



Attorney General Peter Neronha and his counterparts in other states have challenged multiple actions of the Trump administration. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

Neronha resists Trump on multiple fronts

By **JOHN HOWELL**
Warwick Beacon Editor

Peter Neronha had a story as soon as he learned that former U.S. Rep. David Cicilline, who is now president of the Rhode Island Foundation, would be addressing the Warwick Rotary Club.

Both were young prosecutors and both have a habit of speaking faster and faster when they home in on their final arguments. It was too much for the court stenographer, who stopped them – breaking their train of thought – and told them to slow down.

Nobody told Neronha, now the Rhode Island Attorney General, to slow down recently as he addressed the service club. He was on a roll and lingered to chat well beyond the end of the meeting at the Crowne Plaza.

Only hours before, his office had issued a release that the state had joined a coalition of 20 states in suing the Trump administration to stop the dismantling of the Department of Education.

But he started with his management of the Office of the Attorney General following his election in 2018, went on outline the changes he has made, answered “maybe” when asked if he would run for governor in 2026 and dove into a civics lesson on the three branches of our government and why it is so important to challenge the president when he steps beyond his authority.

And by what criteria does he make the decision to sue the president, or for that matter fight for lower energy rates?

The first question, he said, is whether the action being taken is unlawful, second is whether it harms Rhode Islanders and third is whether he has legal standing.

One of the first of Neronha’s challenges is to Trump’s effort to strip the U.S. citizenship of children born to immigrant parents in the United States. He said the 14th Amendment to the Constitution “makes it clear if I’m born here, I’m a citizen.”

Neronha said he and other attorneys general across the country had been working in anticipation that Trump would seek to deny this birthright citizenship. Their work resulted in the granting of a preliminary injunction by a federal judge early last month.

“If [immigrants] have a child here, they have standing whether [the administration] likes it or not.”

Neronha went on to talk about “federal funding grabs” and efforts to nullify grants that have been approved and in some cases issued.

“We knew we had to act quickly,” he said of calling on other states, among them California and New York, to gain a temporary restraining order.

● **NERONHA to page 8**

Attorney challenges eminent domain move

BY **TIM FORSBERG**
Johnston Sun Rise Editor

A lawyer for the firm representing the Johnston property owners in a highly publicized eminent domain case this week laid out their position on the town’s attempt to seize land where they plan to build hundreds of apartments.

In a phone interview from her office in California, Kady Valois, a lawyer with the Pacific Legal Foundation, said eminent domain is an “awesome power” at all levels of government that should be used sparingly to protect property rights.

“I like to tell everyone who asks, ‘Why should they care about eminent domain?’ Well, because whether they know it or not, their properties are for sale right now,” she said. “And it’s for sale to the government.”

The dispute centers on a property in Johnston that Valois’s clients planned to develop into affordable housing. They say people who work in Johnston should be able to live there.

According to Valois, the town’s decision to seize the property through eminent domain is due to opposition to the affordable housing project rather than a legitimate need for municipal development. She also criticized the town for not fol-

lowing the proper legal process.

“Typically, how eminent domain works is that everything comes from the sovereign, and in this case, it’s the State of Rhode Island,” she said.

She further explained that the state grants the power of eminent domain to certain towns, but Johnston lacks authority to use it for municipal buildings.

“We think that this process is improper,” Valois noted. “They just kind of picked and chose different statutes that they liked and mushed them all together to create their own statute that would allow them to take property.”

According to Valois, the town’s intent to use eminent domain is rooted in Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr.’s opposition to the project rather than any legitimate public need. Before the developers had officially proposed the project, the mayor stated he would stop the project at any cost.

“I think he said specifically that he was going to use all the power of government that he had to prevent this project from going forward,” she said.

Valois further argued that the town had not initially identified any municipal need for the property, as there was no discussion of a need for municipal buildings.

“I think he realized that he needed a reason to take the property and decided that it was going to be for these public buildings. But that’s not how eminent domain works. You can’t take the property and then pick and choose what you want to do with it,” she said.

Valois said her legal team at the Pacific Legal Foundation acted swiftly in response to the town’s actions, arguing that pretextual takings are not permitted under Rhode Island law. She explained that two days after their complaint was filed, the town filed a petition to deposit funds in state court. The town put \$775,000, the town’s valuation of the property, into the state court register.

“They believed that that was all they needed to do, and so they went ahead and listed themselves as the owners of the property,” she said.

The town also sent a letter to Valois’s clients, demanding they vacate the property or face trespassing charges. In response, the legal team filed a federal restraining order to halt the town’s actions.

As the federal case progressed, Valois noted that the legal team filed a motion in state court to halt to town’s proceedings. The case in state court was later dismissed, and the federal case will move forward.

● **CHALLENGE to page 8**



Artist’s rendering of the proposed Quick Lube to be built on Atwood Ave. across from the Atwood Grill. *Submitted image.*

Zoning Board reviews business, residential proposals

By **TIM FORSBERG**
Johnston SunRise Editor

New businesses and a new home are on the horizon in Johnston, as the Zoning Board gave initial approvals to three petitions during its March 27 meeting, including two new businesses and the subdivision of a residential lot.

Quick Lube of Carolina Atwood, LLC, doing business as Take 5, plans to open at 1402 Atwood Avenue, across the street from the Atwood Grill at the corner of Carding Lane. The location was formerly a car dealer-

ship. The business sought a special use permit to allow for general automobile maintenance at its new location. The petitioner also requested relief from the town ordinance limiting commercial structures to a single exterior wall sign.

Quick Lube plans to offer quick oil service changes in which customers stay in their car while the maintenance is performed. The oil change service is expected to take between five and fifteen minutes to complete, and there will be no major car repairs conducted on site. The company plans to demolish the site’s current

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**Johnston
Sun Rise**

Dolan marks 30 years of distinguished service

The Johnston Police Department is celebrating the retirement of Major Thomas Dolan, marking the end of an extraordinary 30-year career in law enforcement. Major Dolan’s dedication and bravery have left a lasting impact on the department and the community.

Major Dolan’s service to his country and community began with his time in the U.S. Navy, Army National Guard, and Army Reserves. When he joined the Johnston Police Department, he became known for his leadership, courage, and commitment.

One of the most defining moments of his career occurred in 1998 when Major Dolan fearlessly confronted an armed suspect. During the encounter, he was shot and wounded but managed to return fire, radio for assistance, and help direct officers to apprehend the shooter. For his heroism, he was honored with the prestigious TOP COPS award.

In addition to his remarkable acts of bravery, Major Dolan has also



Major Thomas Dolan is joined by Chief Mark Vieira and Deputy Chief Matthew LeDuc during his retirement celebration at the Johnston Police Department. *Photo courtesy of the Johnston Police Department Facebook page*

served as a mentor to future officers, guiding and inspiring them throughout his career. His contributions have made an indelible mark on the Johnston Police Department and the community.

The Johnston Police

Department expressed gratitude for Major Dolan’s service, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to upholding the department’s motto: “Working Together ~ Making a Difference.”

Police Log

PIECE OF CAKE

While on a fixed traffic post on Plainfield Street on March 21 at approximately 4:40 p.m., an officer observed a black BMW with reportedly unlawfully tinted windows. As the vehicle passed the officer’s location, the officer observed a large blue cake thrown out from the passenger’s window towards a group of pedestrians nearby, but it did not strike any of them.

A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was identified as Shawn Herlihy, 19, of 9 Arthur Street in West Warwick. Background checks on Herlihy revealed that he had an outstanding bench warrant stemming from a felony assault charge out of Coventry. He was taken into custody and his vehicle was transferred to a licensed passenger.

Herlihy was transported to police headquarters where he was processed and held pending arraignment. He was issued a summons for unlawful window tint and littering prohibited, first offense.

SHOPLIFTING

Officers responded to the CVS located on Putnam Avenue on February 13 at approximately 4:17 p.m. in reference to a larceny in progress.

At the store, an employee told officers they recognized the suspect from previous incidents upon his entry. The suspect proceeded directly to the laundry detergent section and filled two bags with merchandise. The man then left the store without paying for the goods. The employee stated that the man left in a bright yellow sedan with unknown registration plates in an unknown direction.

The stolen items, totaling \$359.70, were listed on a receipt provided to officers. A check of department records revealed a similar incident on April 25, 2024, with a suspect matching the description of the man involved. Those records indicated the suspect involved was Roberto Suazo Garcia, 46, of 347 Acad-

emy Drive in Providence. The employee positively identified the suspect as the same individual from the prior incident. A no trespass order had been issued against him from the store which was still in effect.

A background check revealed Garcia had two active warrants for shoplifting. On March 15, officers responded to the Providence Police Department where Garcia had been taken into custody. He was transported back to the Johnston Police Department where he was processed and held. He was issued a \$5,000 bail; however, as a probation violator with a hold-without-bail order, he was remanded to the ACI.

FALSE REPORT

On March 5 at approximately 3 p.m., Patrolman Elijah Bolarinho responded to the Gulf Express located at 1889 Plainfield pike for a report of a road rage incident.

At the scene, he was met by the calling party, later identified as Christopher Walker Jr., 27, of 2814 Plainfield Street in Johnston, who stated that he was traveling west on Plainfield Pike behind a grey Ram truck. Walker told the officer that the driver of the truck signaled to turn into the Gulf station and Walker proceeded to drive around the truck.

Walker alleged that as he passed the truck, the operator swerved at his vehicle, causing him to strike the curb. Walker then followed the truck into the Gulf parking lot and attempted to make contact with the driver. He proceeded to ask the truck’s driver for his insurance information. Walker then stated that the driver drove off and struck him in the right shoulder with his driver’s side mirror before fleeing the scene.

Officer Bolahrino noted in his report that Walker’s vehicle showed no visible damage from an accident.

Walker provided the officer with the

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Baylee Thai Cuisine expands to Johnston

Baylee Thai Cuisine, a favorite spot known for its authentic Thai dishes, celebrated the soft opening of its second location in Johnston last Friday. The new restaurant, located at 1369 Hartford Ave, sits in the plaza next to Johnston Town Hall.

Owner Baylee Vongthavanh, who has built a strong following at the Cranston location, was thrilled to introduce her signature dishes to the Johnston community. Baylee Thai Cuisine is known for its flavorful offerings, including Drunken Noodle, Ginger, Choo Chee Salmon, Crab Rangoon, and the vibrant Green Papaya Salad. The new Johnston location promises to continue delivering the same quality and taste.

Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. attended the event to welcome Baylee Thai Cuisine to the community. Also present were State Senator Andrew Dimitri, State Representative Deborah Fellela, Councilman Robert Russo, Johnston School Committee members Zach Gordon and Phanida Phivilay, and Miss Johnston Rayna Digiacomo. Their attendance showcased the community's enthusiasm for new businesses and the continued growth of Johnston's local dining scene.

The soft opening allowed guests to sample some of

the restaurant's signature dishes, providing a preview of what may soon become a go-to spot for Thai cuisine lovers in the area.

The owners and staff of Baylee Thai Cuisine expressed their gratitude for the community's support and excitement for the official soft opening.



Submitted photos

Pack 20 Cub Scouts celebrate Blue and Gold event



Submitted photos



On Sunday, March 23, Pack 20 Cub Scouts gathered at the Johnston Senior Center for their annual Blue and Gold celebration, an event that commemorates the anniversary of Scouting. Accompanied by family and friends, 35 Cub Scouts were recognized for their achievements, earning a total of 170 scouting awards since December 1, 2024.

A highlight of the evening was the crossover ceremony for seven Arrow of Light Scouts who officially transitioned from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. These dedicated scouts—Brody Amaral, Anto-

nio Bressette, Alice Conaty, Sophia DiPippo, Erenia Reyes, Pemberley Reyes, and Juliette Silva—completed their Cub Scouting journey and were welcomed into Troops 20 Johnston and 438 North Smithfield.

Pack 20 meets every Thursday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, located at 1804 Atwood Avenue in Johnston. Children in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to attend a meeting and experience the excitement of scouting firsthand. More information about joining Pack 20 can be found at beascout.org.

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Laura will host Medicaid and Estate Planning Seminars on the following dates:
April 11, 2025 – 10:00am-12:00pm | May 9, 2025 – 10:00am-12:00pm
April 25, 2025 – 10:00am-12:00pm | May 23, 2025 – 10:00am-12:00pm
Seating is limited to 12 attendees per seminar and reservations are required. Please call to reserve your seat.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Understanding history is not ‘anti-American’

The famous cautionary phrase that those who don’t learn from their history are doomed to repeat it has never felt more appropriate than after yet another executive order was signed by President Donald Trump last week.

This time, the totally normal and not-at-all dystopian-coded order, titled “Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History,” focuses on correcting what is apparently one of the most un-American and dangerous institutions of our society that for too long has gone unchecked in its unbridled anti-patriotic rhetoric. And that disgusting institution in need of heavy-handed reform is (checks notes)...

The Smithsonian Institution?

That’s right. The network of cherished educational establishments that includes 21 museums, galleries and the National Zoo – a tourism generator that brings millions of people to our nation’s capital every year – has lost its “sanity” and no longer tells the truth. But that will all be fixed now, thanks to President Trump.

The executive order claims to strive to remove "improper, divisive, anti-American ideology" from Smithsonian museums, although it is of course vague in terms of what that actually means – effectively giving unchecked and unprecedented power to Vice President J.D. Vance to decide, unilaterally, what history Americans are allowed to learn about, and what history is “improper” and worthy of censorship.

It would be foolish to assume, at this point, that the hypocrisy of this administration relying so heavily on executive orders – the controversial process of a president wielding their power like a medieval European king – would be called out by anyone on the right. Yes, the same people who decried so loudly the same process when it was utilized by former President Joe Biden.

Calling out hypocrisy among their own ranks must be “improper, divisive or anti-American” to Republicans.

We also fear it would be foolish to assume, given all the evidence we’ve seen thus far to the contrary, that any congressional Republicans will break ranks and stand up for one of the most important foundational pillars of our republic, which is agreeing on an objective set of facts about our collective history, and the importance of not censoring or coloring that information with agenda-laden biases.

No, it seems at this point that this administration and its allies are openly declaring that the nation’s history books are open to interpretation – their interpretation, specifically – and suggesting any notion to the contrary will be enough to label you “anti-American.”

If we need to warn you about the dangers that come with such a blatantly anti-democratic process that looks to be unfolding before our very eyes, it probably means you’ve already failed to learn from history and are doomed to repeat it.

Normally, a day spent learning about all of our nation’s thorny and complicated historical context at any of the Smithsonian’s wonderful museums could help with that understanding, and lead to a better-informed view of what being a patriotic American actually means.

But those days, to our great detriment, seem to be numbered.



LETTERS

What Trump is doing, we don’t need

To the Editor:

Since the new administration has taken office in January, it has enacted new regulations and directives that have dramatically altered our usual living standards.

These changes have eliminated whole government departments and severely reduced other important agencies, causing widespread disillusion.

Also, new increased tariffs among our friendlier foreign nations will cause resentment and severe price increases here at home. Certain foreign car models may now be out of reach for many. Wine and other imported foods will increase dining costs, causing some eateries to go out of business.

Our true needs are steady employment, affordable housing, quality medical care, reduced violent

crime, racial equality and educational excellence.

The current administration needs to refocus its priorities to better reflect our needs.

One concern is where will more than 100,000 laid-off former government employees find employment with similar salaries and benefits?

**Bob Sweeney
Warwick**

Enough already

To the Editor,

I have read the recent letters and I feel that the real facts need to be stated.

I am protesting the traitorous and treasonous behavior of the 47th president.

It is time to convict and impeach this irresponsible person. It is time to use the 25th Amendment and "lock him up."

I protest the "inefficiency" of his administration and that of his unelected pet musk-rat and all his little doggies.

I protest the cruelty, the incompetence, the stupidity and the ignorance of the Cabinet.

They are so unqualified for their jobs.

I protest the lies, the violence and the threats to our veterans and the federal workers.

I protest that fat old white male Republicans have continued threatening my life and my planet for the last seven decades.

Remember, if you poison the air, the water and the land: you and yours will suffer too.

Do you really NOT want your children to grow up in a beautiful world, especially one where women are respected and have health care? SHAME on you for your

recent negative votes.

We, the real American Patriots, Democrats and Republicans, are out protesting around the country.

We will save America and protect our democracy. We love DIVERSITY-EQUITY-INCLUSIVITY.

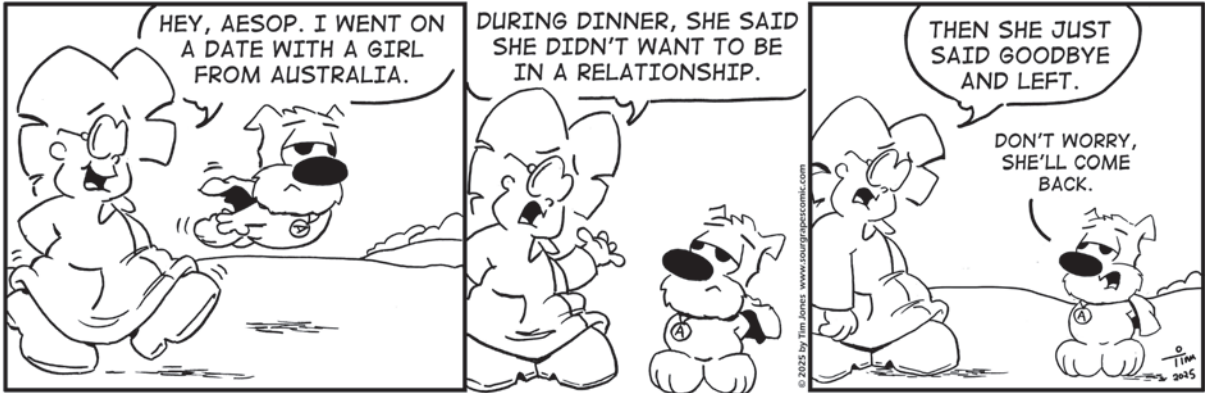
We love FREEDOM, JUSTICE, THE RULE OF LAW and the CONSTITUTION.

We will stop you. We do not need or want your Project 2025. If you are unhappy with our system, Mother Russia wants y'all back.

There are no HIGH FIVES in my neighborhood.

**Nancy Urquhart
Warwick**

SOUR GRAPES by Tim Jones



JohnstonSunRise

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SunRise Scoops

Support the La Fazia Spring Cleaning Drive

Johnston’s own Derek La Fazia, Jr., a 17-year-old La Salle Academy student, is once again leading the La Fazia Spring Cleaning Drive to help individuals transitioning from homelessness into stable housing. Throughout April, donations of essential household cleaning supplies—such as all-purpose cleaners, dish soap, paper towels, and mops—can be dropped off at La Fazia Auto Body, 920 Plainfield Street, Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Monetary donations are also welcome. Checks should be made payable to Crossroads Rhode Island (memo: *La Fazia Spring Cleaning Drive*) and can be dropped off at La Fazia Auto Body or mailed to Crossroads RI, 162 Broad St., Providence, RI 02903.

Advanced Birding Course

Enhance your birding knowledge with a five-session course led by Dr. Charles Clarkson, Director of Audubon Avian Research. This program will explore bird evolution, behavior, flight, and more through three virtual Zoom classes and two in-person field outings. Sessions will take place on, April 7, 22, 26, and May 3, 2025, with field locations to be determined. The course is open to ages 16 and up, with a registration fee of \$120 for Audubon members and \$145 for non-members. Advance registration is required. For more details and to sign up, visit asri.org/calendar.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Safety Class

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 07-08, is offering a one-day boating safety class on Saturday, April 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The class meets all the requirements for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Boater Safety Identification Card. The

class will take place at the Warwick Police Department Community Room, located at 99 Veterans Memorial Drive, Warwick. Please note that seating is limited to 22 students, and reserved seating only—no walk-ins will be accepted. To reserve your seat, call 508-343-0235 today. Payment of \$50 (cash or check made out to USCGAUX Flotilla) will be collected from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. before the class begins. Please bring a photo ID, as the USCG and RI state test will be administered during the class. Those who pass will receive their RI Boating Safety Card by mail from the RIDEM. Students are encouraged to bring their own lunch and note-taking materials.

2025 Johnston T-Ball Registration Open

The Johnston Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for the 2025 T-Ball program. Open to boys and girls ages 5 and 6 (as of May 1, 2025), this fun and engaging program focuses on fundamental skills like catching, throwing, and batting, with mini-games played toward the end of the season. Sessions will take place on Saturdays from May 3 through June 14. Registration is available at the Johnston Recreation Office, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$80 per child and \$60 for each additional sibling. The department is also seeking volunteer coaches and program sponsors to help support youth sports. If you’re interested in getting involved, visit johnstonrec.com for more information.

Youth Track and Field Registration Open

Young athletes in grades 1 through 8 are invited to participate in the Johnston Recreation Department’s Track & Field program designed to help them develop running, jumping, and throwing skills while staying ac-

tive. The season runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays from April 22 through June 12. The cost is \$85 per individual, with a discounted rate of \$65 for each additional sibling. Please note that credit cards are not accepted; payments should be made by check payable to JYSA. Visit johnstonrec.com for more information.

Soul of ‘71 Scholarship Fund

The Johnston High School Class of 1971 established The Soul of 1971 Scholarship at The Rhode Island Foundation. The class has already awarded scholarships to JHS seniors. The Class of ‘71 is the first class in the history of the Johnston School System to establish a scholarship fund which will last forever. For additional information, contact Harold J. Hemberger Fund Chairman at hembergerharold@gmail.com. All funds on deposit are managed by The Rhode Island Foundation.

Track Rhode Island’s Herring Population

Join the effort to monitor river herring migration this spring by participating in a quick and easy conservation project! Volunteers spend just 10 minutes counting herring as they swim upstream to spawn, recording their observations to support DEM fisheries biologists. Counts take place at fish ladders across the state from April 1st through May, anytime between sunrise and sunset. No experience is needed, but new volunteers must complete a waiver and training. Open to ages 12+, with sites in Wakefield, Warwick, Providence, and East Providence. For more details, email DEM.DFWvolunteer@dem.ri.gov

Osprey Nest Monitoring

The Audubon Society is seeking adult volunteers for its Osprey Nest Monitoring Program

throughout the summer, one of Rhode Island’s longest-running avian research efforts. This free one-hour training session will teach participants how to observe and record data on Osprey nests, contributing to important conservation efforts. Training sessions will be held on April 3, 2025, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at South Kingstown Land Trust in South Kingstown, RI; and April 5, 2025, from 1:00 to 2:00 PM at Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge in Smithfield, RI. Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn about the natural history of these amazing birds while playing a crucial role in monitoring their population. To register, visit asri.org/calendar.

COBSJ Free Concert

The Chamber Orchestra of Barrington at St. John’s invites the community to its final concert of the season on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at 3 p.m. at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Barrington. This special performance will mark the conclusion of founding Music Director Edward Markward’s distinguished eight-year tenure. The program will feature a selection of outstanding music by Mozart and Ives, along with the world premiere of *Barrington*, a new composition by Kari Juusela, COBSJ’s composer and principal cellist. Admission is free, and all are welcome to enjoy an afternoon of live orchestral music.

Editor’s Note: *To submit your news to Scoops, send information and photos to Tim at timf@beaconmediari.com by Friday at 3 p.m. to appear in the following week’s edition. Items can include community and school event announcements and calls for volunteers. Submissions may be edited for space and are not guaranteed to run. To guarantee space, please call 401-732-3100 and ask to place an advertisement.*

● POLICE LOG from page 2

truck’s registration information and a description of the truck. The Johnston Fire Department responded to the scene to evaluate Walker, who was transported to the hospital.

Contact was later made with the driver of the Ram truck, who responded to police headquarters to provide a statement with his version of events. He stated that Walker’s vehicle cut in front of him at the Gulf station. He stated that no accident occurred, and he continued to the store’s drive thru. While at the drive thru window, the other party reported that Walker drove his vehicle in front of the truck, parked it and blocked him from exiting the lane.

The other driver stated that Walker demanded his insurance information, which he refused, maintaining that no collision had taken place. As the driver attempted to move his vehicle, he stated that Walker intentionally lunged his shoulder into the side mirror. The Ram driver also stated that Walker pulled an orange flare gun from his waistband and discharged the gun at the rear of the truck.

The Ram driver stated that he fled the scene out of fear and nervousness.

Management at the Gulf Express later provided surveillance footage, which showed Walker’s vehicle overtaking the Ram on the left, driving through the painted median strip, and cutting across Plainfield Pike in front of the truck. It then continued into the parking lot and in doing so, drove over the curb.

Surveillance footage also showed Walker

driving the wrong way through the drive-through and blocking the Ram from leaving. Footage then revealed Walker lunging his shoulder into the truck’s mirror. The surveillance tape was inconclusive as to whether Walker was holding a weapon, but it did show him reaching for his waistband and pointing to the truck.

Officers determined no accident occurred between the two vehicles, that Walker drove over the curb on his own and intentionally shoved his shoulder into the mirror.

Based upon the circumstances, Walker was charged with filing a false police report and disorderly conduct. He later responded to police headquarters where he was processed and released with a Third District Court summons as well as a summons for laned roadway violations.

POSSESSION

At approximately 3:30 a.m. on March 18, officers observed a motor vehicle with no front registration plate exiting the parking lot of the Killingly Street Shell. The operator also appeared not to be wearing a seat belt. A motor vehicle stop was conducted.

A check of the vehicle’s registration revealed that it was not attached to the correct vehicle. Officers made contact with the operator, identified as Marcus Bennett, 28, of 14 Arch Street in Pawtucket. Officers reported that Bennett was not wearing his seatbelt and did not have any form of identification on his person. He also did not have a bill of sale, vehicle title, or registration. When asked if

there was any contraband in the vehicle, Bennett allegedly stated “You can search it.”

A background check on Bennett’s license revealed it to be suspended and found that this was his fourth offense. While the registration plate on the rear of the vehicle was active, it was confirmed that it did not belong to the vehicle Bennett was driving.

Bennett was asked to exit the vehicle, and a search of his person yielded no contraband. A search of the vehicle produced a small clear plastic bag filled with a powder-like substance in the driver’s seat area. A later chemical test found the substance to be cocaine.

The search also revealed two opened beer bottles in the rear of the vehicle; one was empty, and the other was half full. However, officers reported that at no time did they observe evidence to believe that Bennett was operating the vehicle while under the influence.

Bennett’s vehicle was towed from the scene. He was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and held pending arraignment. He was charged with driving with a suspended license and possession of a schedule 1-V drug (cocaine). He was also issued a summons for improper use of registration, display of plates, operating a vehicle with an unsealed alcoholic beverage, and no seat belt.

Editor’s Note: *The preceding police log information has been taken arrest reports provided by the Johnston Police Department.*

Legal Notices

Town of Johnston

Notice is given pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 3-5-17 that the Johnston Town Council, sitting as the Liquor Licensing Commission under Title 3 Chapter 5 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended, shall hold a Public Hearing on **April 14th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Johnston Municipal Court Building, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following application for a liquor license.

Applicant: Mario Mennella

Business Name: M & M Group, LLC

Location: 23 Greenville Avenue

License Type: Class C - Liquor License-

Remonstrants are entitled to be heard before the granting of the license. Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting date.

Per Order: Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo, Council President

3/27, 4/3/25

Town of Johnston

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Applicant: Malasy Vongthavanh

Business Name: Malasy, LLC

Location: 1369 Hartford Avenue

License Type: Class BV-Full - Liquor License-

Remonstrants are entitled to be heard before the granting of the license. Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting date.

Per Order: Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo, Council President

3/27, 4/3/25

Town of Johnston

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Applicant: Mahesh Kollu

Business Name: Indian Spice Co, LLC

Location: 198 Putnam Pike

License Type: Class BV-Full - Liquor License- Transfer of Ownership

Remonstrants are entitled to be heard before the granting of the license. Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting date.

Per Order: Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo, Council President

3/27, 4/3/25

Say you saw it in the

Johnston SunRise

Conjugal visitation for state inmates bill proposed

By TIM FORSBERG

A bill recently sponsored by Representative Ramon A. Perez (D-Dist. 13, Providence, Johnston) aims to amend standards and procedures for allowing conjugal visits at state correctional facilities. The proposed legislation is scheduled for a hearing on Thursday, April 3 at the Rise of the House in the House Lounge.

If enacted, the bill would amend the General Laws under the “Corrections Department” to include amendments for conjugal visits. Under the proposed law, conjugal visits would not be recorded or

monitored by video surveillance. However, the exchange of contraband during visits would be strictly prohibited and could result in disciplinary action for both the inmate and the visitor.

The bill outlines that conjugal visits would have a maximum duration of four hours, with each inmate permitted up to six visits per year. The warden or building director of a state correctional facility would have the authority to suspend visits if an inmate is deemed a danger to themselves or others and upon making that determination, may entirely suspend conjugal visits during a calendar year. However, each inmate would receive at

least one visit per calendar year unless specific safety concerns arise as mentioned.

Scheduling a conjugal visit would require adherence to the Department of Corrections’ established rules and procedures. This process would include registering in the inmate visitation system, providing a marriage certificate, submitting a visitor registration form, and confirming the visit with the specific facility.

The Department of Corrections would be responsible for implementing the policy, including training staff and enforcing rules regarding conjugal visita-

tion. The bill, if passed, would take effect on January 1, 2026.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Ramon A. Perez (D-Dist. 13, Providence, Johnston), which sets standards and procedures to allow and implement conjugal visitation at state correctional facilities, is set to be heard.

On Thursday, April 3, at the Rise of the House at approximately 5 p.m. in the House Lounge, the committee will meet to hear public testimony. Should the proposal go through procedures and be approved, the act shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

Charlie went, too

34 veterans head to Washington on Honor Flight

Honor Flight “Charlie,” the 32nd Honor Flight for veterans since retired Providence Fire Chief George Farrell started the flights to Washington, D.C. in 2012, departed early Sunday from Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport.

A total of 34 veterans, including two World War II veterans, attended the daylong event that featured not only visits to national war monuments but cherry blossoms and lunch at VFW Post 3150 in Arlington,

Virginia.

The flight was named “Charlie” in honor of North Providence Mayor Charles Lombardi, whose foundation was a major sponsor. Farrell said the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub is still accepting applications for the next flight on Sept. 27. He added, “We couldn’t do what we do as well as we do it without PVD airport team.” *Beacon Media text and photos by John Howell*



North Providence Mayor Charlie Lombardi gives an interview before departing on Sunday’s Honor Flight.



WWII veteran Wilfred Barbeau, who will celebrate his 100th birthday this month, took out his clarinet and played along with bagpiper Allen Manley and the rest of the bagpipers who joined in at a Southwest Airlines departure gate at Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport early Sunday.



Scouts lined the escalator leading to the T.F. Green departure gate to wish veterans a safe trip to the nation’s capital early Sunday morning.

DMV warns of fraudulent text message scam

The Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles (RI DMV) is warning residents about a widespread text message scam known as “smishing,” which falsely claims recipients have unpaid tolls and must make an immediate payment to avoid RI DMV restrictions.

Customers have reported receiving messages referencing E-ZPass and DMV restrictions on their license, with a link to a fraudulent website. These messages are not legitimate and should be ignored. Clicking any links may expose individuals to identity theft, malware, or financial fraud.

“Scammers are using fear tactics to trick people into providing per-

sonal and financial information,” said DMV Administrator Walter R. Craddock. “The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority and the RI DMV do not send text messages demanding payment for tolls or concerning your DMV records and driving privileges,” explained Craddock. “We urge all Rhode Islanders to stay vigilant and verify their toll balances and driving privileges through official sources only.”

How to Protect Yourself from Smishing Scams

Do not click on any links in unexpected or suspicious text messages. Be aware that official toll invoic-

es and DMV related information is sent via mail, not text messages.

Verify your E-ZPass account only through www.ezpassritba.com.

Report fraudulent messages to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov) or forward them to 7726 (SPAM) to notify your mobile provider.

Rhode Island residents who have concerns about their DMV records should utilize our Online DMV Customer Portal to view license and registration status, expiration dates, and any blocks or suspensions.

For more Division of Motor Vehicles information, please visit www.dmv.ri.gov.

Obituaries

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● CHALLENGE from page 1

“The temporary restraining order was granted by the court, basically pressing pause for everything while we prepare for a motion for preliminary injunction. That is scheduled for April,” Valois said.

Valois expressed confidence in the land owners’ legal footing, anticipating that evidence will demonstrate the town’s lack of good faith. She noted that text and social media messages from the mayor will be examined during discovery.

“All of the evidence that we’ve seen up to this point, the mayor’s own statements, everything points to the fact that this is a pretext. It’s a sham,” she said. “They don’t like the State of Rhode Island’s law that was passed to basically increase affordable housing.”

Asked whether the property owners have any other plans to develop affordable housing in town, Valois said her clients own several pieces of property.

Valois recounted her visit to the property and her conversations with Sal Compagnone, one of the developers, noting the deep roots the family has in the community. They had built properties and they were hardworking people who had lived in the area, she said.

The Pacific Legal Foundation has posted its own story about the case on its website, identifying the developers as “Ralph, his wife Suzanne, his sister Lucille, and longtime friend Sal Compagnone.”

“They’ve been putting together this piece of property for years,” Valois said. “Our clients [and] their fathers had worked together to acquire some of this property. So this is a multi-decade project that has been put together.”

Valois countered the mayor’s

suggestion of single-family homes at the site, arguing it would be financially unrealistic given the proposed estimated \$600,000 homes recommended be developed.

According to Valois, Compagnone sees the project as an opportunity to create accessible housing for various demographics seeking affordable living options. Valois further emphasized the Compagnone family’s commitment to maintaining their rental properties. The family has a long-standing reputation as attentive and responsible landlords, with many long-term, satisfied tenants in other properties.

When asked about the broader implications of the case, Valois referenced the 2005 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Kelo v. City of New London*, which allowed businesses to acquire property through eminent domain. She noted that the eminent domain process needed re-vamping to prevent private entities from easily acquiring property.

Valois also emphasized the importance of transparency when the government exercises eminent domain, saying that the government “should be forthright” when it needs to take property. The outcome of the case could set a precedent for how affordable housing projects interact with eminent domain regulations, potentially influencing policy discussions both within Rhode Island and in other states.

“With this weird resolution that was passed where they picked and chose certain statutes that they liked, none of that discussion happened up front,” she said. “That discussion is important because eminent domain should be a very last resort, because it is a forced sale.”

She noted that her clients are not yet focused on what property com-

pensation from the town could be, as they are still aiming to retain and develop the property. Valois also noted that, despite facing opposition, her clients have felt a growing sense of support from the public.

“I think our clients feel supported, I think they finally feel heard because for a long time, unless you have a media platform to stand on, it’s really someone else on Twitter sharing their side of the story,” Valois said. “I think they finally feel like someone is at least listening to them when they’re shouting into the wind that the government is trying to take something that’s so important from them.”

Valois acknowledged that while the court case continues, there is still a long road ahead with potential appeals. She highlighted the future impact of a favorable ruling.

“If we were to win at the First Circuit, for example, that would set up a split between the First and Second Circuits. The Second Circuit heard a case not too long ago called *Southfield Development* that went against the property owners,” she noted.

Valois emphasized that the Pacific Legal Foundation is dedicated to supporting clients throughout the legal process, regardless of the challenges. She said the firm has taken 20 cases to the U.S. Supreme Court and won 18. As long as her clients are willing to fight, she asserted her firm will stand beside them. They are not charging their clients for services rendered.

“I think the biggest thing is just stressing that eminent domain – like I said, it’s an awesome power and it can happen to anyone,” Valois said. “It raises the question of what type of care would you like to receive from the government if you were in this situation?”

● ZONING from page 1

structure and build a smaller building.

The plan also includes removing a large portion of the existing property’s paved lot, which will allow for some additional green space and tree plantings that may help mitigate some of the flooding in the area. After lengthy discussions about curb cuts on Atwood Avenue and Carding Lane, along with addressing po-

tential traffic concerns, the board recommended approval at this stage, which also included a favorable recommendation from Thomas Deller, director of development and public services.

Should Quick Lube be granted additional approvals by the town, they plan construction as soon as possible within the next six to nine months.

John and Jennica Thibodeau of 168 Morgan Ave. sought approval to establish a chiropractic office in their completed basement.

John Thibodeau, a chiropractor currently practicing in Warwick, looks to establish his own practice and wants to use his furnished home basement to build his own client base prior to moving to a larger facility.

Zoning board members questioned Thibodeau re-

garding his driveway size, which can hold six cars, traffic concerns caused by an influx of patients, and the home’s compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for ease of access. Thibodeau stated that, at a maximum, he would see approximately 16 clients a day should his practice become successful. At that time, he would seek to move from his basement office into a larger commercial facility.

Thibodeau said that his new office would be open three days a week, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and that parking would not be an issue based on patient appointment timing and the size of his driveway. The board provided initial zoning approval with the stipulation that no more than 48 clients be seen at the office during the

week.

Ryan McKeon and Amanda Jayal applied for a dimensional variance to subdivide the property located at 98 Peck Hill Rd. This would create a second lot of approximately 36,600 feet, a size that would not meet the minimum lot requirements under the town’s zoning regulations. The purpose of the division was to construct a single-family home for the applicants. After hearing concerns from a neighbor regarding the placement of the home, and considering a favorable recommendation from Deller, the board agreed to the subdivision of the lot for purposes described.

The board’s recommendations mark the first step in the approval process for these new business ventures and residential development.

● NERONHA from page 1

He called those grants “basically a contract and not new aid.”

Neronha also touched on the dismantling of agencies, saying they “can’t be cut by 50% and do the same level of work.”

In the case of the Department of Education, Neronha said in a recent release that massive layoffs “will severely undermine the department’s ability to perform basic functions, functions upon which American families rely. Kids with special needs who require speech therapy and IEPs and transportation; kids in rural communities

whose districts rely on federal help to keep up; kids from underserved communities; those who require vocational rehabilitation services; the list goes on.”

In a discussion following the meeting, Neronha didn’t hesitate to say that in addition to stripping away the authority of Congress, Trump is going after the courts.

“If the courts don’t stand up to him, he’ll do it,” he said.

But then if the Department of Justice has been compromised, what power do courts have to enforce the law?

Neronha said he would hope that the people would see what’s happening and stand up.

Johnston High brings drama to life with 'Gamma Rays'

Johnston High School is set to present Paul Zindel's acclaimed play *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* on Thursday and Friday, April 10 and 11.

The play tells the story of a dysfunctional family led by Beatrice, a mentally abusive mother whose life has been marked by failure and hardship. Her struggles have left her seemingly incapable of providing love and support to her daughters, Ruth and Matilda.

The focus of the story is Tillie (Matilda), whose passion for science and learning serves as a means of escape from her challenging home life. The metaphor that drives the play is Tillie's science project, which demonstrates the effects of gamma radiation on marigold seeds: some seeds grow normally, others mutate into unusual forms, while those closest to the gamma source perish or develop as dwarfed plants.

The cast features Jay Khun as Beatrice, Caroline McCormack as Tillie, Chelsea Maranhao as Ruth, and Katelyn Loffler as Janice Vickery. The production is led by student producer Isabella Ricci, with set construction by Nicholas Williams and sound engineering by Rayven Russell. The play also features original incidental music composed by Phoenix Russell, a member of the Class of 2024.

Auditions for the production were held in early December, and rehearsals



(Left to right:) Nick Williams, Rayven Russell, and Ron Lamoureux take a break from set design. Submitted photo

began in January. Alongside the play, the drama club is preparing for its upcoming *Friday Night Live* sketch show, scheduled for Friday, May 9. The show will feature collaborations with Winsor Hill and Barnes Elementary Schools, and the club hopes to involve additional district schools as well.

With a talented cast and crew, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* promises to be a thought-provoking and memorable production.

Tickets for the performance are available for \$7 in advance and \$12 at the door, with general admission seating. For ticket information or to purchase in advance, contact rlamoureux@johnston-schools.org.



Assisted by Rayven Russell (right), Nick Williams (left) finishing a wall for JHS Drama's upcoming production. Submitted photo

CCRI to host job fair, spring open house

The Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) is set to host its annual Student and Alumni Job Fair on Thursday, April 3, offering a prime opportunity to network with leading employers from various industries.

The job fair will take place from 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is open to CCRI students, alumni, and workforce participants of all experience levels. The event is free to attend, and participants are encouraged to dress professionally and bring multiple copies of their resumes to maximize their networking potential.

This year's event, held at the CCRI Knight Campus in Warwick, marks the largest job fair the college has hosted in years. More than 80 employers from industries such as healthcare, education, business, technology, and hospitality will be in attendance, providing a broad range of job opportunities. In an effort to expand career prospects for attendees, CCRI has partnered with the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, inviting municipalities

to showcase their job openings. This collaboration aims to connect CCRI students and alumni with careers in public service, addressing a growing need for employees in the field.

For those looking to prepare, CCRI's Career Services offers resources such as resume tips and job fair preparation advice. More information and event registration can be found at ccri.edu/careerservices.

OPEN HOUSE

CCRI also invites prospective students and their families to explore academic and career opportunities at its annual Spring Open House on Saturday, April 5. The event, held at the Knight Campus in Warwick from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., offers attendees a chance to connect with faculty, staff, and current students while learning about the wide range of programs and student services available at the college.

Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the campus, discover academic pathways, and explore financial aid options, including eligibili-

ty for free tuition through RI Promise and Fresh Start. Those interested in getting a head start on their education can also learn about early college programs and seamless transfer opportunities to Rhode Island College or the University of Rhode Island through the Joint Admissions Agreement. As an added benefit, attendees will be able to apply to CCRI for free during the event.

CCRI, which serves nearly 18,000 students in degree and certificate programs and an additional 8,500 in workforce development and adult education, has built a strong reputation for providing accessible, high-quality education. With four campuses across the state and flexible online, hybrid, and in-person learning options, the college continues to support students in achieving their academic and career goals.

For more information or to register for the Spring Open House, visit www.ccri.edu/onestop/admissions/openhouse.html.

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Lifestyles

Open for Submissions

New poetry journal launches this summer

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

*The Sandy Point
Lighthouse on Prudence
Island. Photo from
www.prudencedispatch.com.*

April is National Poetry Month, and locally a journal is currently seeking submissions for its first issue. Prudence Dispatch is a family affair—George Shuster is an editor, and his wife Stephanie Van Patten is the copy editor and publication designer. Their daughters, Greta and Georgia are also editors.

The journal is named for Chippaquasett, also known as Prudence Island, where the Warwick-based family has vacationed for many summers and where they bought a home in 2019. They spent their 2020 lockdown on the island and still visit whenever they can.

“We’ve been going there since the summer before I was born,” said Georgia, currently a senior at St. George’s School in Newport. “I just love how secluded it is. There’s nothing out there besides one general store. It really gives you time to think. Island time is a big cliché, but it really feels like time just stops on the island.”

“We started going there because it was easy to get to, but it feels like a completely different place when you’re there,” says George. “Now it’s a common place where we can all find time to gather.” He notes that the island is only one mile off the coast of Warwick Neck, but that most people from Warwick have never been there. (To be fair, the ferry to the island only runs from Bristol.)

The Shusters are eleventh- and twelfth-generation descendants of John Winthrop, the early New England



George, Georgia, Greta, and Stephanie — the Shuster family and editors of the Prudence Dispatch, a new poetry journal. *Submitted photo*

“
*We’re looking for
poems that connect
nature with the human
experience, which is an
extremely broad theme.*
”

colonist who settled the southern half of the island. “We’ve always known that he was our ancestor,” George says, “but we didn’t know that part of his history. It’s incredible that he was drawn to this place and that nearly four hundred years later we were drawn to the same place.”

Greta Shuster is currently in Maine, where she is currently an Environmental Studies major at Bates College with a concentration in the humanities. A former Beacon Media intern, she is currently working on a senior project about how poetry can help people overcome environmental disasters.

“A good poem has something at stake,” Greta said. “I keep coming back to a poem if there’s something

emotionally contentious in it.”

All three editors are also poets themselves, and each of the Shusters gave a different answer when asked what types of poems interest them. George likes poems that tackle tough issues but still use formal conventions, citing as an example the *ghazal*. (A definition from The Poetry Foundation: “Consisting of syntactically and grammatically complete couplets, the form also has an intricate rhyme scheme. Each couplet ends on the same word or phrase—the *radif*—and is preceded by the couplet’s rhyming word—the *qafia*, which appears twice in the first couplet. The last couplet includes a proper name, often of the poet’s.”)

Georgia, meanwhile, likes poems that she finds personally relatable – references to the ocean, or where she can find a little bit of herself in the words. And Greta likes brevity. “I’m often drawn to poems that are six to ten lines long, without excess language that distracts from the central meaning of the poem.”

“I think something really valuable about the Prudence Dispatch is that we have three different people at three different stages of life selecting the poems,” Greta said. “Our editorial process is kind of interesting. Because we’re in three different places, we read separately and then advocate for the poems that we like.”

Each monthly-ish editorial session results in two or three poems being selected for the issue. “We don’t have to all like a poem to get it published,” said Georgia.

All three Shusters, however, stress the importance of place in writing.

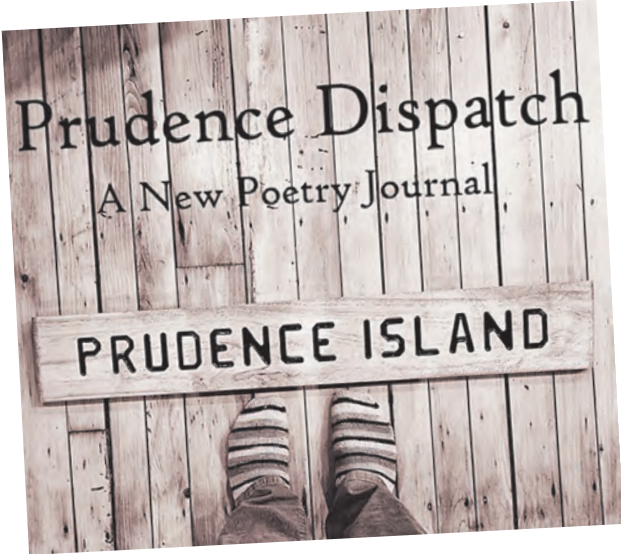
“We’re looking for poems that connect nature with the human experience,” said George. “Which is an extremely broad theme.”

So far the journal has received over one hundred submissions, though surprisingly few from local poets.

“We are trying in this next push over April and May to find ways to solicit more local poets,” George says. “We’d love to get more local submissions.”

“I would definitely echo that sentiment,” adds Greta. “New England has a lot of natural components that are worth writing about! But it’s a very small percentage of the submissions that we’ve seen so far.”

The Shusters hope to release the journal twice a year, alternating three months of reading with three months of assembly and release. Submissions for the premiere issue will be accepted until May 31. To learn more visit www.prudencedispatch.com.





All Fat Ham production photos by Erin X. Smithers

Wilbury’s ‘Fat Ham’ – a big fat fantastic parody

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

The smell of BBQ fills the air as you enter Wilbury’s theatre space at the Waterfire Center.

Scenic Designer Shanel LaShay Smith has created an urban back yard decorated for a family celebration, complete with balloons, karaoke machine and a table full of ribs and potato salad.

Juicy, a queer black man, (Dana Reid) is setting up for the party when he is visited by the ghost of his father who is seeking revenge for his murder by Uncle Rev, who has married Juicy’s mother.

Sound familiar?

Sounds very much like the plot for Shakespeare’s “Hamlet,” which Gamm opens next week.

Playwright James Ijames has taken many liberties in writing the tragicomedy to parallel the classic, creating modern characters who reveal their culture, heritage and personal lives, creating a dysfunctional family much like Hamlet’s.

Maria Albertina plays Tedra, Juicy’s mother, who spreads her sexuality and affection for her new husband.

Juicy is torn between his love for his mother, his conscience and orders from his ghost father to kill Rev (Jermaine L. Pearson).

Others show up for the party, including Juicy’s pal Tio (Jeff Ararat), his gay cousin Opal (Autumn Jefferson),

Marine cousin Larry (Mamadou Toure) and Aunt Rabby (Michelle L. Walker).

All have secrets which are revealed, as playwright Ijames cleverly works in how life can be difficult for Black families as the young have a different set of values that often conflict with the previous generation.

As the play deals with the various life expectations the characters have, it raises serious questions while never losing its sense of humor.

Juicy has moments where he brings his brief soliloquies directly to the audience, often asking our opinion and approval.

“The plays the thing. . .” is the turning point is Shakespeare’s version, where he confronts his uncle to find out the truth.

Juicy uses the game of charades.

The play has two clever endings: One dramatic and the other hilarious, thanks to some careful direction from Don Mays.

“Fat Ham” is different. It is challenging. It is R rated but does show some restraint in its language.

It is not to be missed.

At Wilbury Theatre. Visit wilburytheatre.com for tickets and show times.

As the play deals with the various life expectations the characters have, it raises serious questions while never losing its sense of humor.



See interview with “Fat Ham” director Don Mays on page 20

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By JENNIFER COATES

Spring is in the air! Even though we get some spring downpours from time to time, there are finally flowers, and sunshine, and chirping birds, and more hours of daylight . . . AND, there is also mud, and grass stains, and piles of dirty, sweaty clothes. No doubt about it, with warm weather comes more time spent outside, and with more time spent outside comes more LAUNDRY! Spring sports and spring excursions and spring holidays all equal more need (and less time) for those unavoidable chores – like doing the wash!

Why battle the laundry this spring when you have the able and ready hands of Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry? Jain's Laundry is a busy and convenient Laundromat located right off Route 44 in Johnston. For an incredible .89 per pound, Kaushal will wash, soften, dry, and even fold your laundry – all in one day - at this user-friendly, clean and efficient Laundromat.

Not only is this an amazing time-saving service, but this price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers! The math is simple enough – ten pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off in the morning and ready to go by the end of baseball practice – all for \$8.90. Fifteen pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off on the way to work and ready to go by dinner – all for less than \$14.00! In the age of rising cost everywhere, it is nice to know that Jain's Laundry has made such a necessary chore so affordable.

For the most competitive prices in the area, you will find both the wash-fold, same-day service offered by Kaushal here at Jain's Laundry as well as a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers for the “do-it-yourselfers”. If you are short quarters, the Jain's have got you covered. A change machine



With all the stresses on your time this spring, rely on the dependable and time-saving help of Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry. Let her lighten your load at this busy time of year.

that accepts up to a \$20.00 bill is available here..

There are also large capacity machines available for all size loads, from 25 pounds to 65 pounds. The top loading machines are available here for only \$2.25 per load. The laundromat boasts state-of-the-art dryers which are incredibly efficient, rotating both clockwise and counter-clockwise to prevent that annoying bunching and twisting that make drying uneven in conventional dryers. Such a bang for your hard-earned buck.

There is plenty of parking and a helpful staff here, ready to meet the needs of both residential and commercial customers. You can stay in their clean waiting area between cycles or leave and return between loads. There is always someone there to keep an eye on your clothes or help you as needed.

Jain's Laundry is found in the Plaza 44 shopping plaza. It is handicap accessible, and open seven days each week - from 8 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, and 7 am to 8 pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the services that are available, call 401-231-7019.

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Sports

A look at Johnston's spring teams

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**
SunRise Sports Editor

The spring sports season started late last week and will be in full swing in the coming days. Johnston will be looking to add some hardware to the case up on Cherry Hill with teams and athletes gearing up for the next few months of action.

Here is a snapshot look at the teams representing Johnston High School this spring:

BASEBALL

Last year's record: 10-8 (fell in DII quarter-finals)

Coach: Joe Acciardo

Key returners: Matt Clements, Emmanuel Rios, Ethan Bracey

Key losses: Steven Finegan, Dylan Guernon, Chris Civetti, Armani Arias

Outlook: The Panthers enjoyed a bounce back season last year and reached the Division II playoffs before falling in the quarterfinals. The team lost a couple of key bats in the lineup in Steven Finegan and Chris Civetti, but should be able to hold steady with the returners while also bringing back ace Emmanuel Rios and last year's

● **SPRING to page 14**



Johnston softball pitcher Haley Boudreau last season. *Beacon Media file photo by Alex Sponseller*



RWA headed back to Johnston

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Renegade Wrestling Alliance will be making its return to the Johnston Recreation Center on Saturday, April 12 for its April Reign event.

The event, which will be headed by former champion and newly-appointed commissioner Alfred "Danger Boy Alfredo" Travieso, will feature a stacked

● **RWA to page 14**

Which teams will contend this spring?

Spring sports are officially underway and as always, our three communities will be well represented across the board.

It's early, but here is my outlook on some of our teams as we head into the final season of the school year.

For baseball, the defending champion Bishop Hendricken Hawks will be intriguing, to say the least, as they look to go back to back.

The Hawks graduated last year's MVP Griffin Crain, who was their best pitcher and hitter all season. Returning, though, will be Braeden Campbell and of course, Vanderbilt-commit Pat-



My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

rick Clemmey.

Clemmey is returning from Tommy John surgery and is expected to be ready to go as the team's ace. His brother wound up being drafted in the second round a few years ago and Patrick appears to be a carbon copy. The lefty is 6-foot-5 with a 95-mph fastball. Assuming he stays healthy and is at peak form, he should be the state's best pitcher.

We'll see plenty of top performers in softball,

which is arguably our deepest sport in terms of talent and high-end teams.

Pilgrim will be in the championship mix with most of its lineup back from last season. Sylar Hawes and Madison Tu-irok had breakout seasons last year as freshmen and will be a top-flight combo as sophomores. Of course, veteran Genna D'Amato will be back as one of the state's best, most well-rounded players as well. Pitcher Gretchen Dombeck will also return to the circle with a year of experience as a full-time starter under her belt.

● **PITCH to page 14**



● RWA from page 13

lineup of local wrestlers looking to put on a big time performance.

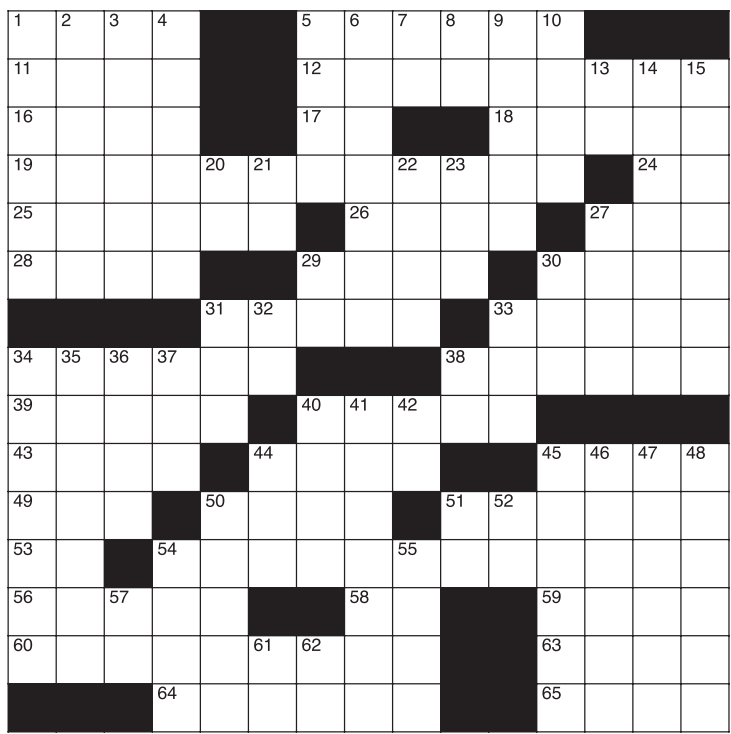
Some notable RWA names that will be going at it include Rylie O’Neil and Sara Jade. There will also be a Lucky 7 Gauntlet match, featuring seven fighters with the winner earning a shot at the title against current champ Mike Graca in June. On top of the gauntlet, there will also be The Monarchy Royal Invitational Tournament, which will be a

bracketed competition featuring seven more performers.

There will also be a newcomer to the action, as Jariel Rivera is slated to make his debut against “The Right Stuff” Stephen Lust.

The event is set to begin at 6 p.m. Front row seats are sold out, however, plenty of seats are still available for purchase at rwa4ever.com. There will be food, drinks and free parking on site. The event is sponsored by The 78 Pub and This Guy’s Pizza.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Narrow piece of wood
- 5. African desert
- 11. Waxy covering on birds’ beaks
- 12. Sour
- 16. Infrequent
- 17. Former AL MVP Vaughn
- 18. Policemen wear one
- 19. Out of the question
- 24. Used to chop
- 25. Symptoms
- 26. Not moving
- 27. Folk singer DiFranco
- 28. Comedian Armisen
- 29. Quantitative fact
- 30. Incline from vertical
- 31. Scottish musician
- 33. Rooney and Kate are two
- 34. Positioned
- 38. A very short time
- 39. Tropical American shrubs
- 40. Yemen capital

- 43. Spanish municipality
- 44. Medical professionals
- 45. Fibrous material
- 49. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 50. Without covering
- 51. “Mad Men” honcho Don
- 53. Hockey position
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Fertile spots in a desert
- 58. They precede C
- 59. “Requiem for a Dream” actor Jared
- 60. Try a criminal case
- 63. Liberal rights organization
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Insect repellent

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Unshaven facial hair
- 2. More thin

- 3. Show up
- 4. Seethed
- 5. Ancient Greek city
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Hello
- 8. College sports official
- 9. Monetary unit of Russia
- 10. Wings
- 13. Take too much of a substance
- 14. A citizen of Uganda
- 15. Most appealing
- 20. Atomic #18
- 21. Global investment bank (abbr.)
- 22. Jewish calendar month
- 23. Popular sandwich
- 27. Swiss river
- 29. Incorrect letters
- 30. Popular entree
- 31. Foot (Latin)
- 32. A driver’s license is one form

- 33. Extinct flightless bird
- 34. Appetizer
- 35. After battles
- 36. It neutralizes alkalis
- 37. Beverage container
- 38. Partner to “Pa”
- 40. Gray American rail
- 41. Salt of acetic acid
- 42. Canadian province
- 44. Dish made with lentils
- 45. Narrative poem of popular origin
- 46. For each one
- 47. Come to terms
- 48. Test
- 50. More dishonorable
- 51. Unit of loudness
- 52. The Ocean State
- 54. Monetary unit in Mexico
- 55. Lying down
- 57. Thus
- 61. Where LA is located
- 62. Western State

● SPRING from page 13

breakout pitcher Ethan Bracey on the mound.

SOFTBALL

Last year’s record: 12-2 (fell in second round of DII losers bracket)

Coach: David Iannucilli

Key returners: Haley Boudreau, Bella Boudreau

Key losses: Arianna Velasquez, Kalyn Foster, Alexia DiLorenzo

Outlook: The Panthers were on a tear last season and were considered to be the favorite to win it all heading into the Division II playoffs. However, West Warwick would pull off the upset to eliminate Johnston in the second round of the losers bracket. Although Johnston lost all-division standout Arianna Velasquez, there should be enough firepower to return to the postseason and make another run at a title. Pitcher Haley Boudreau enters the season as the division’s best arm while Bella Boudreau returns to the lineup after a breakout freshman season last year.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Last year’s record: 12-5 (fell in DIII quarter-finals)

Coach: Greta Lalli

● PITCH from page 13

Also firmly in the title picture is next door neighbor Cranston West, who will have their ace returning in pitcher Mia Crudale, along with senior outfielder Siena Nardelli. Those two alone should guide the Falcons back to the playoffs, but with the depth behind them with standouts like Gianna Dispirito, Nicole Silvestri and Mia Santomassimo, the Falcons will be able to hang with anyone.

Defending champion La Salle will be bringing back much of its lineup and is the heavy favorite to repeat as champs, but it’s a long season.

Cranston East should be considered the favorite to win the DIII title and repeat as champs. Nevaeh Fatorma will be arguably the division’s best player while Jaeda Viveiros will also be back in the mix.

The question will be who replaces Isabella Sousa? She was the team’s ace in the circle last season and will be taking her talents to St. Ray’s. Offense, fielding and experience will be accounted for, but the Bolts will need to have an arm step up.

Johnston had championship aspirations last season but fell short in DII, but should have a chance to make a deep run with all-division standout Haley Boudreau returning to the circle. Bella Boudreau is also back as a sophomore and should give the Panthers some juice at the plate.

For boys lacrosse, the team I’m watching closest is Pilgrim, who was elevated to DI.

The Pats were one of the most dominant teams in DIII and won a title before being moved to DII. Pilgrim immediately shined in DII and reached the finals in back-to-back seasons.

As it always seems to go, the Pats were bumped up as they were set to graduate a key senior class, which in-

Key returners: Santo DiRaimo, Balla Marone, Ryan Carvalho

Key losses: Michael Carlino

Outlook: After claiming back-to-back championships in Division III, the Panthers took a small step back last season, but would still reach the playoffs with a new-look roster. Now, with largely the same lineup returning, the Panthers will face a new test as they were moved up to the Division II ranks in the Rhode Island Interscholastic League’s latest realignment. This is a battle tested bunch, led by returners Balla Marone and Santo DiRaimo, but how far will that take them?

GIRLS LACROSSE

Last year’s record: 0-12 (missed playoffs)

Coach: Jay Areson

Key returners: Fiona Fairbanks

Key losses: Kaylee Poole, Riley Guenette, Aubree Allen, Hannah Lavergne

Outlook: The Panthers aimed for a playoff berth last year but struggled to fill the void left by Hannah Lavergne, who was slated to be the team’s top player but missed the season with a knee injury. Johnston graduated much of its lineup from last season, so another rebuilding year is ex-

pected as the Panthers will be led by a crop of youngsters this season.

BOYS LACROSSE

Last year’s record: 0-16 (missed playoffs)

Coach: Matt Davis

Key returners: Connor Niles, Xavier Grundy, Josiah Everett

Key losses: Landon Faucher, Alex Fedorchuk, Jacob Spinella

Outlook: The Johnston/Cranston East co-op is returning for its second season as a unit and is looking to make a splash in Division III. Although the team graduated some of its foundational pieces from its inaugural roster, there are still a handful of impact players set to return from each school to help this team take a step forward in Division III.

GOLF

Last year’s record: 4-10

Coach: Jason Corsini

Key returners: Elizabeth Kue, Aiden Pannone

Outlook: This ascending program will be returning its full lineup from last season and a few newcomers as well. Elizabeth Kue shined at the state championships and will be leading this team as it looks to build its numbers and make a name for itself this coming spring.

cluded Braxton Bragg and Ryan Barlow, who were two of the program’s best-ever players. Pilgrim has enough returning to fight for a playoff spot, with guys like Brett Taylor, Declan Bragg, Carter Clifton and Ricky Cabral. Will Pilgrim be able to force itself into the upper echelon, though?

Hendricken will be a player in DI as well, with Sebastian Nault leading the way along with Jack Treat. La Salle is the big favorite to win in DI, but can the Hawks pull off a potential upset come June?

Toll Gate will be back in the DIII mix as well, being led by Nick Napolitano who had a breakout year last spring.

As for boys tennis, look for Cranston East to make a run at the DIII championship. The Bolts were among the best in the division last season and came up short in the championship to North Smithfield. The Northmen made the move to DII, though, opening things up for the Bolts.

Jason Barrera, Ansony Chavarria, James Fabiano and Eri Ogunde, among others, return for the Bolts. Seems like it is championship or bust for East as we head into 2025.

Cranston East and West should be back in the playoff mix for boys volleyball.

The Falcons dropped a heartbreaking loss in last year’s championship game but bring back Ashton Mak and Kevin Dilone. The team lost quite a bit, including Chris Harvey and Christian Mak, but know what it takes to make a deep run.

The Bolts went on an unlikely run last season and became one of the best teams in DI and reached the semifinals.

Charles Pincince is one of the state’s most feared outside hitters while Caleb Xum is back as one of the division’s most well-rounded athletes. Expect the Bolts to be in this thing for the long haul.

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Ocean State Grand Nationals returns

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**
SunRise Sports Editor

Don and Christine Rodrigues of the Don Rodrigues Karate Academy in Warwick are excited to present the Ocean State Grand National Karate Championship for the 43rd time this weekend at the Crowne Plaza.

As part of the North American Sport Karate Association (NASKA) World Tour, this weekend's three-day event is set to be one of the largest sport karate competitions in the country with an estimated 1,000 competitors making the trip. Not only will the show feature some of Rhode Island's best, but competitors are traveling internationally to showcase their skills, with schools from Canada, Honduras, Germany and Guatemala also in the mix.

As always, there will be a hall of fame induction, along with a special guest and honoring a local veteran for their service.

This year's hall of fame class includes Lisa Gabriel, Conell Loveless, Manny Reyes Sr. and Justin Ortiz. The special guest will be Ross Levine, who won the Ocean State tournament seven times while also winning 12 sport karate championships, among many other notable achievements in both karate and kickboxing.

Col. Rhonda Gomez will be receiving the Veteran's Award after serving for 36



Don Rodrigues shows off one of the 7-foot-tall trophies that will be handed out this weekend. *Beacon Media photo by Alex Sponseller*

years and receiving numerous accolades for her military service. She is currently a black belt at the Don Rodrigues Karate Academy.

Teams will also be handing out Kevin Thompson Awards, which honors a former local martial artist who passed away after battling Lou Gehrig's Disease for

eight years. Each team selects one of its fighters who embodied Thompson's spirit and resilience.

Championship winners will also receive seven-foot-tall trophies, which have become synonymous with the event over the years, while \$40,000 in prize money will also be handed out. Many

sponsors will be returning including Female Fighters Matter Too and Ocean State Collision. Paul Mitchell will once again be sponsoring the DRKA team as well.

Don Rodrigues is proud to return for another year and to see the tournament's impact across four decades. It started as the Don Rodrigues Karate Championships, hosting 150 fighters. Now, it is one of the country's largest events and provides the state with a nice economic boost, with over 500 hotel nights booked at the Crowne Plaza alone.

"We've been doing it for so long. (My instructor) Nick Cerio pushed me to do the first one. We had 150 competitors and I was tickled pink. Shortly after it got a pulse of its own," said Don Rodrigues, who has been practicing karate for 58 years altogether. "I always say that there are two types of people, martial artists and everyone else. I hope when they see these competitors (this weekend), they think, 'Wow, I want to be like that.' I've been blessed to coach this team and to see our school impacting people's lives."

The Ocean State Grand Nationals will begin on Friday, with super fights, team fighting and open weight fighting beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday's events will begin at 9 a.m.

The black belt finals will take place on Saturday night beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Crowne Plaza's grand ballroom.

Jean-Philippe qualifies for NE Championship

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Junior Bethanie Jean-Philippe (Cranston) qualified for the N.E. Div. III Championship in the javelin as the Rhode Island College Women's track and field team wrapped up the second and last day of competition at Bryant's Black and Gold Invitational on Saturday afternoon.

RIC tied 10th place (16 teams) with a team score of 27.0. Bryant won the meet with a team score of 148.5.

The Anchorwomen competed in a field comprised of mostly Div. I and II competition.

Jean-Philippe finished ninth in the javelin (34.83m).

Fifth-year Trinity Hayes (Providence) finished third in the 400m (1:00.22), fourth in the 200m (26.10) and sixth in the 4x100m relay (51.20).

Senior Samantha Sainristil (Cranston) finished fourth in the shot (11.54m). Freshman Quiana Pezza (Cranston) finished sixth in the 4x100m relay (51.20), 15th in the 100m (13.36) and 27th in the long jump (4.15m).

Junior Tayshia Cary (Wakefield) finished sixth in the 4x100m relay (51.20) and 14th in the 100m (13.32).

Freshman Bendu Kamara (Pawtucket) finished sixth in the 4x100m relay (51.20), 15th in the 200m (26.91) and 18th in the 400m (1:03.81).

Sophomore Lexie Zakrzewski (Taunton, Mass.) finished 22nd in the 200m (27.90).

Freshman Grace Lane (North Smithfield) finished 35th in the 800m (2:35.04).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the 2025 Ocean Cup, hosted by Bryant on Friday and Saturday, April 4-5.

Two Anchormen qualify for NE Championships

Junior Loudon Chupas (Colchester, Conn.) qualified for the N.E. Div. III Championships in the javelin as the Rhode Island College men's track and field team wrapped up the second and last day of competition at Bryant's Black and Gold

Invitational on Saturday afternoon.

Rhode Island College finished in eighth place (16 teams) with a team score of 44.0. Bryant won the meet with a team score of 129.0.

The Anchormen competed in a field comprised of mostly Div. I and II competition.

Chupas finished fourth in the javelin (53.39m) and tied for ninth in the high jump (1.74m).

Freshman Jack McEntee (Foster) qualified for the N.E. Div. III Championship with a fourth place finish in the 400m hurdles (57.23). Senior Garrett Jones (Beacon Falls, Conn.) finished second in the triple jump (12.87m) and 10th in the long jump (5.92m).

Sophomore Will Schiller (Smithfield) finished second in the 400m (50.64) and 17th in the 200m (23.28). Freshman Nick Lamoureux (North Smithfield) finished fifth in the 400m (51.37), tied for ninth in the high jump (1.74m) and 20th in the 200m (23.32).

Sophomore Younton Doe (Pawtucket) finished sixth in the 400m (51.42).

Junior Izaiah Karweh (Providence) finished eighth in the high jump (1.79m). Freshman Joshua Dabanka (Providence) finished eighth in the triple jump (11.74m).

Junior Benjamin Lockwood (Saunderstown) finished 10th in the 3,000m (10:12.56).

Freshman Brody Shiels (Wakefield) finished 10th in the 400m (52.98). Freshman Aiden Fitzgerald (Cumberland) finished 10th in the shot (12.11m).

Freshman Ravi Kapadi (Lincoln) finished 11th in the shot (12.02m). Sophomore Giovanni Monteiro (North Providence) finished 12th in the 400m (53.51).

Freshman Tyrell O'Connell (Pawtucket) finished 12th in the 200m (22.92) and 17th in the 100m (11.36). Sophomore Enrique Edjang (Providence) finished 14th in the javelin (40.22m).

Junior Isiah Briggs (Providence) finished 14th in the long jump, 21st in the 100m (11.61) and 31st in the 200m (24.52).

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Human impacts continue to kill Right Whales

By **CAPT. DAVE MONTI**
Special to the SunRise

Unfortunately, right whales and other large animals of the sea are dying at man’s hand to the point of extinction.

This is the case for the North Atlantic Right Whale. NOAA relates on their web-site at North Atlantic Right Whale | NOAA Fisheries that the species has been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act since 1970. There are approximately 370 individuals remaining, including about 70 reproductively active females. Human impacts continue to threaten the survival of this species. The number of new calves born in recent years has been below average.

So, when I hear recreational boaters, fisherman, and commercial vessel operators complain about mandatory speed zones being applied in areas where whales have been sighted it raises big concerns. The technology we have today including GPS data tags, acoustic tagging and monitoring, spotter plane networks, etc. al-

lows us to know where they are. Plain and simple mandatory slow zones should be applied to these areas.

Science tells us whales, specifically right whale mortality, is directly related to two factors.

Vessel strikes and entanglement in fixed fishing gear such as lobster pots and gillnets. Our robust food/forage profile is different than it was in the past. As a charter captain and angler in New England waters off Rhode Island and Massachusetts coast I know we have always had a variety of bait and forage in the water including maceral and herring of all types, squid, sand lance, sand ells, silversides, scup, etc. but not in this abundance and here all at the same time close to shore.

Right whales are baleen whales, feeding on copepods (tiny crustaceans) by straining huge volumes of ocean water through their baleen plates, which act like a sieve. These robust food/forage profiles are here due to warming water and it has



The Atlantic Right whale named “Accordion” was first sighted in 2011 as a juvenile. She’s named for the series of propeller scars on her back that make her easily recognizable. *Photo by NOAA Fisheries/Tim Cole*

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ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
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11056 Pontiac Ave	Bevilacqua, Thomas	Three Kids LLC	1/10	\$210,000	1 Palm Blvd	Santos, Mynor	Abad, Ruben E and Cordon, Sandy K	1/14	\$380,000
112 Alpine Estates Dr	Martin, Sean J and Martin, Julie M	Mkrtschjan, Nareg and Charchaffian, Kenar	1/14	\$733,000	109 Oakside St	Naylor, Kevin and Prior, Allyson	Kaschner, Emily K	1/14	\$345,000
131 Fordson Ave Lot 9	Gonzalez, Tomas O and Hall, Wendy J	Palin Jr, Richard R	1/10	\$220,000	109 Oakside St Lot 153	Naylor, Kevin and Prior, Allyson	Kaschner, Emily K	1/14	\$345,000
132 Fordson Ave Lot 1	Crossley, Deborah A	Beeley, Theresa	1/14	\$233,400	117 Burr Ave	Maley, Kurt R	First Choice Prop LLC	1/13	\$260,000
132 Hoffman Ave Lot 102	Poghosyan, Haykuhi	Baccari, Erik and Baccari, Lori A	1/12	\$245,900	117 Burr Ave Lot 425	Maley, Kurt R	First Choice Prop LLC	1/13	\$260,000
135 Chestnut Ave	Parsons Frances M Est and Lynch, William R	Gurbanov, Salman	1/14	\$575,000	117 Burr Ave Lot 426	Maley, Kurt R	First Choice Prop LLC	1/13	\$260,000
192 Burdick Dr	Doyle, Mark G	Urena, Yumery G	1/13	\$345,000	131 Nausauket Rd	Sahagian, John R	Mahoney, Shelby and Greenberg, Thomas	1/11	\$460,000
33 Melton St	Mcevoy, Donald	Jean, Edward and Jean, Marilyn M	1/12	\$450,000	16 Majestic Ave	Ann M Reese RET and Traversie, Jon D	Bruscini, Veronica	1/11	\$350,000
36 Cliffdale Ave	Dfn T and Ndiaye, Abdoulaye M	Hidalgo, Michael L	1/14	\$510,000	20 Saint Claire Ave	Remak, William	Dean, Michael	1/12	\$494,000
4 Amanda St	Alger, Thomas A and Alger, Ghyllian	Boone Jr, Wayne	1/14	\$370,000	21 BaldwinRd	Pires, Nuno	Dail, Donna M and Dail, Dennis	1/12	\$565,000
46 Country View Dr	Bruno, William and Brunnschweiler, Christine	Bissanti, Christopher R and Santos, Scarlet	1/14	\$785,000	22 HelenAve	Tassielli, Nicole and Mason, David	Sanchez, Kayla and Sanchez, Luis	1/10	\$446,500
55 Circuit Dr	England, Mark and Mcdonald, Jennifer	Lewis, Brian D and Lewis, Anne L	1/11	\$825,000	299 George ArdenAve	Demarco, Paul	Kenyon Invest LLC	1/11	\$308,000
57 Stony Brook Dr	Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp	Young, James	1/11	\$1	336 Gilbert StuartDr	Oliver, Michael R and Oliver, Robyn	Melhern, Georges	1/12	\$937,000
67 Ellison St	Stemile, Robert W and Stemile, Edwina F	Draper, Jacob and Leazott, Courtney E	1/14	\$410,000	341 Spring GreenRd	Charles A Gaffney T and Gaffney, Charles A	Hurley, Nicholas and Kennedy, Caitlin	1/10	\$706,000
73 Strathmore Rd	Stetson, William D and Stetson, Melissa J	Digiammarino, Frank P and Digiammarino, Carol A	1/14	\$775,000	346 RingAve	Dean, John P	Melo, Sarah and Melo, Gustavo	1/14	\$335,000
80 Conley Ave Lot 8	Maintanis, James A and Maintanis, Linda B	Saccoccio Ft and Saccoccio, Louis G	1/13	\$655,000	3940 Larchwood Dr Lot 25	Mahoney, Shelby D	Laforce, Victoria and Laforce, Kenneth	1/11	\$230,000
876 Atwood Ave	876 Atwood Ave LLC	Mec Cap Partners LLC	1/14	\$560,000	4 WaterviewAve	Guaman, Luis	Rogers, Justin	1/14	\$500,000
876 Atwood Ave Lot 658	876 Atwood Ave LLC	Mec Cap Partners LLC	1/14	\$560,000	466 SquantumDr	Hunt, Brandy M	Obrien, Aaron and Anderson, Lauren	1/13	\$411,600
99 Salem Ave	Funare Raymond W Est and Funaro, Anthony P	Avarista, Steven L	1/14	\$395,000	5 Grand View Dr Lot 117	Obrien, Daniel P and Obrien, Jennifer L	Ferle, Jessica L	1/10	\$350,000
EAST GREENWICH					53 PrincetonAve	Leblanc Jr, Raymond E and Leblanc, Brian R	Mulvey, Erin and Schena 3rd, Michael F	1/12	\$410,000
16 Verndale Dr	Reed, Nancy	Feinberg, Samuel and Feinberg, Brianna	1/11	\$60,000	71 LoganSt	Thomas Gerald LLC	Hook, James	1/11	\$497,000
EXETER					74 NolbethDr	Red Buoy LLC	Miller, William S	1/10	\$1
30 Sheffield Hill Rd	Young Jr William D Est and Gersteberger, Tobi E	Rothwell, Megan and Roolf-Rothwell, Jeannette	1/17	\$559,000	91 Warwick NeckAve	Hurtubise Margaret J Est and Hurtubise, Carl J	Williamson, David B and Williamson, Leza C	1/14	\$535,000
JOHNSTON					917 Major PotterRd	Nordstrom, Robert C	Mason, David and Tassielli, Michael	1/11	\$570,000
1134 Central Ave	Hayhurst, Michael R	Hetu, Shannon M and Hetu, Jeffrey M	1/17	\$425,000	94 FairwayLn	Authelet, Judith A and Authelet, Kevin L	Obrien, Daniel P and Obrien, Jennifer L	1/10	\$465,000
12 Lake View Ct	Dail, Donna M and Dail, Dennis	Monahan, Michael S	1/12	\$750,000	944 Halifax Dr Lot 94-944	Bugbee Howard B Sr Est and Montaquila, Jill C	Jeffrey P Duclos RET and Duclos, Jeffrey P	1/11	\$235,000
15-R Milton St	Correia, Joao and Lima, Romina	Nicholas Terzakis RET and Terzakis, Nicholas	1/12	\$465,000	298 WashingtonSt	Sprague, Amy and Conlan Jr, William A	Malinowski, Maciel T	1/18	\$585,000
158 Putnam Pike	Aust Harold S Est and Connelly 3rd, R J	M&a Family Realty LLC	1/17	\$242,000	44 Old CarriageRd	Oliveira, Chaen R and Oliveira, Daniela C	Cannistraci Jr, Joseph J	1/18	\$2,476
26 Salina Ave	Morin, Christopher J and Morin, Lori L	Johnston Town Of	1/18	\$377,000	7 TampaSt	Corpuz, Felix V and Corpuz, Kathleen M	Mcnaamara, Alexandria N	3/18	\$403,000
3 Hamilton Dr	Singharath, Souththiphong and Singharath, Vanida	Concepcion, Joel A	1/18	\$549,000	892 Providence St	Lacroix, Jason	Catone, Michael	3/17	\$550,000

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● WHALES from page 16

brought large animals such as whales, sharks, dolphin and tuna closer to shore than ever before to feed.

These animals being closer to shore to feed are now in areas where they normally do not swim in shipping lanes, in areas where there is fixed fishing gear and in areas where there is a great number of recreational, fishing and commercial vessels of all types enhancing the odds of whale strikes and entanglement.

NOAA recently announced a new large whale research photo gallery at 2025 Large Whale Research in Photos | NOAA Fisheries. I was particularly struck by a photo of a right whale named Accordion. North Atlantic Right Whale Accordion (right whale #4150) was spotted off the coast of New York on Feb. 3, 2025 with her new calf. This is her first calf and the eighth known for the 2025 Right Whale calving season. Accordion was first sighted in 2011 as a juvenile. She’s named for the series of propeller scars on her back that make her easily recognizable.

I support mandatory speed zones where mammals are spotted, it makes good sense to protect these mammals and their precious few calves.

Used Tackle Sale

The Annual Snug Harbor Marina Used Tackle Sale starts Saturday, April 26 and 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Elisa Cahill of Snug Habor Marina, South Kingstown, RI, said, “We are getting some great used tackle including rods, reels, combos, lures, jigs and accessories in every day and will be accepting gear for sale right up until Friday, April 25. So, if you have gear you no longer use it could become cash to get that tuna jigg-ing combo or whatever new gear you may need.”

Receive a 100 percent store credit for sold used items, or get cash after the shop receives a 20 percent commission. For information on the sale contact Snug



Elisa Cahill and Matt Conti's Snug Harbor Marina Used Tackle Sale is April 26 and 27. Receive a 100 percent store credit for your sold used items, or get cash after the shop receives a 20 percent commission. Call (401) 783-7766.

Harbor Marina, 410 Gooseberry Rd, Wakefield, RI, (401) 783-7766.

Marine Fisheries Council meeting April 7

The Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council will hold a hybrid in person and online meeting April 7, 2025, 6 p.m. at the URI Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium, 215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett. Issues before the Council will include commercial Atlantic menhaden management in Narragansett Bay, 2025 Cobia regulations and the Ninigret Pond-Foster Cove sub-area I and sub-area 2 referenced as the Ninigret Pond Shellfish Management area and a variety of commercial fishing regulations.

To attend the meeting online visit Zoom. Meeting ID: 833 5755 1596 Passcode: 786797 Dial in: 1-929-205-6099 (listen on-

ly).

The agenda and the packet (meeting materials) are available on the Division’s calendar page at Public Meetings Calendar | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (go to April 7).

Fisheries Commission annual report available

The Atlantic States Maine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) 2024 Annual report is now available at 2024 Annual Report - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission .

The ASMFC managers fisheries in state waters for coastal states from the three-mile limit and inland. The report features a quick guide to stock status for the 27 species and species groups the Commission manages; a fisheries management section, which focuses on species which had the

most significant management or stock assessment activities in 2024; and sections highlighting major accomplishments in 2024 in the areas of fisheries science, habitat conservation, and fishery data collection and management.

Visit the Commission’s website at <https://asmfc.org> for additional information.

Where’s the bite?

“Striped bass fishing continues to be hot in our salt ponds and angler Tom McGuyer has been catching keeper size striped bass in the 30” to 31” range in the Nar-row River this week,” said Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown.

Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, said, “Some of our customers have been fishing the Housatonic River in Connecticut and are hooking up with as many as 30 nice size bass a

night.”

Freshwater fishing, Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tack, said, “Large-mouth bass fishing was on fire this week. We are catching fish in the seven-pound range. In waterways that have herring runs white and purple jerk baits are working well. Other waterways are hot to with spinner baits being the tick-et.”

Opening day for trout season in Rhode Island is Saturday, April 12.

Dave Monti holds a master captain’s license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verizon.net or visit www.nofluke-fishing.com.

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THURSDAY AT 3PM

New Open Mic Night showcases local artist

By ROB DUGUAY

Open mic nights are a lot more than just people signing up on a list and going on stage to perform. It's an opportunity for a scene to be conceived or cultivated alongside like-minded creatives, while networking and possibly sowing the seeds of collaboration.

There are numerous open mics that occur in various establishments around Rhode Island, and a new one has just started on a monthly basis.

Every first Wednesday from 6-9pm, Proclamation Ale Company in Warwick will be a blank canvas for anyone who wants to play some tunes, tell some jokes, recite some poems and even tell a story or two. Local musician Jeff Glover will be hosting the event with a goal of eventually fostering a community around it.

Glover has been playing guitar for most of his life, and he has performed various solo gigs around southern Rhode Island. This open mic night is a new venture for him, and he's excited to be leading the monthly gathering.

"I've been playing around with mostly acoustic guitars for most of my life," he said about his musical background. "Recently, I've just played as a solo singer and guitarist while doing small gigs mostly in South County. I took a couple years off from doing that and this is the first open mic that I've hosted and I'm hoping that it's kind of a springboard to get some more gigs locally. I do mostly acoustic covers and I've been doing that pretty much for a long time now."

When it comes to performing acoustic versus electric, Glover considers himself a purist. He also has a unique story about the guitar he performs with.

"I've actually built my own guitar through learning how to build one by studying under a master guitar maker," he mentions about his six-string. "I'm a big fan of mostly folk music. I love a lot of bluegrass and a lot of really kind of rootsy stuff. The sound of an acoustic



Jeff Glover. Submitted photo

versus an electric is just night and day. I do play some electric, but I always gravitate towards the acoustic, especially for live performances.

Glover is a former employee at Proclamation. When the people who run the establishment had the idea for the open mic, they reached out to him about it and he immediately jumped at the opportunity.

"I actually worked at Proclamation for about five and a half years up until this past October," he talks about his prior history with the brewery. "Lori [Witham] and I had talked about me coming back to play gigs out on the patio and it was mostly brainstorming from the folks at Proclamation for the open mic. Of course, as soon as she told me, I jumped right on it. It's a great opportunity for not only the brewery but also the music and artist community in Warwick."

Glover wants to provide an outlet for artistic types who either have never performed in front of people, or they're hesitant to do so. He recognizes what an open mic can do for a community, and he aims to have a positive impact with the monthly event.

"Open mics were my gateway," he said. "It's just a fantastic opportunity for maybe that shy singer, poet or guitar player who has been in their living room practicing their talent and they want an inviting and calm place to come out and put their sound out to the people. It's a really great way to get started and from all the ones I've ever been a part of, there's just an amazing amount of talent right under our nose. Open mics are a great way to kind of get those folks out, I want to be super supportive, bring out the people who might be too shy or folks might not recognize them around town and create a platform for them to just come out and shine. It's always amazing to sit and watch the folks that show up, they may have never even sung into a microphone before and it's a super low-pressure and very welcoming platform."

Brothers stand by their personal convictions

On Sept. 16, 1940, the Selective Training and Service Act went into effect as the first peacetime draft in the history. Like every other American male between the ages of 21 and 35, brothers Albert and Henry Schiavino were called to add their names to the database.

Twenty-three-year-old Albert and 20-year-old Henry lived with their parents, Charles and Angelina (Scetta), on Power Road in Pawtucket. Blonde, blue-eyed Albert had worked as a newspaper boy to earn extra money before graduating from Pawtucket High School, while raven-haired Henry – known to friends and family as "Hank" – excelled in football and baseball while a student at East Side High School and expected to engage in a radio career.

By spring of 1941, Henry was working as a photography salesman for Loring's Studio in Providence and had been elected the new president of the Sixth Ward Italo-American Club. Albert had gotten married and was working for the George Fuller Company. Both boys were called by the draft board.

Albert, who had settled on King Street in Johnston with his new wife, wrote to the board explaining that he had recently become a husband and was the sole support of his spouse. He requested that he be reclassified as someone not able to serve in the military. His request was denied and he was ordered to report for induction into the army on April 9, 1942.

By Feb. of 1942, Albert had become a new father and wrote another letter to the draft board stating, "I am informing you that I will not be present for induction on

Back in the Day

by Kelly Sullivan



Thursday, April 9, 1942. My humanitarian convictions and conscientious beliefs cannot permit me to take active participation in war or to take part in anything contributing to its support."

Albert's unwillingness to kill another human being as a means of settling differences was a value Henry greatly understood but didn't personally share. At a meeting of the Italo-American Club, he predicted, "I feel this Hitler is not going to accept peace terms. He's got to be beaten first." Albert felt the time for peaceful debate was over.

On the day scheduled for his induction in April, Albert did not show up. As per the required protocol he was offered a judicial hearing and the opportunity to have an attorney represent while he made his explanations to the court. Albert surrendered himself to the authorities on April 11 and he was arrested. The \$2,000 bail hanging over his head was paid by his wife's parents and he was released until the hearing.

Later, before the judge, Albert's claims of being a conscientious objector were shot down by the prosecution who pointed out that Albert's concerns were of a philosophical nature and not born from religious teaching. The judge offered Albert a deal – he would sentence him to a mere two years of probation if he readily agreed to induction into the armed services. Albert refused the offer. On May

27, 1942, the federal grand jury returned an indictment against him for evading the Selective Service and, on June 2, he was sentenced to serve two years in prison, followed by three years of probation.

Only twenty-four hours earlier, Henry had enlisted in the Army. A few weeks prior, he scheduled a military exam in Providence with the hopes of training to become a fighter pilot. The exam showed that his math skills were not up to par and he was rejected from the program. As part of the Army Air Force, he was accepted into glider pilot training.

The brothers, each holding close to his own convictions, faced the consequences of their personal concerns and values. Henry had taken a patriotic vow to disarm the enemy in any way necessary while being fully aware that he was gambling with his own life. Albert chose incarceration, and separation from his wife and baby daughter, rather than be faced with the need to take another's life.

On Dec. 23, 1947 President Harry Truman granted pardons to 1,523 Selective Service Act violators. Albert was among them. Earlier that year, Henry was honorably discharged from the military, having risen to the rank of staff sergeant. Putting his teenage dream into motion, he secured a job as a radio disc jockey at WFCI in Pawtucket. Through the 1950s, he was known as Carl Henry, a popular DJ hosting rhythm & blues radio shows on stations WRIB and WPAW. He also opened a record store called "Carl's Diggins" which he ran until a year before his 1986 death. Albert died 12 years later.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable

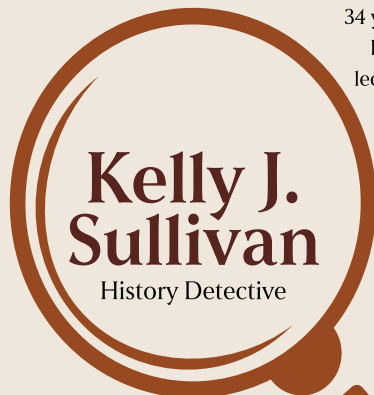


Photo credit: Traer Scott

Angel

Angel's story is like so many that end up in a shelter, he lost his home when his parents went into a nursing home. While that's heartbreaking enough, he was surrendered with his brother who was found to have cancer and he has since passed too. At just five years old Angel has been through so much, yet he still has so much love in his heart. Angel will need to be your one and only pet in the home and a fenced in yard would be his dream. A place where he can run, play and bask in the sun with you! If you've been searching for a pup whose life you can help to change, then please contact the Warwick Animal Shelter to find out more about Angel. Call 401-468-4377 for more information and be sure to go meet him in person, spend some time getting to know Angel's heart!

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at animaltalk1920@gmail.com



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Family, fate and firepits: the art of directing Fat Ham

by IDA ZECCO



“Fat Ham” director Don Mays. Submitted photo by Niki Healy

Fat Ham is a contemporary adaptation of Shakespeare’s Hamlet, written by James Ijames. Set in a southern family barbecue, the play reimagines the classic tragedy through the lens of modern Black culture, blending humor, pathos, and social commentary. The protagonist, Juicy, grapples with familial expectations, identity, and unresolved trauma, all while navigating the complexities of love, revenge, and personal freedom. Fat Ham explores themes of legacy, masculinity, and self-acceptance, offering a fresh, relatable take on the timeless struggle between the past and the future.

Fat Ham is being performed at the Wilbury Theatre Group, in Providence from March 27 through April 13.

IDA: Fat Ham is a reimagining of Shakespeare’s Hamlet—what drew you to directing this play?

DON: I am a classically trained actor, who has studied at the Shakespeare Company in New York City. I have always had a special relationship with “The Bard.” The story of Hamlet works its way into so many current themes and different genres of theater and film. People have taken useful advantage of the pliability of the

original Hamlet. And James Ijames melds the story well into the Fat Ham script.

IDA: What was your approach in blending the Shakespearean elements with the modern elements?

DON: This play is more comedic than Hamlet and takes place during a black family’s backyard cookout. For those who have been brought up in a Black family, they will relate to the kinds of calamity that can happen at a family barbeque. My approach is always about getting to the essence of the character and building those characters into an authentic story.

IDA: What was your vision for staging the play, and bringing it to life?

DON: It is within the rehearsal process that my vision evolves. As I work with the actors during that process, the vision is being created - by all of us. It is important to me to bring together people I trust and who are willing to develop collaboratively as an ensemble in order to blend and maximize the actors’ talents into play. As my vision develops, I use their talents to get us to the finish line. My approach is to ask questions rather than to give directions because each character contributes to that visionary development.

IDA: What was your approach in shaping Juicy’s character?

DON: I worked in one-on-one sessions with Juicy. We avoided making the role of Juicy a caricature. Together, we discovered his own sexuality and how he approaches relationships, career path and his place in the family as well as the demanding expectations from his deceased father. The playwright is familiar with North Carolina, where the play is placed, and understands the cultural, social and political environments. While these elements may seem ponderous, Ijames has found a way of having fun with these themes as he bends the Shakespearian narrative.

IDA: Were there moments where the actors brought something unexpected to their roles?

DON: When the actors were discovering their own characters and relationships with other characters, they each found elements that were surprises to them. My process of posing questions instead of giving answers allows actors to uncover, on their own, who they are on stage. This results in a deeper, personal character development which emerges faster and is sustained longer.

IDA: How did you navigate the complex themes of masculinity, queerness, and family?

DON: One of the great things about theater and the people who are drawn to it, is their greater understanding of these themes. They are open to them. This cast came into rehearsals hungry and ready to get at it. I appreciated their willingness to discover every and all aspects of who they are in this play.

IDA: How did you balance the deep emotions and comedy of this play?

DON: It helps that the play is well written. Having a comedy background and having done stand-up helps, too. My experiences come with the understanding of people being the most human. The comedy is organic. Teasing out physical comedy and innuendo that enhances the storytelling is an element of my methodology. I will ask actors about their own personal stories as it relates to the scene. Invariably, when retelling their stories, even the sad ones, they find some humor in them. They bring that to their characters.

IDA: While directing Fat Ham, what most stands out for you?

DON: The production is surrounded by gifted people and what stands out most for me is the fun we have had. I start every rehearsal process with, “If it ain’t fun, we ain’t doin’ it right.”

IDA: What do you hope audiences take away from Fat Ham?

DON: Audiences will have a lively, fun and provocative night of theater. They will appreciate Hamlet’s adaptation. And I hope they reflect upon their own personal lives and how they treat people: with respect or lack thereof inside and outside of the family.

IDA: How do you see Fat Ham contributing to conversations about identity, trauma, and self-acceptance?

DON: I think it is spot-on in addressing all of these conversations. It doesn’t hide, mask, or make them stereotypes. The play has some beautiful overtones that allow the audience to see these themes in very different ways. We need these issues portrayed in a way in which we are able to see these characters as real people living real lives. We need more of this in this country; to see everyone as who they are; who they are as individuals, who we are as people and who we are as a country.



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