



A series of errors led to two killers' brazen escape, B1

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WEDNESDAY ♦ SEPTEMBER 26, 2007



WARREN JEFFS

Guilty

FLDS leader convicted on two counts of being the accomplice to rape of a 14-year-old

Elissa Wall's youth » Claims by defense attorneys that the reluctant 14-year-old bride had consented to sex — and even initiated it — were not credible, jurors decided.

The letter of the law » As a religious leader in her faith, Warren Jeffs could have — and should have — released Wall from the rocky marriage, jurors said.

Jeffs reacts to Tuesday's verdict.

PHOTO BY JUD BURKETT/The Associated Press

Verdict a triumph of state effort that began 7 years ago

BY BROOKE ADAMS
The Salt Lake Tribune

ST. GEORGE — The prosecution of Warren S. Jeffs marks the most aggressive effort in 54 years by state authorities to eradicate alleged abuses within one of the state's most insular polygamous communities.

Now, with Jeffs facing a possible sentence of life in prison, authorities hope they have sent a message.

"Everyone should now know that no one is above the law, religion is not an excuse for abuse and every victim has a right to be heard," said Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff.

Utah authorities began setting in motion a multipronged approach to dealing with Jeffs' sect, the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in early 2000.

The initial confrontation came over its practice of coupling teenage girls with



Elissa Wall leaves court Tuesday, holding the hand of her husband.

TRENT NELSON/The Salt Lake Tribune

Jurors say Jeffs, who may face life in prison, pushed a teen into marriage she didn't want

BY BROOKE ADAMS
The Salt Lake Tribune

ST. GEORGE — Eight jurors who found polygamous sect leader Warren S. Jeffs guilty on two felony charges Tuesday said the verdict came down to two things: the teen bride's age and the law.

"We all had the opinion he was pretty much her only ticket for getting out of the marriage," said Gerald Munk, 36, a St. George City maintenance worker.

Added Ben Coulter, 26: "He ultimately held all the keys to say, 'You don't have to be in this marriage and there won't be any consequences.'"

Jeffs stood with his attorneys as the verdict was read; he later sat, his face as impassive as it had been throughout the six-day trial, blinking hard.

Asked by 5th District Judge James L. Shumate if he wanted to have a presentencing report, Jeffs said: "I will do what my lawyers recommend."

Looking ahead

► **Sentencing** is set for Nov. 20.

► **In Arizona**, Jeffs faces eight accomplice charges stemming from alleged sexual assaults in 2002 and 2003 of two underage brides.

► **In Utah**, he faces a federal charge of flight to avoid prosecution.

Details on A10

See **JURY**, A8

See **CONVICTION**, A8

Inside, online » Elissa Wall's testimony was critical to the state's case. **A9** Visit a photo gallery at sltrib.com

Mine-safety public hearing

Folks: Slapping coal industry not answer

Emery County residents tell Utah panel adding rules won't solve issue

BY MIKE GORRELL
The Salt Lake Tribune

HUNTINGTON — Emery County residents delivered a clear message Tuesday to the Utah Mine Safety Commission, which is trying to determine what role the state should play in mine safety following last month's Crandall Canyon disaster.

Retired and longtime miners, county commissioners and mining-company officials agreed that adding another

layer of regulations and bureaucracy would do little to improve safety, but could prompt mines to close and the coal-dependent economies of Emery and Carbon counties to wither.

But many of those speakers also expressed relief that the eight-member commission, which listened and responded to more than five hours of commentary, did not seem intent on hammering the coal industry because of the deaths of nine miners in two cave-ins at the Crandall Canyon mine.

"Local people feel this [commission] is a

See **MINE**, A5

U.N. face-off



The Associated Press

President Bush and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad offer opposite world visions at the U.N. on Tuesday.

Bush called arrogant as he blasts tyranny

While President Bush implores the U.N. to recommit itself to liberating oppressed people, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vows to curb U.S. influence in the world. **WORLD**, A3

Kids' health insurance

CHIP bill clears the House, but Bush's veto still looming

A proposal to greatly expand the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) receives House approval, but, despite the support of some prominent Republicans, it didn't get enough votes to override a veto. **NATION**, A7

Cruel and unusual?

Court to look at lethal injection

The Supreme Court will consider whether the execution by lethal injection violates the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. The last time the court considered a challenge to a method of execution was in 1879, when it upheld the use of a firing squad in Utah. **NATION**, A4

Smoke worsened summer pollution

BY JUDY FAHYS
The Salt Lake Tribune

This sweltering summer delivered lots of high pollution days in Utah.

With 40 "red" and "yellow" pollution advisory days, the state had more than double the usual number of days with worrisome levels of ozone and fine soot.

The reason? Smoke from July's wildfires helped boost ozone levels. Also, state air-quality officials set a lower

See **POLLUTION**, A5

Inside

Astrology	E8	Money	C1
Carolyn Hax	E8	Movies	E4
Classifieds	F1	Obituaries	B8
Comics	E7	Sports	D1
Crossword	E8	Stocks	C3
Editorials	A12	Television	E9

Weather Page D12



Sunny and nice with highs in the 70s in the north, 80s in the south.



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