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DRU NADLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On Wednesday, Candice Fox will graduate from the adult education program, three years after entering it. Her mother home-schooled Candice and her siblings. Candice is enrolling at Norwalk Community College in the fall and hopes to study bioethics or psychology.

From home school to night school

By Wynne Parry
STAFF WRITER

STAMFORD — To receive her night school diploma, Candice Fox was required to take two science classes. Instead, she took three. The first one, biology with a teacher named Sara White, was the first science class Candice had ever taken.

"I didn't like her as a teacher at first, we clashed because she was teaching evolution," Candice said. "I had a big attitude with her."

Until 2006, Candice had never studied in a classroom; she began home schooling with her mother instead of entering kindergarten at Northeast Elementary School. She struggled at first in night school because she had never

Stamford teen to address her graduating class

taken notes before and because, at 16, her math skills ended at addition and subtraction. The biology class, however, required a shift in thinking.

"I believe in some of it to a certain extent. Science is really interesting," said Candice, 19.

She later took White's other two classes: forensic science, and anatomy and physiology. White also tutored her, using an Advanced Placement biology textbook, before night class started.

On Wednesday evening, Candice will graduate from Adult Education's High School Credit Diploma Program. Despite a rough start, her high grades earned her a place as a speaker during the ceremony, representing her program.

Her mother, Carolyn Fox, won't be in the audience; she died in 2006 from a heart attack. Candice now lives in an apartment with her father in the Springdale neighborhood. Next fall, she plans to attend Norwalk Community College, then transfer to pursue a degree in psychology or bioethics.

"I have so many schools I like," she said, before narrowing the field. "UPenn is my dream school."

Please see GRADUATE on A5

Can police use GPS to track crime?

NY ruling raises the issue of use without warrants

By Debra Friedman
STAFF WRITER

During the early hours of Dec. 21, 2005, a New York State Police investigator crept under a suspect's parked van, placing a small GPS unit in the vehicle's bumper. The device remained there for 65 days, tracking the suspect's every move on the road and recording data used later to convict him of burglary in Albany, N.Y.

Police never applied for a warrant before placing the tracker.

Three years later, in a recent landmark decision, the New York Court of Appeals ruled the move unconstitutional, granting Scott Weaver, 41, a new trial and rejecting evidence gathered by the GPS unit. The Albany County district attorney has dismissed the charges against Weaver because of a lack of evidence.

But in Connecticut, where the issue has never been called into question, police are free to conduct the same type of high-tech surveillance without establishing some type of probable cause, according to legal experts.

Police don't need a warrant to watch drivers while they're in plain view on public roads, and some argue that GPS technology is merely an extension of that basic police work.

"I don't believe it is required any more than a warrant is required to conduct surveillance," said Lt. J. Paul Vance, state police spokesman. "That's all it really is: surveillance."

In Greenwich, Police Chief
Please see GPS on A6

Lawmakers don't want limits on their speech

By Brian Lockhart
STAFF WRITER

It was about 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, the final night of the 2009 legislative session, and state Sen. Edward Meyer, D-Guilford, was fuming.

The Republican minority was running out the clock debating a prescription drug bill — the latest salvo in the GOP's plan to wield the filibuster to kill legislation and express a general frustration with the way the Democrat-majority ran the session.

But Meyer was also upset with his caucus leadership for refusing to use available parliamentary procedures — setting time limits for a debate or abruptly ending a debate by calling a vote — to bring the "tyranny of the minority"

to a halt and move business along.

In a brief interview outside the state Senate chamber, Senate President Donald Williams Jr., D-Brooklyn, said he has heard more lawmakers contemplating trying to force votes or "call the question" this session than during any other time since his election in 1993.

But Williams said he had no intention of cutting the Republicans off.

"I would just say it's been the tradition to this point," Williams said.

But Meyer is hoping to force a conversation about the issue later this year. He has asked the state Office of Legislative Research to study the

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2009 YEARBOOK



KATHLEEN O'ROURKE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Trinity Catholic senior Ryan Adkins will graduate today.

The first weekend in June marks the beginning of the high school graduation season, and with it, feelings of expectancy that can withstand even the gloomiest of economic times.

Today, seniors from two private schools in Stamford, King and Trinity Catholic High School, will hurl their caps to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance." The Advocate asked six members of the Class of 2009 to reflect on their accomplishments and passions, the impact money has had on their choices, and memorable moments of the past four years.

FOR INTERVIEWS WITH SIX GRADUATING STUDENTS,
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After loss, Shays reinvents himself

By Susan Silvers
STAFF WRITER

Had life gone as former U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays planned it, his current routine would be much like that of the previous 21 years: meetings most weekdays with staff, fellow legislators and lobbyists on Capitol Hill to chart answers to the nation's problems; then, weekend dashes back home to meet with constituents about their concerns, where even eating out represented a chance to chat with waiters and waitresses about what was on their minds.

But the past seven months have not been what Shays, who had been the last Republican House member from New England, would have planned. First came the loss of the role he so relished to Democrat Jim Himes of Greenwich in November. Then came the discovery, he said, that Michael Sohn, his four-time campaign manager, had embezzled funds critical to his campaign.

Now, however, Shays, 63, said he is overcoming his disappointment and dismay to find this is an opportune time to reinvent himself and take



KEELIN DALY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christopher Shays checks his phone last month on the porch at the Belle Haven Club in Greenwich, where he was honored with the 2009 Audubon Connecticut Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award.

on new but satisfying roles in the public and private spheres.


"I've readjusted," Shays said last Sunday in a conversation on the deck of his house, which overlooks the harbor and is now for sale, in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport. "There are a lot of ways to make contributions in life, and I'm discovering some wonderful ways."

In recent months, SHAYS
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Weather



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