

IN SPORTS: EAST GRANBY DEFEATS OLD LYME, 53-49, IN THE CLASS S GIRLS' BASKETBALL STATE SEMIFINALS

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PREPARING FOR WAR

U.S. WANTS VOTE ON IRAQ FRIDAY

Security Council still in chaos as U.S. pushes British compromise plan

By ELISABETH BUMILLER and FELICITY BARRINGER
New York Times News Service

Washington — Bush administration officials said Wednesday that they still could win nine of 15 votes in the U.N. Security Council for a resolu-

tion effectively authorizing an attack on Saddam Hussein, but they cautioned that the situation was extraordinarily chaotic and changing by the hour.

Still, White House officials insisted that they would force a vote on the resolution by Friday, whether or not they had the votes.

Trying to gain the crucial support of six undecided Security Council nations, the Bush administration pushed a British compromise that would give U.N. weapons inspectors in Iraq a short extension, perhaps to March 21 or March 24.

The compromise would also require that Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, meet a series of six tests, including admitting on television that he has weapons of mass destruction and that he will give them up.

While campaigning for a quick vote in the Security Council, senior administration officials also acknowledged that the situation was highly fluid, and that the Friday deadline could very well be pushed back.

President Bush led the administration's efforts, spending his day making phone calls from
See WHITE HOUSE page A6

INSIDE: After Bush administration officials said this week that a proposed deadline for Saddam Hussein to disarm could be pushed back, Connecticut lawmakers still differed on a timeframe for taking action against Iraq. A7

See related coverage throughout this section.



FRANCESCO KJOLSETH/AP

Elizabeth Smart, 15, left, and her mother, Lois Smart, leave the Salt Lake City police department for home, Wednesday.

Missing teen who vanished 9 months ago is found alive

Elizabeth Smart reunited with her family; drifter in custody after cops get tips

By PATTY HENETZ
Associated Press Writer

Salt Lake City — Elizabeth Smart, the 15-year-old girl who vanished from her bedroom nine months ago, was found alive Wednesday walking down a suburban Salt Lake City street with a drifter who had once done work at the family's home. The man was taken into custody and the teenager was whisked away for a long-awaited reunion with her jubilant family.

"Miracles do exist," said Tom Smart, the girl's uncle.

Relatives said Elizabeth was in good condition and was talking with police about her ordeal.

"All of the children out there deserve to come back to their parents the way Elizabeth has come back to us," Elizabeth's father, Ed Smart, said as he burst into sobs during a celebration at his home.

See ELIZABETH page A3



Brian David Mitchell

DISPATCHES AT SEA

Editor's Note: Day reporter Robert A. Hamilton and photographer Tim Cook are aboard a Navy destroyer in the Mediterranean to begin their firsthand coverage of preparations for war. The two are among several hundred journalists who will be traveling with the U.S. military in the coming weeks.

Crew members man the combat information center aboard the USS Winston S. Churchill stationed in the eastern Mediterranean Sea Wednesday.

TIM COOK/The Day



Destroyer Plays The Waiting Game

USS Churchill cruises the Mediterranean as possibility of war continues to grow

By ROBERT A. HAMILTON
Day Staff Writer

Aboard the USS Winston S. Churchill, a wrestler at Killingly High School in the early 1990s, Doug Meagher wanted a college education, wanted to wrestle at a Division I school, and wanted to serve his country.

"I figured the Naval Academy was a place I could do all three," Meagher said.

These days he's the tactical action officer on this guided-missile destroyer and head of a team

that boards other vessels and is training to intercept contraband if war breaks out against Iraq.

Cruising in an operating area in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, Meagher and more than 340 of his shipmates are waiting for the results of last-minute diplomatic efforts to determine what their mission ultimately will be.

Should war break out, the Churchill would be on the front lines; Baghdad is well within range of the Tomahawk missiles that fill some of the 96 vertical launch tubes on its decks.

Meagher's grandfather was in the Navy

during World War II, and his father is an Army veteran of Vietnam.

"They're comfortable with what I'm doing because they know I've been well trained and mentally prepared to do my job," Meagher said.

For him, the most important attribute these days is patience. More than a dozen enlisted people gather information on potential targets in the air, on the water and under the water, and pass their recommendations on to him.

"It's challenging to keep a steady level hand,"

See CREW page A7



Lt. Doug Meagher, formerly of Killingly, is the tactical action officer aboard the USS Winston S. Churchill, a guided-missile destroyer.

NRC looking into shutdown at Millstone

By GEORGINA GUSTIN
Day Staff Writer

Waterford — The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission dispatched a team of four investigators to Millstone Power Station after a shutdown last week that has kept one of the reactors out of service.

NRC and Millstone officials said the event that caused the shutdown is rare and worrisome. Inspectors have been sent to only five federally regulated sites over the last year.

It's unclear how long the investigation will take or when the reactor will be back on line.

"The shift manager called for an 'entry into emergency plan,' which is unusual," said Alan Price, the site vice president for Millstone. "The last time we had an entry into emergency plan was years ago, back in the '90s."

Officials at Millstone declared an "unusual event," the least serious emergency classification at nuclear facilities. They said that while

See NRC page A3

Contractor shakes up management

The Tomasso Group restructures its management one day after Gov. John G. Rowland ordered state auditors to review contracts with the New Britain-based contractor. *See story, B4*

Plans are unveiled for isolated parcel in East Lyme

Multiple uses intended for 167 acres between Route 1, Society Road

By KATE MORAN
Day Staff Writer

East Lyme — For years this town has envisioned a tract between Route 1 and Society Road as a hub for commercial growth, but the property's isolation

from major roads has until now discouraged commitment from a developer.

At a news conference Wednesday, William J. Schwartz, a developer based in Fairfield, unveiled his proposal for "Gateway Commons," a 167-acre setting that would include a senior housing community, a retail complex, a research-and-development facility and a "full-service, flagship hotel with meeting rooms and restaurants."

"We want to add certain amenities that people have been looking for," First

Selectman Wayne Fraser said Wednesday.

Schwartz's targeted property extends westward from Route 161 between exits 73 and 74 of Interstate 95, an area the town has designated as the Gateway Planned Development District. Officials believe the property, which is visible from the highway, could be a boon to a large retailer who could advertise by billboard or marquee.

See FAIRFIELD page A8



William J. Schwartz

INSIDE TODAY **etw**
entertainment this week

Everybody's Buddy

No one can resist the electric blues of Buddy Guy, right, who plays at the Garde Arts Center on Sunday.



MUSIC: Bluegrass musician Larry Cordle performs at Connecticut College. Blues guitarist Tinsley Ellis takes the stage at Stash's Cafe in New London. **EVENTS:** Mashantucket Pequots explore wildlife on the reservation. **STAGE:** Comedian Rich Little is positively presidential when he takes the Garde stage.

NEWS

Djindjic Gunned Down Snipers assassinate Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, silencing a pro-Western leader who helped topple Slobodan Milosevic. A2

WEATHER

The Last Gasp? Today, snow possibly mixing with rain in the morning. High about 34. Friday, partly sunny and cool. B10

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