

IN BRIEF

Child safety seat checkpoint set

ELMIRA | A child safety seat checkpoint will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the Southport Fire Department, 1001 Carl St. by the Chemung County Sheriff's Office. Bicycle helmets will also be distributed. If you are unable to make the event, appointments can be scheduled by calling 737-2987.

Antique tractors, engines fair set

MONTOUR FALLS | An "Antique Tractors and Engines Fair" will be held today-Sunday in Montour Falls. There will be tractor pulls and games, live music, crafts, a flea market, kids games, cake walk, raffles, chicken barbecue, an auction with proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and more. There is free admission and free parking. For more information, call Frank or Barbara at 535-2261.

Nominations sought for award

ELMIRA | Nominations are being sought by the Chemung County Human Relations Commission for the Commission's Annual "Way" Award. The award recognizes those individuals and organizations that have demonstrated, through positive interactions and activities, a significant commitment to respect and positively promote understanding among all peoples of Chemung County. There are three categories for nominations: organizations, individual adult and individual youth. For more information or a nomination form, call 734-8823, e-mail cchrc@cornell.edu or visit Web site www.counties.cornell.edu. Nomination deadline is July 15.

Erwin program set for Mon-Fri.

ERWIN | The Town of Erwin Parks Program will be held from 9:30 a.m.-noon Monday through Friday from July 2-Aug. 10 at Hodgman Park and Abbey Keuhule Park (next to the Erwin Valley School). There will be arts and crafts, games and sports for kids ages 5 and up. For more information, call Cindy at 962-5556.

Park Program set for Mon-Thurs.

CORNING | A "Park Program" will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Thursday, July 9-Aug. 9 in East Corning Park, Gibson Fire Hall, Riverside Park and South Corning Park by the Town of Corning. There will be games, crafts, entertainment, free lunch, and free weekly trips to local swimming pools. For more information, call 936-8287.

Retired teachers to meet Tuesday

CORNING | The Corning Area Retired Teachers will meet for a luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Radisson Hotel Corning. The program will be presented by Retha Cazal who will speak on "Yoga, Simply Speaking." All retired educators in the area are invited to attend. For more information, call 583-4158.

Defensive driving course scheduled

WATKINS GLEN | A defensive driving course will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. July 17 at The Arc of Schuyler County, 210 12th St. by the Schuyler County Chamber of Commerce. After completing the course, drivers will receive documentation for a liability insurance premium discount of no less than 10 percent each year, for three years and up to four violation points on the driver's record during the 18-month period prior to class completion. The cost is \$30 for chamber members and \$35 for non-members. To register or for more information, call 535-4300 or e-mail reception@schuyler.ny.com.

■ Staff reports

CITIZEN ACTION OF NEW YORK



Elmira school teacher Donna Homuth, with bullhorn, speaks at an anti-war rally Thursday at Elmira's Wisner Park.

Protesters call for end to war in Iraq

BY JOHN ZICK
jzick@the-leader.com

ELMIRA | Dan Wesch had no obligation or desire to go to Iraq.

In fact, the Syracuse resident said he has opposed the Iraq War since an invasion was rumored five years ago.

But in 2005, two years into the war, Wesch joined the Army Reserve and by 2006, the 26-year-old found his boots on the ground 9,000 miles away.

And no, Wesch's stance never wavered.

"I've always been against the war," Wesch said Thursday. "In my time over there, I didn't see anything to change my mind."

Why did he do what he did? "Because I had no family and no career," said Wesch, who served a year in Iraq. "Some people, people with families and careers, were going (to Iraq and Afghanistan) more than once. Why should I not do my part?"

Now he is fighting to bring all the troops home.

Wesch spoke Thursday at an anti-war rally in downtown Elmira, saying Iraq is now in a civil war and it's time for the troops to come home. The rally, organized by the Citizen Action of New York, focused on the disproportionate number of rural GIs dying overseas.

"Rural areas are over-represented in the military," Wesch said as approximately 20 war protesters held signs nearby. "(Government leaders who support the war) vote against their rural constituency."

Citizen Action members provided statistics from the Carey Institute of the



Mary Clark, with bullhorn, speaks at an anti-war rally Thursday at Elmira's Wisner Park.

University of New Hampshire that states the rural population of America has accounted for 27 percent of the casualties although they make up only 19 percent of the U.S. population.

Also, rural New Yorkers have a death rate 80 percent higher, the group said.

"This four-year war has been detrimental to so many," said Donna Homuth, an Elmira school teacher. "The rural sections of our country and state have been disproportionately affected."

The group urged citizens to call on government leaders to end the war. In particular, U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr., R-Hammondsport, and other House members who voted May 24 to fund the war without a withdrawal timeline.

"Stop the killings of our

soldiers and sailors and innocent Iraqis," said Mary Skinner, a local activist.

Kuhl on Thursday said he wants the war to end soon but added troops must be supported as long as they remain in Iraq.

"I couldn't agree more with people calling for an end to the war in Iraq. I also wish it would end today," Kuhl said in a prepared statement. "I am working hard to make sure our troops, who were sent into harm's way long before I came to Congress, are well supplied, well armored and ready for anything our enemies throw at them."

Thursday's showing was one of several events held in May and June in association with American Speaks Out on the War, a national project featuring those in support of a safe and responsible end to the war.

ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

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Level 2 sex offenders on Internet

BY MARY PERHAM
leaderbath@yahoo.com

AT A GLANCE

Level 2 and 3 sex offenders can be seen at www.steubencony.org.

BATH | The names, faces and locations of Level 2 Sex offenders in Steuben County have been released by the county Sheriff's Department.

Some 61 men and women offenders are now listed on the department's page of the county Web site, www.steubencony.org.

"We've looked at doing this for the past few years, and they do present a moderate risk to the public," said county Undersheriff David Cole.

Cole said a senior investigator in the department drew up the list, which was added Thursday to the Level 3 Sex Offenders posting previously published on the department's site.

Information about the Level 2 offenders includes their names, towns and mug shots. More detailed information is listed on a separate page for Level 3 offenders.

Cole said more details on those convicted of a lower-level offense may be added later. The department's page also has a locator map and links to state and national sex

offender registries, he said.

The new list was made public to alert residents to the location of sex offenders, he said.

Levels of offense are assigned by the courts, with Level 3 considered the highest risk to the public.

The department also has an anonymous tip line for people to notify county Sheriff Richard Tweddell or Cole of any concerns they have, ranging from the whereabouts or activities of sex offenders to reporting a noisy neighbor.

Only Tweddell and Cole have access to the line's e-mail and the sender's address is deleted before the comment is opened.

"We have no way of knowing who sent it or replying to it," Cole said. "We read it every day. It can be about anything, traffic, drugs, or just a comment on how to do something better."

Bath man charged after housing check

THE LEADER STAFF

BATH | A Bath man looking for a new place to live is now a resident of the Steuben County Jail.

Rasheen P. Townsend, 29, went to the Bath Police Department to fill out a criminal background check so he could become eligible in the Tri County Housing program.

Townsend, of 14 W.

Washington St., Apt. 106, indicated on the form that he previously lived in Camden, N.J. Officials ran a check on his background through the National Crime Information Center and found Townsend was wanted in New Jersey on a burglary charge.

Wednesday, he was arrested and arraigned as a fugitive from justice and is being held in the county jail pending extradition proceedings.

Annual Farm Sanctuary picnic slated

WATKINS GLEN | The annual "Fourth of July Picnic" will be held from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday at the Farm Sanctuary, 3100 Aikens Road. There will be veggie does and dairy-free ice cream, free tours on the hour, a gift shop and more. For more information, call 583-2225.

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IN BRIEF

Farms sought for Steuben guide

BATH | New farms wishing to be included in the Steuben County Guide to Agricultural Products are being sought by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County. The guide contains a listing of local farms with agricultural products for sale within Steuben County. Applications will be accepted from roadside stands, u-pick farms, greenhouses, farmer's markets, meat and poultry producers, maple producers, honey producers, wineries, Christmas tree growers and other agriculture enterprises located within Steuben County. Applications will only be considered from farms where at least 50 percent of the products sold are homegrown. For more information or an application, call Kerri at 664-23200 or email ksb29@cornell.edu by July 1. Applications can also be obtained from Web site

www.cce.cornell.edu/steuben.

Harmony mini camp scheduled

PAINTED POST | The 7th annual "Harmony Explosion Mini Camp" will be held July 19-22 at Nazareth College in Rochester. Campers will sing both barbershop style as well as TTBB a cappella choral music in a chorus. The instructors are members of a district championship quartet and among the finest barbershop chorus directors in the society. The cost is \$200 per camper but will be paid in full by the Painted Post Chapter of Barbershoppers for any student, male or female, in grades 6-12 who would like to attend. Transportation to and from the camp is also made available by the Painted Post Chapter. All music will be provided. For more information or to register, call Bob at 962-2058.

■ Staff reports

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