Two hurt in Route 8 crash
Driver going wrong way slams into northbound vehicle

BY MICHAEL GAUBE
republican-american

THOMASTON — The driver of a vehicle traveling the wrong way on Route 8 north near Exit 31 late last night collided head on with another vehicle, resulting in both vehicles and causing what so far have been described as non-fatal injuries to both drivers.

Joan Ireland, 34, of Waterbury, was northbound on 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 Limiko Porto, 35, of Naugatuck. Porto does 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 Waterbury Fire Department, responded.

Mass. pot law raises crash risk in Conn.
Officials fear return trip by DUI drivers

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, police said, among organizations including AAA.

“The argument goes, we’re going to get them coming over from Massachusetts to Connecticut, and they’re going to be under the influence of marijuana,” said AAA spokesman John A. Berson.

The state police agreed.

“We’re definitely going to see an increase in marijuana-related crashes,” state police spokesman Christopher Massa said.

Massachusetts has a reputation for high-quality marijuana, especially the Blueberry strain.

“Blueberry is especially popular,” Massa said.

He added that Police are concerned about drivers traveling from Massachusetts to Connecticut to take advantage of the legal marijuana marketplace.

“We're sending a message to all drivers that marijuana is not a legal substance, and don’t drive impaired, no matter where you get it from,” Massa said.

The state police are also concerned about drivers who might buy the drug in Massachusetts, then bring it back to Connecticut.

“I think everyone is aware of the dangers of marijuana use, and it is not legal,” Massa said.

The impact of Question 4 on New York is less clear, Massa said.

“I don’t know what’s going to happen on the border between New York and Massachusetts,” Massa said.

He added that if there is an increase in marijuana-related crashes, police will be more vigilant in enforcing impaired driving laws.

A Halloween pumpkin sports a "sneer-ve" in Norfolk after the "Icebox of Connecticut" stopped about 10 inches of snow.

Norfolk lives up to its nickname

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

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

Peter West said in some parts of town just before 1:30 p.m. it was reduced for many about three hours.

At 4 p.m. it was still snowing.

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