

## Vandalism on the Niantic Bay Overlook Park

During the evening of Friday, April 8, 2011, a single vandal armed with three cans of spray paint was photographed between 10:43 PM and 12:20 AM on the Niantic Bay Overlook Park. He defaced buildings at the Hole In The Wall Parking Lot, educational signs along the Niantic Bay Overlook Park, 24 memorial park benches, and federal property on the adjacent Amtrak rail property. On April 19th, the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation, Inc. offered a cash reward of \$700, including donations from the public, for information leading to the identification and arrest of the guilty person seen on the surveillance tapes. As a result of the wanted posters that appeared in local businesses, the press, and elsewhere, an arrest was made by the East Lyme Police Department 25 days after the incident occurred.

On May 3rd, the East Lyme police arrested an Old Lyme man, Mr. Clint Franklin, 22. He was charged with first-degree criminal mischief and third-degree criminal mischief and third-degree criminal trespass.

The incurred damage was partially cleaned by East Lyme Parks and Recreation Department staff. Those bench inscriptions listed below, that were so damaged as to prevent their being cleaned, will be replaced by the Foundation with new identical inscriptions.

The vandal was in Superior Court in New London on June 7, 2011. Judge Hadden's decision is summarized below. If similar incidents of deceration occur in the Park in future, the perpetrators can be assured that the consequences of their actions will receive the same prompt response as did Mr. Franklin's.

CATHERINE L. RATHBUN She Loved Niantic	Fran and John Gherzi In Memory of our Parents	In Loving Memory of Fletcher F. DonBrosky	James O. Stevens Christy S. Stevens
ELHS Class of 1987 Come, Sit, and Remember	Gene Jones • Gone Fishing Noreen Jones	In Memory of JAMES JOSEPH GLYNN	Josephine Shontell 11.28.29 3.10.02
Enjoy The View From Wil-MaryEllen Gladue	George & Mary Hayden Daughters & Husbands	IN MEMORY OF JOAN DENISON FROM FAMILY	Mario Orefice Lorraine Orefice
Richard L. North Husband-Dad-Teacher			

**C2 The Day** www.theday.com **Thursday, June 9, 2011**

### COURTS

**MAN GETS ACCELERATED REHABILITATION IN NIANTIC BOARDWALK GRAFFITI CASE**

An Old Lyme man charged with vandalizing memorial benches at the Niantic boardwalk will be able to wipe the incident off his record if he stays out of trouble for a year, pays restitution and performs 100 hours of community service.

Clint Franklin, 22, was granted the accelerated rehabilitation program when he appeared before Judge Arthur C. Hadden Tuesday in New London Superior Court.

The diversionary program allows defendants, usually first time of-

fenders, to clear their record after staying out of trouble for a specified time.

Hadden ordered Franklin to repay the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation \$3,909.19.

Police last month charged Franklin with first-degree criminal mischief and third-degree criminal trespass.

They said he spray-painted the tag "SNORP" on 22 commemorative boardwalk benches and 14 signs along the Niantic waterfront. He was arrested after the foundation offered a \$700 reward for information.

— Karen Florin