



The LEADER

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Kuhl's office to upgrade security

BY BOB RECOTTA
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CORNING | The Bath office of U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr., R-Hammondport, will receive security upgrades in part as a reaction to a group of war protesters who were arrested in Kuhl's office Monday.

"There is an elevated threat level out there, not necessarily from these people," Kuhl said. "We have been told by the Capitol Police, which is the security force for all Congress and all the Washington methodology, to notify them of any disruptions, anything out of the ordinary, anything that can be considered suspicious."

Kuhl said he had been considering beefing up security at his office on Buell Street even before five Ithaca residents were arrested by Bath police.

He cited the incident on Oct. 15, 1992 in which John T. Miller killed four social service workers at the Schuyler County Office Building as a reason why upgrading security at his office may be necessary.

"We are now making sure appropriate measures are taken so that people who aren't authorized to come in can't come in," Kuhl said. "I'm not going to have during my term of office a negative incident. We're going to take appropriate security provisions to do that."

Kuhl said the General Service Agency did a thorough survey of his Bath office and suggested a number of security measures he should take.

"The report we've got is more extensive than what needs to be done, in my opinion," Kuhl said. "We're only going to do what's necessary to secure the place so employees are absolutely protected from outside threats."

Kuhl would not say what measures would be taken to increase security. He did say the cost would be covered by the federal government.

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RACING THUNDER IN THE GLEN



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

Angel Espinoza negotiates a video game version of Watkins Glen International on Wednesday evening near Robby Gordon's show car and hauler.

No clear favorite for Sunday's race in Watkins Glen But it won't be Mark Martin

BY DERRICK EK
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WATKINS GLEN | Let's cut right to the chase.

Come Sunday afternoon of NASCAR Nextel Cup weekend at Watkins Glen International, after all those Italian sausages have been wolfed down and all those cans of Coors Light have been guzzled, there's really only one thing that matters:

Which driver winds up in the winner's circle after the Centurion Boats at The Glen.

So, who's it going to be? "Jeff Gordon," said 13-

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- For an in-depth preview of this weekend's races at Watkins Glen International, see Flag To Flag.
- For details on tonight's Race Fever block party in Corning, see wknd.

year-old Ricky Margeson of Penn Yan, who was among

the throng of fans who gathered at Wednesday's "Racing Thunder in the Glen" at Seneca Harbor Park in Watkins Glen.

"Tony Stewart," said Todd Hayward of Hector. "He's got a pretty good track record up there."

"Casey Mears," said Cody O'Dell of Greenwood, who was doing some recruiting at a National Guard tent. "The Guard sponsors him, so I gotta support our boy, of course. And he's been running good the past three or four weeks."

Of course, there's nothing wrong with going with a sentimental favorite, either.

"I'll have to say Mark Martin," said Jan Arcangeli, who was peddling pulled pork sandwiches at the Smoke 'N Bones BBQ tent.

SEE GLEN | 10A

Dad charged in fatal pit bull attack

BY MARY PERHAM
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BATH | The father of the 6-year-old boy who died July 29 after being mauled by the family's pit bull has been charged in connection with the incident.

William D. Abbott, 33, of East William Street Extension, was charged Wednesday with endangering the welfare of a child, according to Steuben County authorities.

District Attorney John Tunney said the charges stem from what he called "an eminently preventable accident."

Abbott's son, Saben Jones-Abbott, 6, was reportedly feeding the family's 6- to 8-month-old pit bull late in the morning when the puppy allegedly attacked him.

The father reportedly found the boy lying unresponsive on the ground near the pit bull, approximately 15 minutes after the attack occurred.

Jones-Abbott was later pro-



Jones-Abbott

nounced dead at Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital and taken to the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office in Rochester for an autopsy. The pit bull was euthanized at the owner's request and also sent to the medical examiner's office in Rochester.

The boy was buried Saturday.

SEE CHARGED | 10A

C-PP board gets super hiring tips

BY BOB RECOTTA
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PAINTED POST | As the Corning-Painted school board goes about selecting a replacement for Judith Staples, members will weigh the advice from someone who has seen more than a few superintendent searches.

The board is seeking an interim superintendent and a permanent replacement for Staples, who announced her retirement in July.

GST BOCES Superintendent Tony Micha emphasized the key points to consider while searching for a superintendent

ent when he addressed the board during its meeting Wednesday.

Among the areas covered were items to consider if the board chooses to hire a consultant to aid in the search. Micha said the board should decide whether the consultant will help design the search process and if the consultant will perform background checks on all the candidates.

"Make sure the candidate is certifiable in the state of New York," he said. "It's a misdemeanor to hire someone who isn't certifiable."

SEE C-PP | 5A

Shuttle blasts off with teacher on board

BY MARCIA DUNN
 AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. | Space shuttle Endeavour roared into orbit Wednesday carrying teacher-astronaut Barbara Morgan, who was finally fulfilling the dream of Christa McAuliffe and the rest of the fallen Challenger crew.

Endeavour and its crew of seven rose from the seaside pad at 6:36 p.m., right on time, and pierced a solidly blue sky. They are expected to reach the international space station on Friday.

Once Endeavour was safely past the 73-second mark of the flight, the moment when Challenger exploded shortly after the call "Go at throttle up," Mission Control exclaimed, "Morgan racing toward space on the wings of a legacy."

Immediately after the shuttle reached orbit, Mission Control announced, "For Barbara Morgan and her crewmates, class is in session."

Morgan was McAuliffe's backup for Challenger's doomed launch in 1986 and, even after two space shuttle disasters, never swayed in her dedication to NASA and the agency's on-and-off

quest to send a schoolteacher into space. She rocketed away in the center seat of the cabin's lower compartment, the same seat that had been occupied by McAuliffe.

McAuliffe's mother, Grace Corrigan, watched the launch on TV from her home in Massachusetts. "I'm very happy that it went up safely," she said. "We all send her our love," she added, her voice breaking.

More than half of NASA's 114 Teacher-in-Space nominees in 1985 gathered at the launch site, along with

SEE SHUTTLE | 5A



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Space Shuttle Endeavour lifts off Wednesday from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.



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