), through April 15. Pay-What-You-Can. www.hubtheatrecompany.org

By Jules Becker

Are some Death Row inmates more worthy of life imprisonment than others? Is the death penalty ever justified? What effect do such capital punishment cases have on journalists and prison staff? These are some of the nagging questions Bruce Graham explores in his still-timely drama "Coyote on a Fence," now in a powerfully disturbing revival by Hub Theatre Company of Boston.

Inspired by actual events about two decades ago, Graham's Rosenthal Prize winner (1998 for a new play) resonates with new freshness today. "Coyote on a Fence" takes its audience to a prison in the south where theatergoers confront the stark experiences of two Death Row inmates confined for 23 hours a day in side-by-side cells, a you-are-there scenario, here heightened by the intimate theater space at First Church Boston. Prison guard Shawna Du Champ doubles as an unsentimental employee and a candidly informative narrator.

The inmates in question are an arresting study in contrast. Middle-aged John Brennan reads extensively and edits the Death Row paper. Twenty something Robert Alvin 'Bobby' Reyburn lacks education, speaks with bad grammar and writes with bad spelling and frequent use of slang like 'sucks.' Death Row veteran Brennan kicked a cocaine drug dealer to death, while newcomer Reyburn (think of convicted South Carolina neo-Nazi Dylann Roof) killed nearly 40 congregants at an African-American church (many of them children), setting the building on fire and blocking the exit with his truck. John seems to be in relative denial, but White Supremacist Robert blames his incarceration on "Jewish law" and believes he is innocent in the eyes of God.

If this contrast sounds diagrammatic, do not be fooled. Brennan may despise Reyburn's beliefs but he does try to understand him, especially after learning that a White Supremacist uncle taught the early orphan to hate blacks and Jews. John even helps Bobby edit a letter in which he complains about prison food. Adding to the complexity of the play's riveting prison dynamics are Shawna's rarely sympathetic reflections about an inmate and the entrance of a Pulitzer Prize-winning Jewish New York Times writer named Samuel 'Sammy' Fried. Fried finds Brennan's writing and newspaper impressive. Brennan, trying to consider Reyburn's painful childhood, argues

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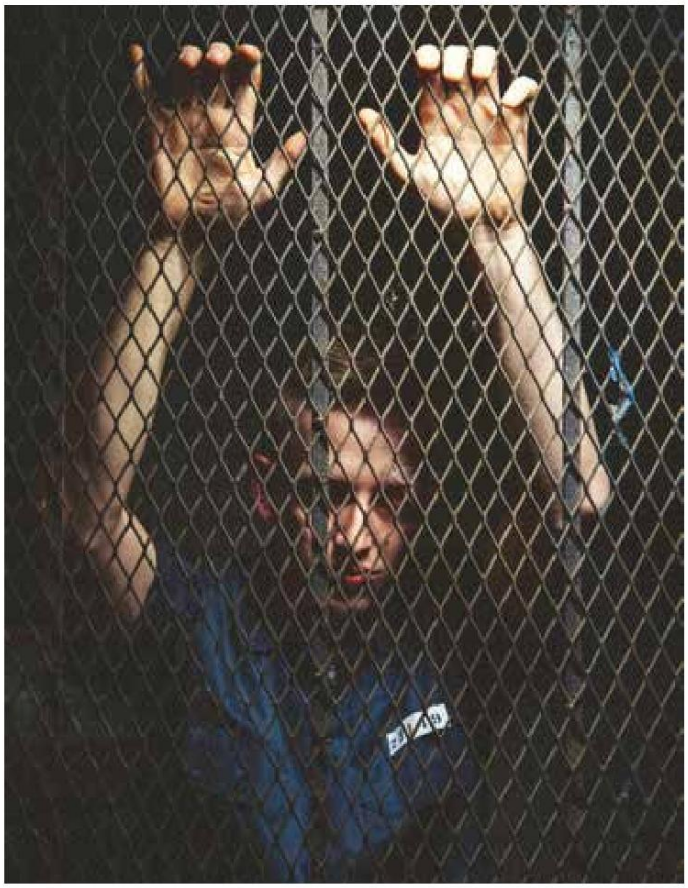
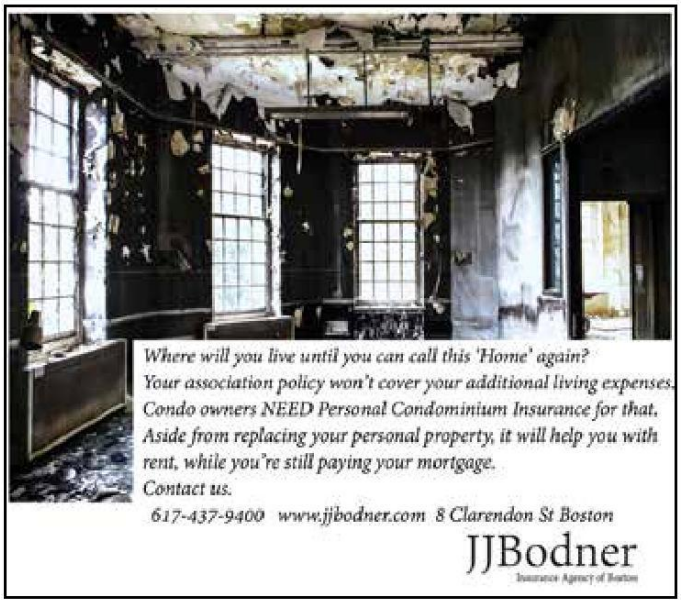


Coyote on a Fence



One Boston

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members, we celebrate the resilience, generosity and strength shown by the people of this great city on that day, and every other.

Last year, I was proud to sign a proclamation making One Boston Day a permanent fixture in our city, and we plan to continue the tradition each year going forward. Boston is strong, and our values and traditions will endure. Four years ago, we came together as a city to support and help our fellow residents, and that's the essence we hope to bring to April 15 this year, and every year thereafter. It's our way to honor the bravery, resolve and unity that we displayed on that day through random acts of kindness. We will never forget what happened, but by supporting each other, we can continue to heal and get stronger together.

To mark One Boston Day this year, I encourage all of our residents to find a way to spread goodwill by giving back to their communities. We launched onebostonday.org so that individuals and organizations can share their plans of how they're spreading kindness and hope throughout their communities. No matter who you are, on One Boston Day, you can "Make It Your Moment" – choose an act of kindness, no matter how small, and do something good.

Go through your closet and donate clothes or items you're no longer using to charity. Donate blood at a blood drive or sign up to be a donor. Take part in one of the walks planned for the day or pledge time at a volunteer organization. Commit to being a mentor to a student or pick up litter around your neighborhood.

Last year, there were over 77,000 online posts by individuals and organizations pledging to dedicate the day to service and good will through using the hashtag #OneBostonDay on Twitter. As we get closer to the day, we'll be sharing how others plan to spend their One Boston Day for inspiration. It's my hope that each year we can involve more and more people and spread our message of kindness and support for one another throughout our city, our Commonwealth, and our country.

The Boston Marathon is an essential part of our city's identity and shows the world that we will remain strong and continue our traditions no matter what. Residents of all backgrounds come together, celebrate each other's accomplishments and do good for their community. I know this year we will continue our tradition of being there for our loved ones, our neighborhoods and our city. I want to thank each and every person who will make this tradition possible – thank you for showing the world what our city is made of.

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Councilors

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housing as fast as possible makes sense—as long as they continue to get care to help them adjust. She said the public-health commission is working with all of the people directly affected by the shutdown of the Safe Harbor and Stability, Opportunity, Achievement, and Recovery programs to ensure they are offered permnanent housing and ongoing help. And she agreed because this will help bring "stability rather than continued crisis" to their lives. Council President Michelle Wu moved onto other business, but the two went at it again during what is normally one of the last orders of business for the council—letting councilors make announcements about departing staff members or interesting events they think other councilors should attend.

"Rapid rehousing doesn't work for individuals who are addicted," and some of the people in the affected Southampton Street programs were there because they were kicked out of permanent housing, Jackson said. Wu then called on Councilor Ayanna Pressley (at large), who gave a tribute to a departing member of her staff, who started as an intern and became one of her fulltime liaisons while working on his PhD. She then called on Essaibi-George, who, responding to Jackson, said the only real answer to homelessness is to create new homes, not just keep sending people back into shelters. "Too many individuals and too many families who have spent too many nights in shelters." Councilor Bill Linehan (South Boston, South End, Chinatown, downtown) then rose to declare both Jackson and Essaibi-George "out of order" for using the announcement time for a policy debate. Wu apologized to Jackson for inadvertently cutting him off during the earlier discussion and to the entire council for allowing the discussion to continue when it shouldn't have.

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Coyote

Continued from page 2

that there are two sides to every story. At the same time, married father Sam shows John a photo of his children, asserting that a released Bobby would annihilate them as Jews.

Graham's drama, if not a breakthrough work, is remarkably balanced and thoughtful. The hunter of the play's title may be a predatory drug dealer to Brennan and a Hitler-admiring neo-Nazi to Fried. Theatergoers, in talking about Hub associate artistic director Daniel Bourque's tautly paced and directed production, may find their own views as diverse about murder, vigilante action, capital punishment and religion as those of the very different characters in the play itself. Look for two strong company debuts in the roles of the inmates. Mark Krawczyk has the right combination of volatility and discontent as Brennan. Cameron Beaty Gosselin captures Reyburn's curious naiveté and cluelessness as well as his lethal hate. Krawczyk wisely understates Brennan's impatience with Reyburn's blind adherence to white supremacist doctrine. Krawczyk and Gosselin make the evolution of their interaction as cell neighbors telling and persuasive.

Robert Orzalli catches Fried's feeling and understanding as the well-intentioned journalist determined to supply positive insight through his interviewing with Brennan. The role of Fried could easily devolve into a liberal caricature with some actors, but Orzali catches his humanity as well as his professional rigor. Regine Vital has Shawna's no-nonsense tenacity with the inmates and her unassuming manner when she addresses the audience. Set designer Megan Kineen and properties master Gabriel Graetz establish the contrast between the inmates in the appointments of the cells–Brennan's photo and article decorated and

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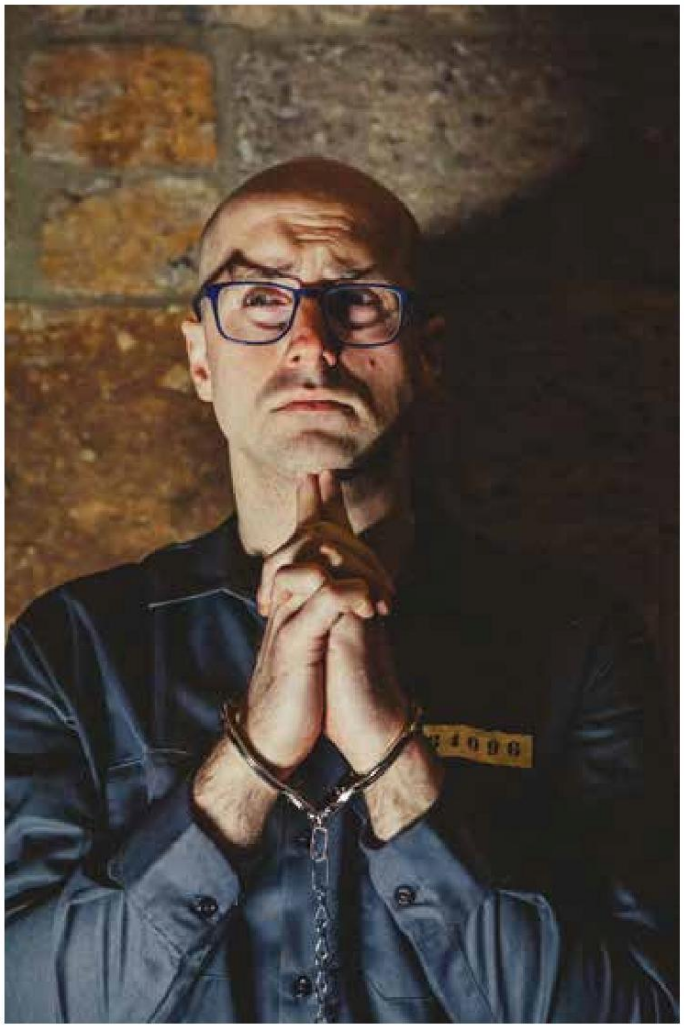

Coyote on a Fence

38/13

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To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 500 words; refrain from extreme personal attacks; be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday's paper. To send us letters: Mail to 46 Plympton St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02118; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

South End / Lower Roxbury Business Breakfast

On Monday, April 24 from 8:30 - 10 am, Washington Gateway Main Street is holding a networking event for small businesses in the South End and Lower Roxbury. A variety of presenters will discuss opportunities for financing, design and signage assistance, crowd funding, and technical assistance.

The event will be held at Gaslight Brasserie, 560 Harrison Avenue. RSVP by April 21 to WGMS.director@gmail.com. More information at http://www.gatewaymainstreet.org/

Underground

Continued from page 1

been made possible through apublic private partnership between National Development and Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT) InfraSpace program.

"As Boston continues to expand, creating innovative public realm and places for urban recreation are vital to its success," said Ted Tye, Managing Partner, National Development. "Ink Underground will explore new ways to activate and program public spaces. Working alongside locally and internationally-recognized restaurateurs, corporate partners, vendors, artists and creators, this urban park will set a new standard for how to connect communities through culture and transportation."

Visitors will enjoy amenities such as 24-hour security, a dog park, a curated series of pop-up food and beverage experiences, public art walls, sculpture exhibitions, and a diverse program of special events including a graffiti art festival, an artisan night market, fitness classes & much more. For the multi-modal traveler, Ink Underground offers a bike storage facility and 175 parking spaces directly opposite Ink Block and the new 205-room AC Hotel by Marriott at Ink Block.

A full schedule of Ink Underground 2017programs and events will be announced at the official opening in early June. Events currently scheduled for the park's opening season include:

Coyote

Continued from page 4

Reyburn's unsurprisingly spare. Jeremy Stein's sharp lighting vividly evokes Reyburn's fiery crime in back story and mirrors the darkening fortunes of the inmates.

Graham's play may not be quite as stunning as Miguel Pinero's haunting prison gem "Short Eyes," but Hub Theatre Company is giving rich expression to the howling humanity of "Coyote on the Fence."

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Taste

Continued from page 1

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