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Investigators examine girl's bond to captors

BY REBECCA ROUSE
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SALT LAKE CITY — After nine months of living under bridges and in tents with a self-styled prophet and his wife, Elizabeth Smart returned to her million-dollar home alive.

When stopped by police, she readily shed her identity and said the two drivers were her parents. The 13-year-old was nervous and apologetic when asked to remove her sunglasses and give up her never-abandoned family once the poly-

Elizabeth Smart poses with her parents, Ed and Lois, at their home Thursday.

INSIDE
 ■ "The People," the second section in the four-part special edition "Focus 2003: In the Spirit of Lewis and Clark."

TODAY IN THE NEWS

FDA orders bar codes on hospital drugs

WASHINGTON — Every medication given in the hospital now will carry a label with a supermarket-style bar code that can be matched to patients and help ensure they get the right dose of the right drug at the right time. An estimated 7,000 hospitalized patients die annually because of drug errors, where a wrong dose or a wrong drug is dispensed. The bar code system will allow nurses and others to check electronically that the drug is the proper one. Patient safety advocates and industry groups welcomed the initiative. The proposed regulation, which is expected to be finalized early next year, also will apply to most drugs sold over the counter. **AP**

FDA approves new AIDS drugs

WASHINGTON — Patients running out of medicines to fight the AIDS virus now have another option: a new class of drugs that has proved to work when others fail. The Food and Drug Administration approved the drug Fuzon on Thursday for adults and for children age 6 and older. As many as 100,000 U.S. patients could benefit, and experts predict a flurry of new research could produce more drugs like it. Manufacturers said the drug, which is expected to cost about \$100 a year, should be available by month's end, although initially only to a limited number of people. **AP**

Life expectancy hits all-time high at 77.2

ATLANTA — Life expectancy for Americans reached an all-time high of 77.2 years in 2001, federal officials said. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said today that life expectancy increased by two-tenths of a year from 2000. A drop in major causes of death, such as heart disease, cancer and stroke, contributed to the increase. For men, life expectancy increased from 74.3 years in 2000 to 74 years in 2001. For women, it increased from 77.7 years to 78 years for the same period. The CDC analyzed more than 87 percent of all state death certificates issued in 2001. "For the individual, it's good news to know that diseases of the heart are declining, that cancer is declining and stroke is declining," said Elizabeth Arora, statistician for the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, which conducted the study. **AP**

Living history

Holocaust survivor Chella Kryszek, 74, speaks with North Albany Middle School students after her lecture Thursday. Students from left are Jayme Truax, 13, Brandy Brumbaugh, 13, and Megan Nugent, 12.

Holocaust survivor tells her story

BY LIZ SHERRETT
 ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD

For the past six weeks, North Albany seventh graders have studied the Holocaust in their literature class.

On Thursday, that history came alive as Chella (Veli) Kryszek, 74, described how she and her sister survived the war years.

The German army invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, and the nation surrendered on May 15. The next day Kryszek turned 12.

The day they marched in was my birthday. What a birthday present," Kryszek said.

She lived in the Hague with her father, Leon, her sister Flora who was four years older, and their stepmother. Over the next year, the situation became more uncomfortable for Jewish families such as theirs.

"We had to wear a yellow star. We couldn't go in the parks, to the swimming pool, or to the movies. We loved going

Case of missing Linn girl unsolved

BY JENNIFER ROUSE
 ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD

Kidnapping cases like the one of Elizabeth Smart are mercifully rare. In Linn County, the only unsolved missing-child case in recent memory happened nearly 13 years ago, but the pain is still real for family members.

Rachanda Lea Pickle was 13 when she disappeared from the house at Santiam Junction, where she lived with her mother and stepfather, Linda and John Ackroyd. She was last seen at about 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 10, 1990, wearing pajamas and watching television. Her mother was at work.

Her stepfather said he went out. "I know that my daughter's dead," her father, Steve Pickle of Sweet Home said Thursday. "I am very happy for Elizabeth Smart and her family. When this happens, it is beyond a parent's worst nightmare."

As detectives from the Linn County Sheriff's Office worked on the case, they uncovered information linking John Ackroyd to other missing women. Ackroyd was eventually convicted of the 1978 murder of Linn County resident of Eugene and is serving five life sentences at the Oregon State Penitentiary without the possibility of parole.

Ackroyd was never charged with killing or kidnapping his daughter, but family members believe he is guilty of her death.

"We've all resigned ourselves to the fact that she's dead," Rachanda's aunt John Serly said. "But we've never had any closure. We're all still in limbo."

Steve Pickle said he hopes that someday a hunter will find his daughter's remains, and the family will finally be able to say goodbye.

"I wake up four out of five days, just twisted up inside, still thinking about it," he said.

Serly is certain that Rachanda would have found some way to contact her family if she were still alive.

"Not a day goes by that we don't talk about Rachanda. We love her, and we miss her," she said.

Sheriff Dave Burright said Rachanda is the only unsolved missing child case he's aware of in Linn County.

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Bush, allied leaders to meet in Azores

BY BOB FROENKEL
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — In a last-minute slash at diplomacy, President Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar will meet for the first time in U.N. war resolution. Bush will depart for the Azores Sunday morning. It will be a one-day trip.

The leaders also are likely to discuss plans for Iraq in any scenario in which Saddam is deposed as the United Nations, several Security Council members said they hoped the summit would provide a peaceful compromise.

"If it could in any way contribute to getting a consensus on the council, we would welcome it," said Pakistan's ambassador, Mushtaq Ahmad.

On the verge of an embarrassing defeat at the U.N., the administration arranged the summit as it backedpedaled from a pledge to hold a vote on the resolution this week. U.S. officials also said for the first time Thursday that Bush may withdraw the measure — and fight Iraq without the U.N.'s consent.

The president has said that without the United Nations, he could form a "coalition of the willing" outside the U.N.

Pac-10 tourney

Oregon State falls in California, while Oregon wins B1.

Happy birthday

Family and friends honor retired physician A3.

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