BY MICHAEL GAGNE REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

THOMASTON — The driver of a vehicle traveling the wrong way on Route 8 north near Exit 38 late Saturday night collided head on with another vehicle, totaling both vehicles and causing what so far have been described as non-fatal injuries to both drivers.

Joiana Ireland, 34, of Wa-

Route 8 in the left travel lane when at about 11:43 p.m., the 2006 Honda Pilot she was driving was hit by a 2000 Honda Civic, which was heading south — the wrong way — in the same lane, according to Connecticut State Police.

Police identified the driver of the Civic as Liniker Porto, 35, of Naugatuck. Porto did not have a driver's license in

his possession at the time of the crash, police said.

After the crash, the northbound lanes of the highway were closed overnight just north of Exit 37 as emergency personnel, including state police, Thomaston police, the Thomaston Fire Department and Ambulance Corps and the Watertown Fire Department, responded

See CRASH, Page 7A

A HISTORY OF **WRONG-WAY DRIVERS**

A rundown of past wrong-way crashes on Connecticut highways, some of which involved drunken drivers and have resulted in fatalities. PAGE 7A

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

KATIE LOU SAMUELSON, **UCONN TOP LSU, 76-53,**

EXTENDING RECORD

WINNING STREAK

TO 78 GAMES,

PAGE 12B

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN ARE IN THE SPOTLIGHT IN THIS WALKUP TO THANKSGIVING DAY, SECTION D



Firm wants to take city trash

A company that currently handles much of Waterbury's recyclable waste wants to also handle regular trash by converting its city facility into a transfer station. PAGE 1B

Towns join in Lucky's rescue



A stray cat that was likely doused in gas and set on fire is on the mend thanks to the efforts of animal control officers in the area and Southbury pet rescuers. PAGE 2B

Obama, Putin talk about Syria

President Obama spoke briefly with the **Russian president about Syria and Ukraine** on Sunday as a Pacific region economic summit got underway in Peru. PAGE 3A

Drake excels at music awards

Drake, who has skipped his fair share of awards shows in recent years, shined at the 2016 American Music Awards, winning at least two trophies. PAGE 5A

OPINION OF THE DAY: "Let's take the high road as a state and avoid the bridge that has led many young adults and their families into a lifetime of suffering, addiction and death." — Anita Weaver, Oxford READ THE FULL LETTER ON PAGE 8A



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>> SEX TRAFFICKING Watch videos featuring officials from the Waterbury state's attorney's office speaking about how victims are lured into the life of a sex slave.

>> TELL YOUR FRIENDS Look for the "Share" button on stories at rep-am.com to send them to friends via Facebook, Twitter and other social media.

EAT FOR FREE Enter for a chance to win a \$25 gift card from Maples Restaurant in Middlebury through the Online Dining Guide.



Snow shower or flurries possible, with high wind until 6 p.m. Page 10A

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Movie times 10A Obituaries 4B Public notices 6C Sudoku 3C Television 3C



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RA SPECIAL REPORT

"There was a silent calling in my heart that I just can't keep living this way."

THERESA LEONARD, SEX TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR



Theresa Leonard at Wintonbury Church in Bloomfield. Leonard, a survivor of sex trafficking, was sold for sex by her mother at the age of 9.

SURVIVING

Abused as a child, one victim is now working to help others

SOLD FOR SEX

with police, Page 9A.

>> Annmarie Boulay and others are

on a mission to fight sex trafficking in Connecticut, **Page 9A**.

>> Victims of sex trafficking sometimes

can't escape, and others won't cooperate

>> Visit rep-am.com to watch

video reports for this story.

BY TRACEY O'SHAUGHNESSY

Her mother always told her there would be Chuck E. Cheese

She'd imagine herself there, with the skee ball and the ball pit and those tubes to crawl through, like a mouse. That is where she let her mind go, as strangers had their way with her, or as she performed sex acts.

She had never been to a Chuck E. Cheese. She had never owned a toothbrush, or slept in her own bed, although she'd curl up in a motel closet when it was all over, when her mother had

the money for a room. From the time she was 9 and her heroin-addicted mother, Mary Elizabeth

Ross, bought her makeup,

clothes and a pair of high heels, Theresa Leonard was sex trafficked. The first time, her mother dropped her off at an apartment building. Theresa knocked on the door. When she got inside, she knew what to do. She had seen her mother do

FREEIMAGES.COM

it so many times. Leonard, 44, a blond, caramel-eved woman who

looks like a grown-up version of Cindy from "The Brady Bunch," has no real hometown. She bounced around Connecticut — Torrington, New Haven, Waterbury — while her mother sold her for sex.

Her mother's instructions were clear:

See SURVIVING, Page 9A

Mass. pot law raises crash risk in Conn.

Officials fear return trip by **DUI** drivers

BY BRIGITTE RUTHMAN

The legalization of marijuana in Massachusetts is raising concerns about impaired drivers crossing Connecticut's northern boundary after traveling to partake.

The passage of Question 4 in the Bay State on Nov. 8 means it will be legal for adults 21 and older to use marijuana, possess up to 10 ounces of it, and grow up to 12 plants at home. The referendum's passage also clears the way for the opening of marijuana retail stores next year.

The implications concern enforcement agencies and organizations including AAA.

"We oppose any measures to legalize the recreational use of marijuana because it

See DRIVERS, Page 6A



CONTRIBUTED

A Halloween pumpkin sports a 'snow-fro' in Norfolk after the 'icebox of Connecticut' got about 10 inches of snow.

Norfolk lives up to its nickname

STAFF AND NEWS SERVICE REPORTS

The first major snowfall of the season is hitting parts of southern New England.

Residents of Norfolk known as the "icebox of Connecticut," reported getting about 5 inches of snow by mid-afternoon and close to another 5 after nightfall, for a total of about 10 inches.

Power went out in some parts of town just before 1:30 p.m. but was restored for many about three hours later. At 8 p.m. it was still snow-

See SNOW, Page 9A