

The LEADER

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'Bring them home'

Iraq war protesters gather in Bath

BY JOHN ZICK
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BATH The names of the dead are read aloud weekly.

"Typically, the list has grown and grown," said the Rev. Brad Benson.

The list Benson refers to is that of American GIs killed overseas.

Every week, at both of Benson's parishes — St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Bath and the Church of Good Shepherd in Saratoga — the names of those killed during the past week are read to the parishioners.

"I'm not an anti-war activist," Benson said Friday. "But the best way to support our troops is to bring them home as quickly as possible."

Benson — who admitted his vocal opposition to the war was unusual practice — was one of three featured speakers Friday at an anti-war rally in Bath's Putney Park.

"I want to join with the majority opinion in this country that is realizing that there can be no positive end to this civil war, this nightmare," Benson said.

Approximately 15 people attended the "Iraq Summer" rally as part of a statewide campaign calling for an end to the war in Iraq. "Iraq Summer" is a nationwide campaign organized by the Americans Against Isolation in Iraq, which has dispatched nearly 100 organizers to the home states and districts of Republican congressmen who have opposed setting a timeline for withdrawal in Iraq.

Participants in Bath specifically called on U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kahl R., R-Hammondport, to vote against the war.

"Randy was re-elected (to the House in 2006) when most Republicans were not," said Jean Morimoto, a longtime Hammondport resident. "That shows his constituents trust him. We need him to honor that trust."

More than 3,500 Americans have died during the war and more than \$800 billion has been spent to fund it.

"I never thought of myself as an anti-war activist," said Gary Ostrowski, a local veteran and the president of the local Central Labor Council. "I believe I'm becoming one. Too many people have sacrificed (Kahl) vote to end this war and bring our troops home."

Cyril Mychalek, a district organizer for AAII, said promising Kahl will help change the course of the war.

"We're going to have him and this war by the end of the summer," Mychalek told protesters.

Friday's rally was the second such event in the area in 10 days.

Last week, protesters in Saratoga called on Kahl to vote against the war during a rally in Winter Park.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN ZICK

Top | Roseleen McFarland holds a sign during an anti-war rally Friday at Putney Park in Bath.

Above | The Rev. Brad Benson speaks at the rally.

Woman charged in girl's death

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

SOIO A grandmother has been criminally charged after her 6-year-old granddaughter was fatally shot by a 10-year-old boy at her home.

State police Friday charged Debra Jackle, 67, of Soio, Alameda County, with second-degree murder, reckless endangerment, weapons possession and child endangerment in the death of Cassandra Coughlin of Wellsville.

Troopers said the girl was shot while the boy was firing at targets with a .22-caliber rifle at Jackle's house June 22. She died the next day.

The boy was taken into custody by the Alameda County Department of Social Services.

Monday, Alameda County District Attorney Terrence Parker said the 10-year-old could be charged, but not as an adult. The shooting was originally termed "accidental" in a press release.

BRITAIN TERRORISM

2 suspects sought U.S. jobs

BY THOMAS WAGNER
Associated Press Writer

LONDON | The FBI said Friday that two suspects in the failed car bombings in Britain had made inquiries about working in the United States, and an Iraqi doctor arrested at the attack on Glasgow airport became the first person charged in the terror plot.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown warned Britons to expect increased security measures to guard against more attacks, but he expressed confidence investigators were unraveling the group behind the bombing attempts in London and Glasgow.

"From what I know, we are going to the bottom of this cell that has been responsible for what is happening," Brown told British Broadcasting Corp.

Police were being stretched to the limit over the weekend

U.S. forces wait for Iraqi help

BY LAURIN FRAYR
Associated Press Writer

SALMAN PAK, IRAQ | U.S. soldiers in night-vision goggles pried out of a Chinook helicopter under a wide orange moon. They crawled through mud along south of Baghdad, then stomped a chicken farm that the U.S. military believed doubled as a car bomb factory.

But something was missing: Iraqi partners. The Iraqi army has yet to deploy a single soldier on this 300-square-mile swath — bigger than all of New York City's five boroughs — where the U.S. military is waging an offensive to dislodge al-Qaida fighters from marshlands along the Tigris River.

In Tuesday's pre-dawn raid, the lack of Iraqi backup meant a frustrating outcome for U.S. forces. When suspects fled, there was no Iraqi cordon to catch them.

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