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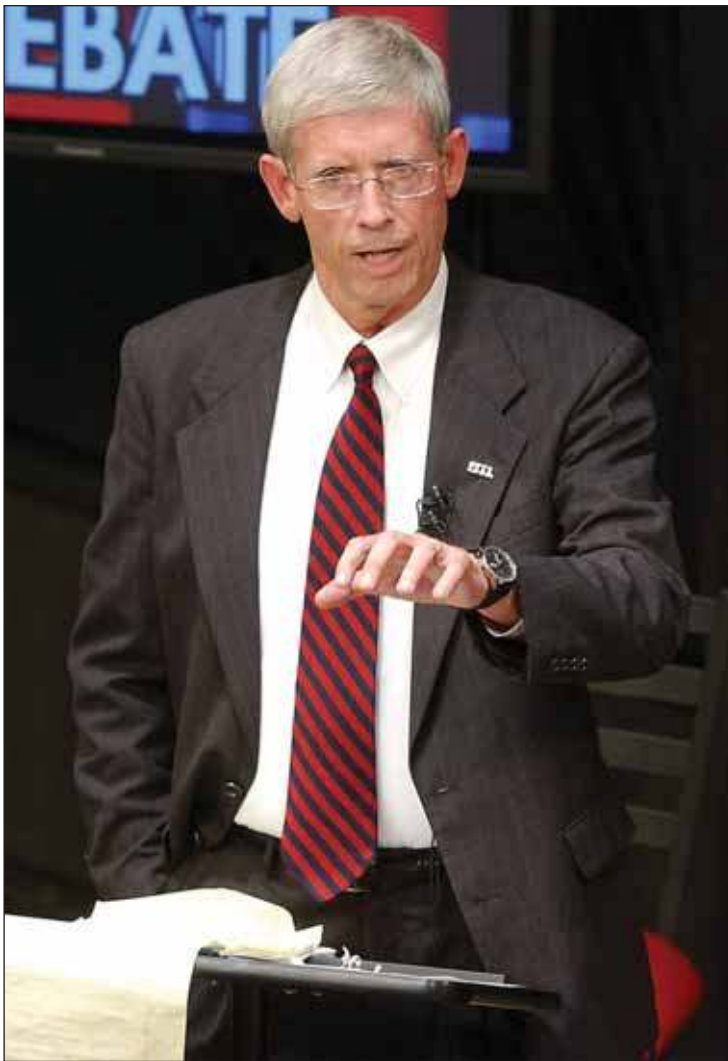
THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 13 | 2007

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Lawyers, guns & drugs



Left | Challenger Weedon Wetmore answers a question Wednesday during the Chemung County District Attorney debate at the Clemens Center. Right | Chemung County District Attorney John Trice answers a question during the debate.



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

Chemung DA candidates clash on whether Elmira is safe

BY DERRICK EK
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ELMIRA | The challenger, Weedon Wetmore, relentlessly attacked the job performance of incumbent John Trice as the heated race for Chemung County District Attorney continued in a televised debate Wednesday night in Elmira.

Trice and Wetmore are running against each other on Republican and Conservative party lines in Tuesday's primary. There is no Democratic challenger.

The race has grabbed the public's attention following a summer during

which shootings and drug-related crimes in Elmira were often in the headlines.

The candidates, who have a contentious history, have frequently clashed during the race.

This week, Trice accused Wetmore of using flawed rate of conviction statistics from the state Division of Criminal Justice Services in a smear campaign.

Trice, 63, has worked in the Chemung County District Attorney's office for 21 years, and was elected district attorney in 2000.

Wetmore, 54, is an attorney and partner in the Davidson and O'Mara law firm

in Elmira. He, too, worked in the Chemung County District Attorney's Office in various capacities for more than 20 years, but left when Trice was elected.

"When John won the election, he decided he didn't need my services anymore," Wetmore said.

Wetmore said members of local law enforcement agencies had approached him and encouraged him to run for district attorney.

Wednesday's debate, staged at the Clemens Center in

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Inspections never improved after deadly E. coli outbreak

BY GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

SALINAS, CALIF. | Government regulators never acted on calls for stepped-up inspections of leafy greens after last year's deadly E. coli spinach outbreak, leaving the safety of America's salads to a patchwork of largely unenforceable rules and the industry itself, an Associated Press investigation has found.

The regulations governing farms in this central California region known as the nation's "Salad Bowl" remain much as they were when bacteria from a cattle ranch infected spinach that killed three people and sickened more than 200.

AP's review of data obtained through

the Freedom of Information Act found that federal officials inspect companies growing and processing salad greens an average of just once every 3.9 years. Some proposals in Congress would require such inspections at least four times a year.

In California, which grows three-quarters of the nation's greens, processors created a new inspection system but with voluntary guidelines that were unable to keep bagged spinach tainted with salmonella from reaching grocery shelves last month.

Despite widespread calls for spot-testing of processing plants handling leafy greens following last year's E. coli outbreak,

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A lettuce worker washes romaine lettuce in Salinas, Calif.

Kuhl believes in Petraeus' report

BY JOE DUNNING
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WASHINGTON | U.S. Gen. David Petraeus might not have been able to say in two days of testimony before Congress whether his strategy for the war in Iraq will make America safer.

But U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr. believes it does.

"The general said he couldn't answer that," Kuhl said Wednesday. "But has it defused al-Qaida from attacking this country? The answer is yes. Has it defused Iraq from attacking us? The answer is yes.

"Have they had to use resources that they would otherwise be able to direct at killing people in this country for other purposes? The answer is yes. Have we kept bin Laden in a hole? The



KUHL

answer is yes."

Kuhl contacted numerous media outlets in the 29th Congressional District Wednesday to further discuss his feelings about recommendations given by Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker earlier this week.

For the most part, Kuhl agrees that Petraeus's advice that 30,000 U.S. troops gradually be sent home but that as many as 130,000 troops remain in Iraq through next summer is a good exit strategy.

However, Kuhl, R-Hammondsport, said he will wait until a report is released Saturday detailing how

SEE KUHL | 12A

Senate Democrats reject suggestion

BY ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON | A day before President Bush's war address, Senate Democrats rejected a four-star general's recommendation to keep some 130,000 troops in Iraq through next summer and sought legislation that would limit the mission

of U.S. forces.

Their proposal was not expected to set a deadline to end the war, as many Democrats want, but restrict troops to narrow objectives: training Iraq's military and police, protecting U.S. assets and fighting terrorists, Democratic party officials told The Associated Press.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senate Majority Leader Sen. Harry Reid of Nev., listens to a question during a news conference on Capitol Hill.

The goal is to attract enough Republicans to break the 60-vote threshold in the Senate needed to end a filibuster. Democrats have

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Verizon service back on after disruption

BY MARY PERHAM
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BATH | Emergency calls went through in Steuben County but residents and businesses in the region, stretching from Allegany to Broome counties were without Verizon phone or Internet service Tuesday.

Timothy Wixom, Steuben County 911 coordinator, said alarms went off in the 911 center Tuesday afternoon, signaling one of two Verizon routes at the center had gone off line.

Dispatchers put out a series of test calls to be sure emergency calls could still be received through the second line, Wixom said.

As added insurance, some 911 calls were first routed to Allegany County, then transferred to Steuben he said.

"There was concern," Wixom said. "People thought if, for example, they couldn't call from Hammondsport to Hornell they couldn't call us. That was not the case."

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