



Top Stories

All FLDS children returning to parents

A Texas court has ruled that all 401 children taken from the FDLS compound in Texas will be



returned to their parents. Parents have been allowed, starting

today, to collect their children, all of whom were in state custody before the announcement.

Phoenix spacecraft makes first 'impression' on Mars

The robotic arm scoop on the



Phoenix lander on Mars has made its first impression on the red planet, leaving behind a mark that resembles a

human footprint. Scientists named the initial impression Yeti in an area they describe as 'The King of Hearts'. Phoenix began its first dig on the Martian surface on Saturday and the camera on board the arm caught an image of the first dig.

Democratic Party reaches deal over Florida and Michigan

The Democratic Party has reached a deal to seat primary delegates from Florida and Michigan at the Democratic National Convention in Denver this August. The Democrats will

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seat all of the pledged delegates from both of the states, but will give each delegate only a half of a vote.

News crew kidnapped and tortured by slum 'militia' in Brazil

A crew of three news workers was kidnapped and tortured by members of a criminal organization self-labeled as a militia in a slum near Rio de Janeiro, local daily O Dia reported. They were working undercover on a story about the rule of such groups when they were found out by the criminals and kept captive for over seven hours.

Wikipedia Current Events

Thirteen people are killed and 14 others injured in a bus crash in Anzoátegui, Venezuela.

•At least 8 people are suffocated at the Samuel K. Doe stadium in Monrovia, Liberia in a 2010 World Cup qualification match between Liberia and Gambia.

•The Rajasthan Royals led by Shane Warne win the first Indian Premier League cricket competition defeating the Chennai Super Kings in the final in Navi Mumbai.

•New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton wins the Puerto Rico Democratic primary, 2008.

•Approximately 500 Australian Army troops withdraw from

Wikipedia Current Events

Nasiriyah in southern Iraq fulfilling a commitment made by the Prime Minister of Australia Kevin Rudd in the 2007 Australian federal election.

•Macedonian voters go to the polls for the Macedonian parliamentary election, 2008 with reports of violence in ethnic Albanian areas. The Prime Minister of Macedonia Nikola Gruevski claims victory for his centre-right party.

•Voters in the Bolivian departments of Beni and Pando go to the polls for autonomy referendums.

•A large fire breaks out at Universal Studios Hollywood in Los Angeles. There was at least one explosion.

Democratic Party reaches deal over Florida and Michigan

The Democratic Party has reached a deal to seat primary delegates from Florida and Michigan at the Democratic National Convention in Denver this August. The Democrats will seat all of the pledged delegates from both of the states, but will give each delegate only a half a vote. Hillary Clinton, who won the majority of the delegates in both of these states, will receive an additional 87 votes at the convention while Barack Obama will net 63 more votes. Despite Senator Clinton's gains, Senator Obama still has 176 more pledged delegates supporting him.

Partisanship surrounded the decision. Advocates for Senator

Clinton pushed for the inclusion of the delegates from both Florida and Michigan without condition, while Obama's supporters advocated splitting the delegates. In the end, neither side had all of their wishes fulfilled.

The Democratic leadership attempted to use the compromise to bring the party together. Party Chairman Howard Dean opened the meeting of the Rules Committee that determined the delegate allotment by asking Democrats to look beyond the primary and towards the November general election. "This is not about Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton," said Dean, "This is about our country. This is about restoring America to its greatness, to restoring our moral authority and to healing America at home."

Zimbabwean police arrest two opposition figures

Police in Zimbabwe have arrested Arthur Mutambara, the leader of a breakaway faction of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), the country's main opposition party. In addition, police arrested Eric Matinenga, an MDC legislator and lawyer to the opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

Arthur Mutambara was arrested at his house in Harare on Sunday, for writing a newspaper article critical of President Robert Mugabe. The April 20 article was published in *The Standard*, Zimbabwe's only privately-owned Sunday paper. It criticized the actions of the courts, judicial officials, and Mugabe's party in the March 29 elections, and accused Mugabe of using violence and vote rigging to leave the opposition "bludgeoned and brutalized."

On May 8, *The Standard* editor

Davison Maruziva was arrested for publishing Mutambara's article. Maruziva was charged with publishing false statements prejudicial to the state and for contempt of court, the same charges now being held against Mutambara. *The Standard* has been critical of Mugabe and of the violence that followed the elections.

The BBC says Mutambara is the most senior opposition leader to be arrested so far. His lawyer, Harrison Nkomo, does not expect him to appear in court until Tuesday. "I am only expecting him in court on Tuesday as no questioning will take place today," Nkomo said. "The questioning will only start tomorrow." Nkomo says Mutambara is being detained in a Harare police station, which the constitutional court has allegedly deemed "unsuitable for human habitation".

The Movement for Democratic Change broke into two factions in 2005, following a dispute over whether to contest Senate elections. Mutambara led a breakaway faction of nearly half of MDC's parliament members, until the March 29 elections left his faction with 10 seats against Tsvangirai's 99. Mutambara subsequently agreed to join forces with Tsvangirai, although no official merge has taken place.

Eric Matinenga, an opposition legislator and lawyer to MDC president Morgan Tsvangirai, was arrested Saturday in the eastern district of Buhera. He was charged with inciting public violence, said MDC spokesman Nelson Chamisa. Matinenga, who was elected as a member of parliament in the March 29 elections, is the fifth MDC legislator to be arrested. He is due to appear in court on

Monday, according to Chamisa.

"The whole campaign is to render the MDC comatose but it is not going to work," Chamisa said. "This run-off is between the people and a dictatorship represented by Mugabe."

The March 29 elections had the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party lose its majority in parliament for the first time since Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980. The results showed Tsvangirai with more votes than Mugabe in the presidential race, but neither won a majority, forcing a run-off to be held on June 27.

French fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent dead at 71

Yves Saint-Laurent, one of the major fashion designers of the 20th century, died Sunday evening of cancer at the age of 71, after four decades at the top of his profession. Friends say he died while at his home in Paris, France.

Saint-Laurent was born Yves Henri Donat Dave Mathieu-Saint-Laurent on August 1, 1936 in Oran, Algeria. Saint-Laurent was famous for designing women's clothing and at age 21 he became the head designer for the company House of Dior. He was hired to take the place of the late Christian Dior, who died in 1957.

He retired from his job there and ultimately left the fashion industry in 2002, but not before starting his own clothing line and shop with Pierre Berge in 1962. It was once rumored that woman who wore his newly designed pantsuits were not allowed to eat at restaurants or stay in hotels in New York City and London, England.

"Fashion was not only supposed to

make women beautiful, but to reassure them, to give them confidence, to allow them to come to terms with themselves," Saint-Laurent once said.

Saint-Laurent not only fought the effects of cancer, but through the years dealt with drug use and depression.

"I've known fear and terrible solitude. Tranquilizers and drugs, those phony friends. The prison of depression and hospitals. I've emerged from all this, dazzled but sober," stated Saint-Laurent.

News crew kidnapped and tortured by slum 'militia' in Brazil

A crew of three news workers was kidnapped and tortured by members of a criminal organization self-labeled as a militia in a favela (Brazilian slum) in Rio de Janeiro, local daily *O Dia* reported this Sunday. A reporter, a photographer and a driver - all employed by the newspaper - were working undercover on a story about the rule of such groups in a poor community known as Batan, in the western area of Rio, when they were found out by the criminals and kept captive for seven and a half hours.

According to the newspaper, all three were subjected to electric shock, asphyxiated with plastic bags, and beaten several times.

The next morning, they were released by their captors under threat of death if made any denunciations. Prior to that, however, the reporter managed to send text and photos to the newsroom, by email from a wireless computer.

The kidnapping and torture happened May 14 to 15, but the

news organization decided to postpone its printing for safety reasons. The heads of police and public security in the state government, however, had been immediately informed. The story was only printed today, as the denounce came to public, after officials assured the primary investigations had begun and those held responsible were already identified.

The identities and whereabouts of the news workers are being kept secret.

According to the story as it was printed, the kidnappers insisted they were not criminals, but policemen who were acting "ahead of justice". They are said to govern the community under a "reign of terror", by imposing curfews, banning funk parties, and charging dwellers and small business for "protection

"At the moment when journalists are doing their job in a favela, to take information to society, and they are brutally tortured, it puts democracy under jeopardy" —José Carlos Torves, National Federation of Journalists

The same militiamen also have a scheme to elect politicians committed with them, by making lists of voters who live in each favela, with name and electoral registry number for each one, and barring other candidates from campaigning within the neighborhood. Connection with Christian (Neo-Pentecostalist) churches were also cited.

The case brought calls for defense on press freedom and safety for reporters by journalists and civil rights entities in Brazil.

"At the moment when journalists

are doing their job in a favela, to take information to society, and they are brutally tortured, it puts democracy under jeopardy", José Carlos Torves, board member of National Federation of Journalists (FENAJ), said.

"For the Brazilian Press Association (ABI), besides the uncomfortable solidarity we think we must offer to these fellows, there is also the need to claim from authorities, from the State, the strict investigation of such facts", demanded the chairman of such entity, Maurício Azêdo.

The board of *O Dia* said they will be taking this case to the annual congress of the World Association of Newspapers, held this week in Sweden.

Low-income communities in Rio de Janeiro are generally ruled by bands of drug lords since mid-1970s, a situation which has continuously deteriorating since then. Heavily armed drug dealers have taken control in most favelas of Brazil's second largest city, where their power often overrules that of the government.

In reaction, over the last two years such 'militias' have been formed to counter these mafias. Groups of former police officers, firemen, private security agents and civil servants vow to fight drug traffic, but impose the same kind of violent methods against the local population.

"It's worrying to know, according to these professionals account, that there would be police officers involved. This is really serious. It's unacceptable", said Wadih Damous, from the Brazilian Bar of Lawyers (OAB).

Organized crime in Rio is known

for extreme violence and cruelty. On June 2nd, 2002, a reporter for TV Globo (the main broadcaster in Brazil) was also kidnapped and killed while working on a story about sex exploitation of children in another favela. According to the police, Tim Lopes was taken by drug dealers, tortured, burned alive, then had his body quartered. He was 52 years old. The killers, known as Elias Maluco and Ratinho, were later arrested and sentenced to more than 30 years in prison.

2008-09 Serie A: Zambrotta joins AC Milan

Gianluca Zambrotta returns to Serie A after agreeing to a contract with AC Milan. He played for FC Barcelona for the past 2 seasons after Juventus FC were demoted after their part of the 2006 Serie A scandal.

According to ESPNSoccernet, AC Milan were looking to bring in Zambrotta for a while.

Zambrotta will miss out on Champions League football for at least 1 season because AC Milan finished in 5th place in Serie A while Barcelona will be in UEFA Champions League in the 3rd qualifying round.

No transfer fee or length of contract was announced.

Volcanic eruption in Galapagos not threatening tortoises, people

The eruption of Cerro Azul on Isabela Island, the main island in the Galápagos of Ecuador, is not directly threatening either the famous Galápagos Tortoises(wikipedia) or the human population of the island, unlike in the 1998 eruption.

The latest eruption began

Thursday, 29 May, and includes lava flows. Reuters reports that after Galápagos Park rangers flew over the mountain, they released a statement saying that the lava is flowing away from both the Puerto Villamil settlement and the region where the tortoises are ranging.

"There is no threat to the local human population ... nor for the tortoise population because lava rivers are flowing in the opposite direction," the statement read.

Up to four lava flows have been sighted, and "have consumed a lot of vegetation," said Park official Oscar Carvajal to local station Radio Quito. Ecuador's Geophysics Institute reported a small amount of ash from the 1,690 m mountain.

During the last major eruption of Cerro Azul in 1998, some tortoises were airlifted away from the fire and lava, but others were burned in the natural disaster. Volcanic activity within the island group is high, and the island of Isabella is itself formed by six shield volcanoes, with five of the six still being active.

The Galápagos archipelago lies 525 nautical miles west of the mainland of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean, directly on the equator.

Parents arrested after putting baby on Craigslist

A couple from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada has been arrested on charges of public mischief after listing their seven day old baby girl on the popular Internet classified ads website Craigslist.

The listing claimed that the baby was unexpected, "healthy and very cute". It asked CAN 10 000 for the baby. It also listed a phone

number belonging to a stolen cellphone, which was used to find the couple.

It was first noticed by a 62-year old grandmother browsing the website for furniture, who said "I was shaking, and I thought, 'Come on, how did this even get through?'" The couple claimed that the listing, which has since been removed, was a hoax.

The father, Jeremy Pete, had a history of car thefts and evasion of police, while the mother, 23-year-old Bethany Granholm, had convictions of property theft, fraud and impersonation. The parents have now been released, but charges are still being considered. The baby has been placed in provincial care.

A suspected copycat incident occurred just four days later, also offering a seven-day-old baby girl for CAN 10 000 on Craigslist. This incident turned out to be a hoax, and no child was in danger.

Last week saw a similar incident in Germany, where a couple listed a seven month old baby on eBay. In this case the police have launched a child trafficking investigation, despite the parents' assertion that the listing was a joke.

Obama withdraws from Trinity United Church

Presidential candidate Barack Obama withdrew from his church of twenty years, where his affiliation had become a political issue following a revelation of controversial comments made by former pastor Jeremiah Wright. His exit from the church's congregation came as media reports revealed that guest speaker of the church and Catholic priest Reverend Michael Pfleger went on a tirade on the pulpit

declaring that Hillary Clinton believed she was entitled to the Democratic presidential nomination because she is white.

Obama had been criticized since March 2008 when media reports showed his longtime pastor declaring on the Sunday following the September 11 attacks that the violence was a result of America's support of "state terrorism against the Palestinians and black South Africans." Many more were appalled when Wright declared "God damn America" in a later sermon.

The pastor had an impact on Obama earlier in his life, and was once described as his spiritual guide. He married Obama and his wife Michelle, and baptized their two children. It was Wright's sermon that influenced Obama to write his biographical book *The Audacity of Hope*. Obama remained a member of the church following the reports but separated himself from the comments in a speech on race entitled *A More Perfect Union* delivered on March 18, 2008.

Despite the speech, polls early in May revealed that Obama's favorability fell from 50 to 45% because of Wright's comments. Wright had resigned his post yet the criticism remained. The final piece in Obama's eventual exit from the church came when Reverend Pflieger, a friend of Obama, mocked Hillary Clinton during a sermon stating, "'I'm Bill's wife, I'm white and this is mine'...And then out of nowhere came, 'Hey, I'm Barack Obama,' and she said, 'Oh, damn! Where did you come from? I'm white! I'm entitled! There's a black man stealing my show!'"

In his announcement that he was

leaving the church, Obama remarked, "I make this decision with sadness...This is where I found Jesus Christ, where we were married, where our children were baptized. We are proud of the extraordinary works of that church...I'm not denouncing the church, and I'm not interested in people who want me to denounce the church."

Helicopter carrying quake survivors crashes in China

A military transport helicopter carrying a crew of four and ten injured earthquake survivors has crashed in China, it was reported by state news agency Xinhua. There are no indications on what casualties if any occurred as a result.

The helicopter was carrying the injured out of Li county, after having brought in disease control experts. The rotorcraft then lost contact with Air Traffic Control. A search and rescue operation has been ordered by President Hu Jintao.

The day before, the death toll from the disaster was confirmed to have reached 68,977 with another 17,974 missing. Engineers are now working to drain a number of lakes formed by the earthquake, amid fears they could flood. The crash was reported to highlight ongoing difficulties responding to the quake.

Fire in Universal Studios backlot

The Los Angeles County Fire Department responded to a fully involved structure fire on the back lot of Universal City Studios in Universal City, California which occurred shortly after dawn. Reports indicate a fire and a explosion occurred around 4:45 local time.

The fire continues to burn in the Universal Studios backlot, which is adjacent to the Universal Studios theme park.

The "New York Street" sound stage was completely destroyed and the Courthouse Square backlot from *Back to the Future*, an exhibit on the movie *King Kong*, the video vault, and a ride known as the "Cyclone" were damaged. County fire inspector Daryl Jacobs said at least three blocks of movie façades may have been destroyed.

More than 400 firefighters responded to the three-alarm fire, with helicopters dropping water on the blaze in an attempt to contain it. Three firefighters suffered minor burns, one reportedly from smoke exhaustion. No other injuries have been reported. Several urban search and rescue teams were dispatched to the area.

Daryl Jacobs said that the firefighters ran out of water at least twice while battling the flames. "There was an issue with water, but that has been rectified," Jacobs said. "They are shuttling water in." He also said firefighters encountered explosions from propane tanks as they entered the backlot.

County fire captain Frank Reynoso said the cause of the fire is still unknown. "It will be a while before we have it under control," Reynoso said.

The 2008 MTV Movie Awards, which are scheduled to be broadcast live from the studio theme park Sunday afternoon, will go on as planned, according to an MTV representative. The theme park's opening time has been moved back to noon local time, said a Los Angeles city

councilman.

NASA says Phoenix spacecraft may have landed on ice

According to NASA, new images received from the Phoenix lander on Mars shows a possible layer of ice on its landing site. Scientists received the images on Friday May 30 from the craft's robotic arm camera. The image was taken on the fifth Martian day, or Sol 5.

Scientists say that as Phoenix landed, the exhaust from its thrusters cleared away a three to four inch layer of Martian soil which exposed a flat layer of a white substance, that NASA says could be ice. The image shows the white layer which is shiny and smooth.

"It's the consensus of all of us that we have found ice. We were expecting to find ice within two to six inches of the surface. The thrusters have excavated two to six inches and, sure enough, we see something that looks like ice. It's not impossible that it's something else, but our leading interpretation is ice," said top Phoenix investigator at the University of Arizona in Tuscon, Peter Smith.

One exposed edge of the underlying material was seen in Sol 4 images, but the newer image reveals a greater extent of it. The abundance of excavated smooth and level surfaces adds evidence to a hypothesis that the underlying material is an ice table covered by a thin blanket of soil. Tests will be performed on the soil and surrounding area to determine exactly what the substance is.

"We could very well be seeing rock, or we could be seeing exposed ice in the retrorocket blast zone. We'll test the two ideas

by getting more data," stated Ray Arvidson, one of the mission investigators.

Phoenix is searching for evidence of water and microbial life on Mars. Its mission is to determine Mars's ability or inability to host life and hold water. The Phoenix lander uses a robotic arm to dig through the protective top soil layer to the alleged water ice below and ultimately bring both soil and water ice to the lander platform for sophisticated scientific analysis.

Silverjet ceases operations and enters administration

British all-business class airline Silverjet has ceased operations and entered administration. The airline operated out of Luton Airport running services to New York and Dubai.

Passengers booked with Silverjet have been told to claim refunds from their credit card issuer or travel agent. The UK Civil Aviation Authority estimates that 7,000 UK travellers could be affected by the collapse.

The airline, which had hoped to secure an emergency US\$5 million loan from Viceroy Holdings, was formed at the start of last year. It has now been put up for sale by administrator Begbies Traynor. It is thought that Middle Eastern company Viceroy may put in an offer, as might a group of former Silverjet managers who recently left the company. Included in the administration deal are Silverjet's subsidiaries Silverjet Aviation Limited, Skylease Limited and Sky People Limited, all of which are wholly owned by Silverjet.

Silverjet shares are suspended from trading at the London Stock Exchange and it is feared that

shareholders may receive nothing from their investments.

Silverjet is the latest all-business class airline to collapse recently. US rivals Maxjet and Eos Airlines have both been forced out of business by high fuel costs, driven by the rapidly increasing price of crude oil. Silverjet's last flight left Dubai for Luton on Friday.

World Health Organization calls for ban on tobacco ads

The United Nations health agency the World Health Organization (WHO) has called for a ban on tobacco advertising and promotion in order to protect the world's children. The news release from the WHO came on Friday, one day before the annual World No Tobacco Day held each year on May 31.

This year's World No Tobacco Day focuses on highlighting the practices of tobacco companies in their efforts to promote their products to young people. According to a WHO press release, studies show that young people are more likely to start smoking if exposed to tobacco advertising. The WHO notes that only five percent of the world population "is covered by comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship".

"The WHO appeals to member states and policy-makers to require by law a comprehensive ban on all forms of advertising, promotion, and sponsorship of tobacco products," said WHO Regional Director for Africa Luis Sambo, in a statement released Saturday in Kampala, Uganda.

"A ban on all tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship is a powerful tool we can use to protect the world's youth." -WHO Director-

General Dr. Margaret Chan

"In order to survive, the tobacco industry needs to replace those who quit or die with new young consumers," said WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan. "A ban on all tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship is a powerful tool we can use to protect the world's youth."

The WHO said that tobacco companies are specifically targeting the half billion youth in the Asia Pacific region by tying smoking to the idea of a flashy lifestyle. The agency said the tobacco industry attempts to take advantage of children's susceptibility to advertising and marketing.

According to the WHO most people take up smoking before they reach age 18, and almost twenty-five percent of smokers worldwide are under the age of 10. The agency said that a survey of 13 to 15 year-olds found that fifty-five percent had seen cigarette ads on billboards in the prior month, and twenty-percent owned something with a cigarette company's logo.

According to BBC News, in the last ten years female and adolescent smoking in Russia has tripled. Russia does not have many anti-smoking laws. BBC News compared this to Canada, where smoking levels are at their lowest in 40 years and the country has very restrictive laws on smoking advertising.

"The tobacco industry employs predatory marketing strategies to get young people hooked to their addictive drug."—Dr. Douglas Bettcher, Director of WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative

"The tobacco industry employs

predatory marketing strategies to get young people hooked to their addictive drug. But comprehensive advertising bans do work, reducing tobacco consumption by up to 16% in countries that have already taken this legislative step," said Dr. Douglas Bettcher, Director of WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative.

A report by the WHO on tobacco use stated that approximately two thirds of the planet's smokers reside in 10 countries including China, India, Indonesia, Russia, the United States, Japan, Bangladesh, Germany, and Turkey. Reuters reported that companies Philip Morris, Imperial Tobacco, British American Tobacco and Japan Tobacco are among the world's largest producers of cigarettes.

Seventeen arrested after party on London Underground

Seventeen people have been arrested after a party, attended by hundreds of people, took place on the London Underground to mark the last day that drinking alcohol was legal while travelling on the Tube.

The new ban prevents people from consuming, or carrying any alcoholic drinks while travelling on the London Underground. The restriction was announced by Boris Johnson soon after he became the new mayor of London.

Local police have said that the party, which was intended to just be an enjoyable evening, finished with an "unfortunate" ending. Several tube stations were shut due to the disruption caused by the large number of people; Liverpool Street, Euston, Euston Square, Aldgate, Gloucester Road and Baker Street were closed. The BBC has reported that some of the tube trains may have been

damaged, despite a heavy police presence.

Jeroen Weimar, from Transport for London commented on the incidents."We are encouraging our passengers to show a bit more respect and to be more considerate and involve other peoples' views and other passengers views as they make their journeys," he commented. "And clearly drinking alcohol can create a culture whereby people feel it's okay to do that sort of thing, it's okay to get more drunk when you're travelling."

Texas authorities obtain DNA from jailed FLDS leader Warren Jeffs

Texas authorities obtained DNA samples from jailed Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) leader Warren Jeffs on Friday, as part of an ongoing criminal investigation into charges of abuse. Jerry Strickland of the Texas Attorney General's office told the Associated Press that the samples were taken from Jeffs while he awaits trial in an Arizona jail. According to the AP, the DNA search warrant alleges that Jeffs had "spiritual" marriages with four girls, ages 12 to 15.

The search warrant was filed in Mohave County Superior Court in Kingman, Arizona. Jeffs is alleged to have sexually assaulted one of the 12-year-old girls after their July 2006 "spiritual" marriage, and is also alleged to have married a 14-year-old girl in January 2004 who gave birth to a child in October 2005. Police say the girl was believed to be about 15 at the time of conception by Jeffs.

"Based on all of the above, affiant believes that Warren Jeffs has committed the felony offense of

sexual assault of a child."
—Quote from the DNA search warrant, per Deseret News

Texas officials are investigating Jeffs for crimes of sexual assault of a child, aggravated sexual assault and prohibited sexual assault. The search warrant alleges: "Warren Jeffs sexually assaulted a 12-year-old child ... on or about July 27, 2006, in Schleicher County, Texas," according to a copy of the warrant obtained by the Deseret News. "Based on all of the above, affiant believes that Warren Jeffs has committed the felony offense of sexual assault of a child," wrote Kingman, Arizona police officer Dennis Gilbert in the search warrant. Law enforcement officials say that another marriage took place on April 16, 2005 between Jeffs and a 12-year-old girl.

YFZ Ranch near Eldorado, Texas, owned by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Image: Randy Mankin of the Eldorado Success.

Jeffs is alleged to have "married" the children at the FLDS compound in Eldorado, Texas. Marital records known in the FLDS as "bishop's records" allegedly document a January 18, 2004 marriage between Jeffs and a 14-year-old girl. The documents were obtained when Texas authorities conducted a search of the FLDS compound in Texas, the Yearning for Zion Ranch, on April 3. According to the Fort Worth Star Telegram the warrant also alleges that Jeffs married a 14-year-old girl at the YFZ compound on July 22, 2004.

According to the Las Vegas Review, the DNA samples were taken from Jeffs on Thursday afternoon via a cotton swab of the

mouth. Kingman police detectives took the sample after Texas authorities asked for help in their investigation of Jeffs. Kingman police executed the search warrant and affidavit of probable cause, and authorities from the Texas Attorney General's office left Thursday with the samples.

"Our investigator was out there yesterday collecting the DNA sample after getting the search warrant signed." —Jerry Strickland, Texas Attorney General's office

"Our investigator was out there yesterday collecting the DNA sample after getting the search warrant signed," said Texas Attorney General's office spokesman Jerry Strickland in a statement Friday to the AP.

In a statement Saturday in the Deseret News, Rod Parker, a Salt Lake City, Utah attorney and FLDS spokesman questioned what evidence law enforcement possessed which could show possible criminal actions by Jeffs. "The question is, do they have any evidence of sexual activity with minors and Warren Jeffs? I don't know if they do or not. I don't see how DNA, by itself, proves that one way or another."

"The question is, do they have any evidence of sexual activity with minors and Warren Jeffs? ... I don't see how DNA, by itself, proves that one way or another."
—Rod Parker, FLDS spokesman

Photos of Jeffs pictured with underage child brides were shown in court last week in an FLDS custody case in Texas. The photos show Warren Jeffs kissing and hugging young girls, and attorneys for Texas Child Protective Services claim that one of the girls shown in

the photos is a 12-year-old "bride". The photos are dated from July 2006 and January 2005.

Jeffs is seen in one set of photos from January 26, 2005 labeled "First anniversary" with a girl called "Loretta". In another set dated July 27, 2005, Jeffs is shown with a girl referred to as "Merrienne". Child Protective Services officials said that they have evidence that "Merrienne" was 12 years old when she was married to Jeffs at the YFZ compound. The Vancouver Sun reported that, per a family member, "Loretta" was no older than 12 when she was married.

The investigation into alleged abuses committed by Jeffs is separate from the custody case involving the FLDS in Texas. Texas Supreme Court upheld the decision of the appellate court to overturn a lower court ruling which led to the removal of over 400 children from the FLDS compound by Texas authorities in early April. The appellate court had said that Child Protective Services did not show that the children faced an immediate danger if they were not removed.

Attorneys for CPS had asserted that DNA tests required to confirm parentage were still pending and that parents could take their children back from Texas jurisdiction if they regained custody. The appellate court justices stated that child welfare officials can take other actions to protect the children if necessary, and that the district judge in the case could still place restrictions on the parents and children to assure that they would not flee the state. Texas District Judge Barbara ruled Friday that the 38 mothers involved in the legal complaint which went to the appellate court

must first sign an agreement drafted by child welfare officials and the FLDS attorneys before their children are returned to them.

Warren Jeffs was convicted in September 2007 of two counts of being an accomplice to rape related to a 2001 wedding he arranged between a 14-year old girl and her 19-year old cousin. He was sentenced to two consecutive five-year prison sentences in Utah, and faces an impending trial in Arizona on eight charges including sexual conduct with a minor, incest and conspiracy. After his convictions in Utah he was turned over to Arizona authorities to await trial there. He faces charges in Arizona of five counts of sexual conduct with a minor, four counts of incest and one count of conspiracy to commit sexual conduct with a minor.

The FLDS group has approximately 10,000 members total, and was founded in the 1930s. It split from the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) after the LDS Church abandoned the practice of polygamy in 1890.

Remains of WWI soldiers found in French mass grave

The remains of 170 Australian troops who died in the Battle of Fromelles have been found in a mass grave outside of the town of Fromelles, France. A dig is underway to recover the remains and identify the soldiers. It is slated to take two weeks.

The graves contain a total of around 400 British and Australian troops. Discussion on what to do with the British remains is still ongoing.

Early ground studies raised the possibility that unexploded

ordnance could be buried at the site, prompting the use of metal detectors to probe for potential hazards. So far, only metal studs, buttons and belt buckles have been found.

Tim Whitford, who is overseeing the dig, said "If the blokes are recovered we'd like to see every effort made to see them identified and I would like to see them given a dignified military funeral. Those are honours they have deserved for over 90 years."

Fought during July 19-20, 1916, the Battle of Fromelles was a complete disaster for the Allies, with the Germans achieving a decisive victory and the Australians sustaining over 5,000 casualties in less than a day. Following the battle, the Germans dug eight 40-meter long pits to bury the dead Allied soldiers. Five of the eight pits are thought to contain Australian soldiers, while the other three appear to contain battlefield debris.

Today in History

455 – Following the death of Western Roman Emperor Valentinian III, the Vandals led by King Gaiseric sacked Rome, looting treasure from the city and taking Empress Licinia Eudoxia and her daughters hostage.

1848 – As part of the Pan-Slavism movement, the Prague Slavic Congress began in Prague, one of the few times that voices from all Slav populations of Europe were heard in one place.

1924 – U.S. President Calvin Coolidge signed the Indian Citizenship Act into law, granting citizenship to all Native Americans born within the territorial limits of the United States.

1995 – United States Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady was shot down while patrolling the NATO

no-fly zone over Bosnia in an F-16.

2003 – The Mars Express space probe, the first planetary mission of the European Space Agency, was launched.

June 02 is Jerusalem Day in Israel (2008); Queen's Official Birthday in New Zealand (2008)

Quote of the Day

The capacity to produce social chaos is the last resort of desperate people. ~ Cornel West

Word of the Day

squirm v

1. To twist one's body with snakelike motions.
2. To twist in discomfort, especially from shame or embarrassment.

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