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THURSDAY Oct. 28, 2004

50¢
• FINAL EDITION

State police commander is put on leave after sexual allegations

By MARY ALLEN and ESTEBAN PARRA
The News Journal

The commander of the Delaware State Police was put on paid administrative leave on Thursday while authorities investigate sexual harassment claims lodged against him in a federal lawsuit.

Reached at home near Greenwood Thursday evening, Col. L. Aaron Chaffinch, 52, would not comment.



State police Capt. Barbara L. Conley has filed a sexual harassment suit in federal court.

ARTICLE, A11

Lt. Col. Thomas F. MacLeish will be acting commander of the agency's 642 troopers, said David B. Mitchell, secretary of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security. The department oversees the state police.

"These are very serious claims, and they're very specific against Col. Chaffinch. It's beyond an allegation that while on your watch, this occurred. It's allegations of misconduct on his part," he said.

The lawsuit filed by state police Capt. Barbara L. Conley accuses Chaffinch of telling sexually offensive jokes and demeaning stories about women at work, and talking about sexual relations and his sexual desires and skills. It also alleges he has thwarted attempts to

See CHAFFINCH — A11



The News Journal/SCOTT NATHAN

State police internal affairs will investigate claims made in a federal lawsuit against Col. L. Aaron Chaffinch.

Judge's order halts anthrax inoculation

Ruling says government failed to get adequate public input

By HIRAN RATNAYAKE, LEE WILLIAMS and STEVEN CHURCH
The News Journal

Read the judge's opinion and view video, interactive graphics and past coverage at delawareonline.com

In a decision affecting American military personnel around the world, a federal judge in Washington, D.C., ordered the Pentagon to halt the mandatory anthrax vaccination program that U.S. Air Force personnel in Dover have claimed made them ill.

U.S. District Court Judge Emmet G. Sullivan issued his order Wednesday, calling the program "illegal." Sullivan did not rule on whether the vaccine was dangerous, but instead chided federal officials for not accepting enough public input before they declared the vaccine safe for use.

"The men and women of our armed forces deserve the assurance that the vaccines our government com-

pels them to take into their bodies have been tested by the greatest scrutiny of all — public scrutiny," Sullivan wrote in his 41-page opinion.

The decision was praised by service members who believe the vaccine causes a range of adverse side effects, including arthritis, neurological problems, memory loss and incapacitating migraine headaches.

Former Air Force officers who have led separate campaigns to halt the program, which they say is dangerous, also applauded the ruling.

"It means the rule of law in America applies to the entire government, including the Department of

See ANTHRAX — A17

Deep in GOP country, Bush appeals for Democratic votes



The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS

At a rally at Lancaster County Airport, President Bush said Sen. John Kerry belonged to the "extreme" left wing of the Democratic Party.

On the environment, there appears to be an air of evasion

By JEFF MONTGOMERY
The News Journal

A chasm separates the public environmental policies of President Bush and those proposed by Democratic challenger John Kerry, a yawning fissure voters seldom are urged to explore.

Despite differences that bear on virtually every facet of life in the nation and in Delaware, the two candidates fielded only one question on environmental policy during more than six hours of televised debates.

Their brief exchange added little to the public record on Bush's views, which are a source of continuing alarm to many environmental groups, or on Kerry's, often viewed as intolerable to business and industry.

See ENVIRONMENT — A8



John Kerry continues to focus on missing explosives. A5

Ohio official could be key player if election becomes close. A6

Campaigning for Kerry, Pa.'s Rendell gets a "scare." A7

Former Del. governor assails Bush, Cheney in new book. A10

Lancaster County rally has flavor of a religious revival

By VICTOR GRETO
The News Journal

National polls

48% 47%
KERRY BUSH
2,493 likely voters; Oct. 21-25
± 2 percentage points
Source: Harris Interactive

48% 47%
BUSH KERRY
1,203 likely voters; Oct. 24-26
± 2.9 percentage points
Source: Reuters/Zogby

49% 48%
KERRY BUSH
1,709 likely voters; Oct. 23-26
± 3 percentage points
Source: The Washington Post

LITITZ, Pa. — In what seemed part religious revival and part political rally, President Bush campaigned in southeastern Pennsylvania Wednesday morning, less than a week before Election Day, to thank and encourage supporters and invite undecided Democrats to vote for him.

"As the citizens of this nation prepare to vote, I want to speak directly to the Democrats," Bush said at the Lancaster County Airport. "I'm a proud Republican, but I believe my policies appeal to many Democrats."

He said that Democratic challenger John Kerry represented the "extreme" left wing of the Democratic party and voted to raise taxes nearly 100 times during his 20-year Senate career. "I would call that a predictable pattern," he said to raucous applause.

Pennsylvania, with its 21 electoral votes, is

See BUSH — A5

Gas plan called potential threat to nuclear plant

Utility urges scrutiny from regulators

By JEFF MONTGOMERY
The News Journal

One of the region's largest utilities has urged federal regulators to consider threats to a nuclear complex along the Delaware River while reviewing plans for a new liquefied natural gas import terminal opposite Claymont in New Jersey.

In a document filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, PSEG Nuclear said it has launched its own analysis of risks posed by LNG shipments passing the Salem/Hope Creek nuclear generating station on the way to a proposed new BP terminal.

The vessels, each carrying about 140,000 cubic meters of frozen, concentrated fuel, would pass within a mile of the seawall at the three-reactor station on their way to the proposed LNG storage and distribution complex in



ONLINE POLL

Should natural gas tankers be allowed to pass by the Salem nuclear plants? Vote at delawareonline.com

Logan Township, N.J.

PSEG spokesman Paul Rosengren said Wednesday the utility does not have a firm date for when the nuclear risk study would be

See PSEG — A20

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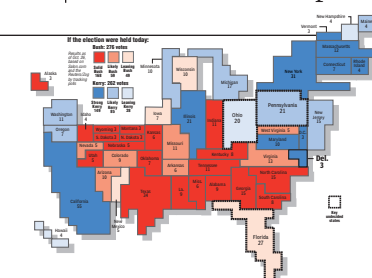


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