

Bear sighting reported in Easton A12

CONNECTICUT POST

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THURSDAY August 28, 2008

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UConn opens season tonight vs. Hofstra B1

RED SOX BEAT YANKEES AGAIN B1



'TRAITOR'
LATEST DON CHEADLE FILM
TACKLES POST-9/11 TIMES



IN TODAY'S PREVIEW PLUS: THE WEEKEND CALENDAR

DEATH ON THE WATER

SAILING TRAGEDY

3-YEAR-OLD GIRL DROWNS

Catamaran capsizes during lesson off coast of Cockenoe Island

QUESTIONS RAISED

18-year-old instructor was working with two 3-year-olds and a 6-year-old



Ned Gerard/Staff photographer

Hobie Cat sailboats sit on the beach at the Long Shore Sailing School in Westport on Wednesday, one day after a 3-year-old New York girl drowned off nearby Cockenoe Island.

By **PATRICK McNAMEE**
Correspondent

WESTPORT — The state medical examiner Wednesday ruled that a 3-year-old Brooklyn, N.Y., girl who was aboard a catamaran that capsized off Cockenoe Island in Long Island Sound Tuesday died of accidental drowning.

Alexandra Vitale was pronounced dead at Norwalk Hospital after attempts to resuscitate her failed.

Westport Marine Police officers found her unresponsive in the water and performed CPR while transporting her to Compo Beach. From there, an ambulance rushed her to Norwalk Hospital.

Alexandra was aboard a Hobie Cat with an 18-year-old instructor from Longshore Sailing School and her two cousins, William Howell, 3, and Andrew Howell, 6, also of Brooklyn.

Visitors to Longshore Club Park, site of the school, were shocked Wednesday.

► Please see **WESTPORT** on A13



A look at Cockenoe Island off the coast of Westport. Longshore Sailing School can be seen center at the bottom of this aerial photo by Morgan Kaolian/AEROPIX

UI easement costs family shrubbery

By **ROB VARNON**
Staff writer

STRATFORD — Bo Netter walked into her back yard Wednesday morning, expecting to see the suburban pastoral scene she's gazed upon for the last 22 years — a green lawn that ends at a three-foot-high hedge. Instead, she saw The United Illuminating Co.'s construction crew, which had just leveled the long-standing shrubbery.

"I couldn't believe how fast they worked," Netter said by phone. She had

seen the crew earlier that morning working on UI's easement that runs behind her house and those of her neighbors on Emerald Place. But she thought it was just a tree-trimming operation, so she continued to go through her morning ritual. She stopped dead in her tracks when she walked outside to go to her car and watched the crew finish off her hedge.

It took the crew about 15 minutes to rip

"I don't want money. I just want it the way it was."

Bo Netter
Homeowner

out the hedges that had been on the property since she bought the house in the mid-1980s, she said.

Theresa Sanchez, a neighbor of the Netters, said UI's work didn't surprise her. "We all knew when we bought here there was an easement on the property."

The Sanchez property had pretty much

► Please see **STRATFORD** on A9

Democrats make history at convention

Obama, Biden receive nominations as Clintons continue push for unity

By **DAVID ESPO**
Associated Press

DENVER — Barack Obama stepped triumphantly into history Wednesday night, the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination, as thousands of Democrats transformed their convention hall into a joyful, shouting celebration.

"I think the convention's gone pretty well so far, what do you think," called out the Democrats' man of the hour in a surprise late-night visit to the hall. The crowd thundered its approval, and he and running mate Joe Biden basked in the cheers.

Obama implored the delegates to help him "take back America" in the fall campaign against Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Earlier, former rival Hillary Rodham Clinton asked the convention to interrupt its roll call of the states and make its verdict unanimous "in the spirit of unity, with the goal of victory." And they did, with a roar.

Competing chants of "Obama" and "Yes we can" surged up from the convention floor as the outcome was announced.

Obama, the son of a black Kenyan father and a white American mother, is now one victory from becoming president of a nation where, just decades ago, many blacks were denied the vote.

► Please see **OBAMA** on A9



Ron Edmonds/Associated Press

Former President Bill Clinton speaks at the Democratic National Convention on Wednesday night.



MORE COVERAGE

■ **I pledge allegiance** ... A veteran from Ridgefield opens Wednesday's session by leading convention in Pledge of Allegiance. A8.

■ **The view from Denver.** A Connecticut delegate blogs from the convention at forum.connpost.com/democrats

WELCOME TO SCHOOL



Brian A. Pounds/Staff photographer

Denise Maxwell, a first-grade teacher at the new Geraldine Johnson School in Bridgeport, greets one of her new students, Chris Garrett, 5, on the opening day of school. See stories on the first day of school in Bridgeport and Derby on A5 and more photos at www.connpost.com.



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TODAY'S FORECAST

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Periods of sun.
Full forecast, A12. Updates at www.connpost.com

September 2 • 6:30 - 7:30 PM

"Mood Swings, Night Sweats, Hot Flashes—Getting through Menopause"
Mamata Bharucha, MD

At Cinzano's Restaurant
1920 Black Rock Trpk, Fairfield, CT
Registration will begin at 6:15 pm • Refreshments

Seating is limited. To register, or for more information, please call **The St. Vincent's Care Line at 1-877-255-SVHS (7847).**