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The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

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50 CENTS

HISTORY, NATURE AND EXERCISE



Jeff Wild, of Ithaca, walks his dog, Arctic Tundra, along a segment of the Catherine Valley Trail, which goes through Queen Catherine's Marsh near Montour Falls. The trail was paved this summer.

JASON COX | THE LEADER

Trail expands in Catharine Valley

Looking for a good spot to go leaf-peeping this fall? The still-unfinished Catharine Valley Trail, as it is, offers a prime outdoor recreation spot. Roughly six miles of the trail are currently accessible for cycling, jogging and walking.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today | History walk with Gary Emerson, 9 a.m., Genesee Street, Montour Falls.

Oct. 13 | Nature walk with Kate Bartholomew, 9 a.m., Genesee Street, Montour Falls.

Oct. 20 | Friends of the CVT fall open house, 9-11 a.m., Montour Falls Fire Hall.

For details, call 535-4300 or go to www.schuylerny.com.

Trail work has continued to progress this summer, said Michelle Benjamin of the Friends of the Catharine Valley Trail, the group that has been coordinating the huge project, which began in the late 1990s.

A mile-long stretch that cuts through Queen Catharine's Marsh between Montour Falls and Watkins Glen was surfaced this summer, Benjamin said. It hasn't officially opened because a bit of work remains at the Watkins Glen end, she said.

However, folks are already using it. Also, Benjamin added, work has been done to the north and south of the pedestrian bridge that crosses over state Route 14 near Millport, Benjamin said.

For a long time, the bridge was the butt of jokes because it didn't connect to anything, but that will soon change, it appears.

The CVT, a rails-to-trails project, has been built largely with state money, using crews from the state Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Local and county governments have also been chipping in.



JASON COX | THE LEADER

A shady ravine just off the Catharine Valley Trail is lit by late afternoon sunlight.

Story by Derrick Ek | dek@the-leader.com

Kuhl backs Bush on Iraq plan

Seeks progress in diplomatic efforts

THE LEADER STAFF

WASHINGTON | U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr. agrees with most of the Iraq war plan President Bush explained to the nation Thursday night.

The gradual draw-down of nearly 30,000 troops in the next year is a good sign, Kuhl said, but more has to be done to encourage diplomacy in Iraq and throughout the region.

"The president touted the successes of the security progress over the last 12 weeks, but the focus of this progress can not solely rely on U.S. military operation," Kuhl said Friday.

"While the president feels that the foundation for all other progress in Iraq is the security that our nation's

Larger troop cuts may be possible

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON | Defense Secretary Robert Gates raised the possibility Friday of cutting U.S. troop levels in Iraq to 100,000 by the end of next year, well beyond the cuts President Bush has approved.

Stressing that he was expressing a hope, not an administration plan, Gates said it was possible that conditions in Iraq would improve enough to merit much deeper troop cuts than are currently scheduled for 2008.

SEE KUHLM | 5A

SEETROOP | 2A

Trice, Wetmore continue attacks

BY JOHN ZICK
jzick@the-leader.com

ELMIRA | The incumbent and challenger for Chemung County district attorney continued a contentious battle Friday over statistical data one says is flawed and the other says proves the county is in need of a change.

Earlier this week, District Attorney John Trice said challenger Weeden Wetmore is using flawed and misleading data on the performance of Trice's office.

Friday, Trice again took umbrage with numbers used



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by Wetmore's campaign, saying the challenger's numbers are flawed.

Wetmore has cited numbers from the state Division of Criminal Justice Services that show at least 195 cases have been dismissed in the seven years Trice has served as district attorney. A failure to prosecute the cases in a timely manner is the reason cited. Conversely, just seven dismissals were reported from 1995-99, Wetmore said.

Trice said those numbers are wrong.

SEE ATTACKS | 5A

Brothers charged in Wayland rape

THE LEADER STAFF

WAYLAND | Two brothers were charged Friday with breaking into a village residence and forcibly raping a woman who was asleep inside.

Louis S. Earley, 23, of Bath, and his half-brother, Herbert "Duane" Wood Jr., 20, of Wayland, each face charges of first-degree rape.

First-degree rape is punishable by up to 25 years in state prison.

Both men were arraigned in

Wayland Village Court and sent back to the Livingston County Jail, where they were being held on unrelated felony charges.

Also, both men are currently on parole.

Earley served time in state prison for second-degree criminal mischief and third-degree burglary. He was paroled Aug. 30, 2007.

Information for Wood was not immediately available.

Both men will appear in court at a later date.