

Iraq

—FROM PAGE A1

James River's robotics team.

"He was not so much of a tinkerer as an observer," Richard Linn said. "He was a very quiet person, very smart, very off-the-wall. They used to call him 'Crazy Karl' in high school because they never knew what he would do next."

After James River, Linn joined the Marine Corps Reserve but chose a delayed-entry program so he could start college. He enrolled in the mechanical-engineering program at Virginia Commonwealth University and participated in "weekend warrior" basic training while attending classes, specializing in combat engineering.

Then, last year, Linn's unit was activated. They were sent into combat in November.

Between missions, Linn was keeping himself busy e-mailing his family, playing with his Canon PowerShot A60 digital camera and updating his new Web site, www.karl.linn.net. He posted photos of himself, grinning widely, posing with his machine gun and Humvee.

"Other than being tired recently because of 12-hour days patrolling, he'd say the food was lousy and it was chilly," Richard Linn said yesterday. "He was more concerned about when we were sending him more socks and gummy bears, which were apparently in short supply."

Even though he was able to call home only once, at Christmas, his family could see his adventures online. They knew he was safe.

On Wednesday morning, Richard Linn was 40 miles north of Richmond on a business trip when he got a call from his mother. The Marines wanted to talk to him at home.

"You're never prepared. My wife just didn't even want to think about it. She was always scared, from the time he was in boot camp, but she hoped and prayed and tried not to dwell on it. I knew this could happen. I felt the odds were good that it wouldn't, but I've never been a gambling man."

Linn is survived by his father and mother, Malisa, and brother, Tan, who is 15 and a sophomore at James River.

• Contact Paige Akin at (804) 649-6671 or pakin@timesdispatch.com

Daily Early Specials

- Shrimp, Scallops, & Lobster Sauté
- Lobster Tail & Crab Cake
- Baked Crabmeat Imperial
- Fried VA Oysters w/ Fluffy Mustard Sauce w/ Baked Potato and Vegetable of the day

\$13.95

your choice

Mon-Fri 4:00-6:30 pm
Sat-Sun 5:00-6:30 pm

Skilligalee

5416 Glenside Dr. Seafood Restaurant 672-6200

Look in today's classified section for Hints from *Heloise*

Iraqis cast ballots in Australia

Expatriates jostle to be among the first to vote in the historic election

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY, Australia — Iraqi expatriates began casting ballots today, several jostling to be among the first to vote in Iraq's first independent elections in more than 50 years.

Amid tight security at a converted furniture warehouse, young children mingled with elderly Kurdish women in head-to-toe black robes.

"This is a long dream that now comes true," said 56-year-old Karim Jari before casting his vote.

Australia is one of 14 nations where Iraqis living outside their country can vote — and the first country to begin collecting ballots because of its time zone. In Iraq, the vote is Sunday; elsewhere, it runs today through Sunday.

Many historians consider the last free elections in Iraq to have taken place in 1953.

Nearly 12,000 Iraqi exiles registered to vote in Australia, around 15 percent of the estimated 80,000 eligible Iraqi nationals.

Organizers originally hoped that as many as 50,000 Iraqis

would join the electoral rolls in Australia, but downgraded their expectations after a poor showing last week, saying fear and apathy were keeping people away from the polls.

In the other countries, less than a quarter of the 1.2 million eligible expatriate Iraqis had registered by Tuesday's deadline.

The low numbers have been attributed to a shortage of registration and polling places, a disorganized election effort, fears of violence or reprisals and conflicts with the Muslim holiday of Eid-al-Adha, or Feast of Sacrifice, which coincides with the yearly pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

Votes also may be cast in the United States, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Jordan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Syria, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

Meanwhile yesterday in Baghdad, U.S. troops packed extra uniforms and ammunition before moving out of their main base to take up positions around the city, part of a massive security operation to protect voters.

Iraqi police and soldiers will play the more visible role, manning checkpoints and securing the polls — many of which already have been bombed and rocketed by insurgents.

American troops will be around, nonetheless — backing up the Iraqis, U.S. and Iraqi commanders said.

The U.S. presence could make American troops easier targets, and it also has raised concerns the United States might be seen as orchestrating the elections.

About 300,000 Iraqi, U.S. and other multinational troops and police will provide security for the voting, which will take place at 5,300 polling centers.

Richmond's Best PIANO VALUES!

RICHMOND'S EXCLUSIVE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES OF NEW & USED STEINWAY PIANOS!

- Used Consoles from \$1,499
- New Grands from \$5,990
- New Consoles from \$2,499
- New Digitals from \$1,799

www.jordankitts.com

Kitt's music

Over 250,000 satisfied customers since 1912.
10040 Midlothian Tpke, Richmond, VA
(near Rabobank Road)
(804) 272-7577

Unlimited Flat Rate Wireless.

(What unlimited calling was supposed to be.)

Only SunCom UnPlanSM lets you call as much as you need to anyone, anytime, anywhere in America.*

Only \$50 a month. SunCom. We get it.®

Nokia 6010
Full-color screen
Only \$59**

Only \$149+
Motorola T725

Plus, other plans start at \$35.

CHECK OUT EXCLUSIVE ONLINE OFFERS FROM SUNCOM. ☎ WWW.SUNCOM.COM

SUNCOM STORE LOCATIONS

We're open for your convenience. Call for store hours.

NEW! LEN ALLEN
Virginia Center Commons
10101 Brook Rd., Space #816
804-402-8750

Virginia Center Marketplace
10110 Brook Rd.
804-402-8780

SHORT PUMP
Short Pump Town Center
11800 W Broad St.
804-426-7150

Short Pump Shoppes
11521 Broad St.
804-402-8720

RICHMOND
Stony Point Mall
9200 Stony Point Pkwy., #155-A
804-426-7140

Libbie Place
5601 West Broad St.
804-426-7130

CHESTERFIELD
Shoppes at Midlothian
11649 Midlothian Tpk.
804-364-7502

Chippenham Forest Square
2400 Sheila Lane
804-869-8200

Courthouse Commons
7061 Commons Plaza
804-402-8770

Chesterfield Towne Center Mall
11500 Midlothian Tpk.
804-869-8410

COLONIAL HEIGHTS
Ft. Lee Military Exchange
1431 Mahone, Bldg. 905
804-536-8150

EXCLUSIVE AUTHORIZED DEALER

ATEL
Richmond
804-560-2900

SIGN UP TODAY

1-877-CALL SUN

FREE OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

CORPORATE SALES
804-405-3000

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Offer expires February 1, 2005. Requires new activation, \$35 activation fee, minimum 12-month service agreement, credit approval and compatible device. \$200 early cancellation fee applies. *SunCom regional calling area includes NC, SC, northeastern TN, southwestern VA and parts of GA. See SunCom regional coverage map for details. \$50 monthly SunCom UnPlan rate includes all calls placed and received within the SunCom regional calling area and does not include additional fees as outlined below. Roaming outside the SunCom region is 50¢ per minute. Nationwide roaming minute packages available at additional cost. Nationwide calling includes all states, except Alaska and Puerto Rico. **\$59 Nokia 6010 available with new activation on a 24-month service agreement while supplies last. †\$149 Motorola T725 available with new activation on a 24-month service agreement while supplies last. International long distance and wireless data calls are not included, nor are 911 or 611 calls outside the SunCom Network, nor are calls that require credit card or operator/directory assistance to complete. All partial minutes are rounded up and billed as a full minute. Phone and phone service are for customer's personal use only. SunCom reserves the right to terminate service or change service plan if service is used in a manner that is excessive (more than 5,000 minutes of use per month) or unreasonable with respect to the volume or length of calls for normal personal use when compared to the predominant volume or length of calls of other customers on a similar rate plan or in your geographic area. Digital features may not be available when not on the SunCom Network. Service may be provided by other carriers. SunCom service available for residents of specific ZIP codes only. Taxes, surcharges (including a USF charge of 2.696% and cost-recovery fees of \$1.50) or other fees that vary by market are not included. Cost-recovery fees are not taxes or government-required charges. Other restrictions apply. See stores for details. ©2004 SunCom.