

NM NEWS & VIEWS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2010
THIS IS THE WORLD WE LIVE IN!

WWII grenade donation sets off scare at Goodwill store:

A donation set off quite the scare at Goodwill store Friday morning.

Around 10 a.m. a donation was dropped off to the store on San Mateo Boulevard and McCloud. Amongst other items was a pistol, ammunition, marijuana and a non-working World War II grenade which prompted the call to the Bomb Squad.

Nearly 100 Goodwill employees, shoppers and clients were evacuated to the parking lot.

Shauna O'Cleireachain, a store manager, tells Eyewitness News 4 that firearms are not an uncommon donation so while police did feel a sense of urgency, her team was confident everything would be fine, "probably because we deal with it on a semi-regular basis and also we're trained so we know how to handle it. We probably didn't have the same sense of urgency because we knew what we needed to do."

Although, while firearms are a common donation, Goodwill says they don't usually get grenade donations.

About an hour after police arrived, everyone was allowed back in the store.

Employees do not know who dropped off the box.

Police say the device will be destroyed at a later date.

Confrontation with student caught on camera:

Eyewitness News 4 cameras capture a group of angry Rio Grande High parents confronting a teenage student for what he said at Wednesday night's school board meeting.

The confrontation left the student visibly shaken and upset.

School officials are shocked over what happened. It all stems from the ongoing scheduling crisis at the school.

APS Superintendent Winston Brooks says he was told it was Terrie Hamilton, the PTSA president of Rio Grande High, who along with other parents, ambushed student body president Zac Anaya outside of APS headquarters.

Hamilton tells us a different story.

In the video, you can see 17-year-old Zac Anaya talking to a few Rio Grande High parents outside of APS headquarters following Wednesday night's emotional school board meeting.

The confrontation starts out with just a small group of parents. But then the crowd grows larger around the student body president. In one clip, you can see a parent firmly waving his finger at Anaya.

When an Eyewitness News 4 photographer approached Anaya during the incident, Anaya walked off saying he had no comment.

APS school board president Marty Esquivel says he encountered Anaya shortly after that, shaken, emotional, and upset.

"He conveyed to me that a group of parents got angry with him and started shouting at him," says Esquivel. "And I tried to coach him up a bit, I told him he's a very impressive, articulate young man and he needed to keep his head held up high."

Many parents made it clear to us after the meeting that they were upset with Anaya over the following comment he made to the school board:

"I'm just here to let everybody know that learning is going on at Rio Grande, there are several students in class, myself included, we're in classes, we're learning." Anaya stated.

PTSA president Terrie Hamilton told us over the phone that she approached Anaya after the meeting, to let him know that more than 100 students were not happy with his leadership, saying he was not conveying any of the school's real problems to school officials.

Hamilton says she did not verbally harass him or call him a traitor, and did not see any other parents yelling at him.

She says Anaya is a good student, and a good kid, and said she was sorry if any parents ended up upsetting him in some way.

Superintendent Brooks says he can't understand why any parents would react so harshly to a teenage kid.

"It angers me quite frankly that you would have adults who would want to treat

a 17-year-old child that way," he said. "And I think for a group of adults to attack a child that didn't have his parents with him, it's just really upsetting to me."

On Friday afternoon, Brooks will be meeting with Hamilton and other Rio Grande High parents, and he says he plans to express his disappointment with how Anaya was treated following the school board meeting.

Hamilton says she will not allow Brooks to make any false accusations against her or any other parents.

Anaya is getting a lawyer.

Former Bosque Farms Police Officer awaits sentencing:

A former Bosque Farms Police Officer is awaiting sentencing in a San Diego Federal Courtroom.

41-year-old Ronald Haley will be sentenced for smuggling a Mexican woman across the border.

Eyewitness News 4 reported in March of this year when Haley was arrested at the San Ysidro port of entry after he was caught attempting to cross back over the border with a woman who lived in Tijuana.

Haley presented an officer with an invalid border crossing card for the woman which turned out to belong to the woman's sister.

Haley resigned from the department soon after and later pleaded guilty to the charges.

Mother of murdered camper files suit against State of Ariz.:

Vivian Haas, the mother of Gary Haas, has filed suit against the State of Arizona and the Arizona Dept. of Corrections in response to the death of her son.

Police say Haas and his wife, Linda Haas, were murdered in early August of this year by Arizona escapees, John McCluskey and Casslyn Welch.

The Missouri couple's remains were found outside their burned camper near Santa Rosa. The couple was driving from Oklahoma City to Colorado to attend an annual camping trip.

According to a claim released by the lawyer of the victims' mother, she has filed

claim against the State of Arizona and the Dept. of Corrections for the "repeated and egregious errors," which led to the inmates "breach of security, escape and ability to elude captors for several weeks."

The claim says that during their escape, McCluskey, Welch and an accomplice kidnapped, unlawfully held and brutally murdered the couple.

The claim details those losses endured by Haas, which include the "lost relationship with her son, as well as the love, care, comfort and companionship of her son... emotional damages and grief regarding her knowledge of the heinous and brutal murder of her son." Haas also claims that the loss of her son will lead to the loss of financial support her son would have provided for her.

Haas is not suing for funeral or burial expenses, but has filed the claim in the amount of \$10,000,000.

Powerful quake strikes near Christchurch, New Zealand:

-- A powerful predawn earthquake struck New Zealand on Saturday, causing water mains to break and some buildings to crumble, though there were no immediate reports of deaths or major damage, emergency officials said.

Roughly 100 people were being treated for minor bumps and cuts, and two people suffered more serious injuries, hospital officials said, just hours after the 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit near Christchurch.

"The house felt like it was on wheels, like it was rolling around on marbles," resident Hadlee Wright told CNN's "Rick's List."

Pictures he took of the city before daybreak show collapsed buildings and streets littered with bits of brick and rock.

The quake had a magnitude of 7.0, down from an initial assessment of 7.4, the U.S. Geological Survey said. It struck about 35 miles from Christchurch, the country's second-largest city, with a population of roughly 386,000 people.

An aftershock with a magnitude of 5.7 struck not far from the epicenter about 20 minutes later, the survey said.

Power was out in the northwest part of the city, while water and sewage services have been affected in several regions, the Christchurch Civil Defense Group said in a statement. Some roads were also damaged.

Michele Hider, a spokeswoman with Christchurch Hospital, said the facility was

treating two people with serious injuries.

A man in his 50s was hit by a falling chimney. He is in serious condition, Hider said. Another man suffered serious injuries after being cut by glass during the earthquake, she added.

Sebastian Koga, a neurosurgeon at the hospital, said that as many as 100 people were being treated for minor scrapes and broken bones but that he was not aware of any deaths.

"We've had a flood of lacerations and minor head injuries, but nothing that could not be handled," Koga said.

Tim Dower, a New Zealand journalist, said it's fortunate the earthquake struck during the night, when fewer people would have been out and about.

"When one of this magnitude comes along, people certainly feel it, particularly when it's shallow," he said.

There have been reports, he added, of walls and buildings collapsing, cars damaged and flooding in homes.

A man who was at the international airport in Christchurch described the scene.

"The entire terminal started shaking," he said. "I knew it was an earthquake. There was not much you could do at that point."

Authorities evacuated the airport, he said, adding that he saw minor damage.

A person who answered the phone at the George hotel in Christchurch said that "we are cleaning up at the present moment" but declined to comment further.

Reinier Eulink, general manager of the Holiday Inn in Christchurch, said there is damage around the hotel corridors and "big cracks in the walls."

"It was a big big long jolt, and the building moved a lot," he said. The 13-floor building, with about 150 rooms, was about 40 percent occupied, and he estimated that 80 or more people were staying at the hotel at the time.

Power was knocked out, but emergency power came on, Eulink added. People were milling around in the hotel lobby, trying to get warm during the chilly Southern Hemisphere winter.

The quake was 7.5 miles deep. It struck at 4:35 a.m. Saturday (12:35 p.m. ET

Friday), the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

The quake is not likely to generate a tsunami, according to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

Religious leaders hit back at Hawking:

British scientist Stephen Hawking's book is an attempt to answer "the Ultimate Question of Life."

London, England -- Religious leaders in Britain on Friday hit back at claims by leading physicist Stephen Hawking that God had no role in the creation of the universe.

In his new book "The Grand Design," Britain's most famous scientist says that given the existence of gravity, "the universe can and will create itself from nothing," according to an excerpt published in The Times of London.

"Spontaneous creation is the reason why there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist," he wrote.

"It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper [fuse] and set the universe going."

But the head of the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Rowan Williams, told the Times that "physics on its own will not settle the question of why there is something rather than nothing."

He added: "Belief in God is not about plugging a gap in explaining how one thing relates to another within the Universe. It is the belief that there is an intelligent, living agent on whose activity everything ultimately depends for its existence."

Williams' comments were supported by leaders from across the religious spectrum in Britain. Writing in the Times, Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said: "Science is about explanation. Religion is about interpretation ... The Bible simply isn't interested in how the Universe came into being."

Physics on its own will not settle the question of why there is something rather than nothing.

--Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, added: "I would totally endorse what the Chief Rabbi said so eloquently about the relationship between religion and science."

Ibrahim Mogra, an imam and committee chairman at the Muslim Council of Britain, was also quoted by the Times as saying: "If we look at the Universe and all that has been created, it indicates that somebody has been here to bring it into existence. That somebody is the almighty conqueror."

Hawking was also accused of "missing the point" by colleagues at the University of Cambridge in England.

"The 'god' that Stephen Hawking is trying to debunk is not the creator God of the Abrahamic faiths who really is the ultimate explanation for why there is something rather than nothing," said Denis Alexander, director of The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion.

"Hawking's god is a god-of-the-gaps used to plug present gaps in our scientific knowledge.

"Science provides us with a wonderful narrative as to how [existence] may happen, but theology addresses the meaning of the narrative," he added.

Fraser Watts, an Anglican priest and Cambridge expert in the history of science, said that it's not the existence of the universe that proves the existence of God.

"A creator God provides a reasonable and credible explanation of why there is a universe, and ... it is somewhat more likely that there is a God than that there is not. That view is not undermined by what Hawking has said."

Hawking's book -- as the title suggests -- is an attempt to answer "the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything," he wrote, quoting Douglas Adams' cult science fiction romp, "The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy."

His answer is "M-theory," which, he says, posits 11 space-time dimensions, "vibrating strings, ... point particles, two-dimensional membranes, three-dimensional blobs and other objects that are more difficult to picture and occupy even more dimensions of space."

He doesn't explain much of that in the excerpt, which is the introduction to the book.

But he says he understands the feeling of the great English scientist Isaac Newton that God did "create" and "conserve" order in the universe.

It was the discovery of other solar systems outside our own in 1992 that undercut a key idea of Newton's -- that our world was so uniquely designed to be comfortable for human life that some divine creator must have been

responsible.

But, Hawking argues, if there are untold numbers of planets in the galaxy, it's less remarkable that there's one with conditions for human life. And, indeed, he argues, any form of intelligent life that evolves anywhere will automatically find that it lives somewhere suitable for it.

French Teacher Suspended for Spending Too Much Time Teaching Holocaust:

A history teacher has been suspended in France for spending too much time teaching students about the Holocaust.

Catherine Pederzoli, 58, a secondary school teacher who is Jewish, was accused of teaching the subject with insufficient neutrality for both her time dedicated to teaching about the Holocaust and trips she organized to former Nazi death camps, Pederzoli's attorney Christine Tadic told Agence France-Presse.

"If this teacher had been a Christian, no one would have accused her of brain-washing," Tadic said. "Isn't it the case that this teacher's fault is to have been Jewish?"

A report compiled by school officials last month alleged that Pederzoli took up too much time preparing students for the annual school trips to Poland and the Czech Republic and accuses her of "lacking distance, neutrality and secularism" and "brain-washing" in teaching the Holocaust, AFP reported.

Tadic told the AFP that her client organized the trips for 15 years with no complaints and was unfairly targeted by a new school management team that arrived in 2007.

Authorities suspect Pederzoli of inciting a protest staged by some of her students in December after the school reduced the number of destinations on the Holocaust field trips, the AFP reported.

Judges have two weeks to decide whether or not to grant Pederzoli a court injunction to annul the suspension.

Jobless Rate Rises, Republicans Press Obama to 'Change Course':

New employment figures released Friday fueled Republicans' call for President Obama to replace his economic team and "change course," as the president sought to put the best face on what many say is just more evidence of an economy stuck in neutral.

The unemployment rate rose in August for the first time in four months as more people entered the job market looking for work and struggled to find openings. The rate rose from 9.5 percent to 9.6 percent. One Republican called the numbers "anemic."

The president on Friday called an accompanying uptick in private employer hiring "positive news," but "not nearly good enough." He plans to hold a press conference next Friday to discuss a "broader" package of economic proposals.

"We are confident that we are moving in the right direction, but we want to keep this recovery moving stronger and accelerate the job growth that's needed," Obama said Friday, flanked by his economic advisers.

But Republicans pointed to the Labor Department report as the latest sign that Obama's strategy has the economy treading water.

"They passed their trillion-dollar stimulus bill 18 months ago ... The American people don't want another pep talk -- they want another approach," Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., House Republican Conference chairman, told Fox News. "They want to see this administration abandon this policy of more spending, more bailouts and more small-ball boutique tax incentives."

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell's office pointed out that, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers, the economy lost 283,000 jobs in the so-called "recovery summer."

"A year that began with Americans bracing for a jobless recovery has instead turned into a full-blown search for both jobs and a recovery," House Republican Leader John Boehner said in a written statement. "President Obama's agenda represented 'change' once, but now it is time for him to change course, abandon his job-killing policies and find himself a new economic team."

Rep. Peter Roskam, R-Ill., told Fox News Radio the "anemic" figures are "just pathetic" and moving in the wrong direction.

The Labor Department reported Friday that private employers added a net total 67,000 jobs, better than expected -- but it was not enough to keep pace with the increase in the number of people looking for work. More than 500,000 people picked up their job searches in August.

Overall, the economy lost 54,000 jobs as 114,000 temporary census positions came to an end. For the first time this year, the manufacturing sector lost jobs -- down a net total of 27,000 for the month. State and local governments shed 10,000 positions.

One member of Obama's economic team, outgoing adviser Christina Romer, said in a statement that the jobs report was "consistent" with other data showing "the economy is continuing to recover," even if that recovery is slowing. She said more private sector growth will be needed to keep up with growth in the labor force.

The White House is pushing back on a report that the administration is considering a new infusion of "stimulus" to boost the economy. Spokeswoman Amy Brundage said Wednesday night that those "reports and rumors" are largely "incorrect."

But, as Brundage acknowledged, the administration has publicly pitched several options to extend tax breaks to businesses.

The Senate is stalled on a more modest set of proposals that would give tax breaks and free up credit for small businesses -- Obama on Friday called on Congress to take up the package as soon as it returns from recess this month. The Washington Post reported Thursday night that a new package, potentially worth hundreds of billions of dollars, was being discussed and could include a temporary payroll tax holiday and extension of a research-and-development tax credit.

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs has said the administration is looking at a "whole host of issues," without going into specifics, but described the proposals as "small bore."

Both June and July's figures were revised Friday to show the private sector created more jobs in both months. The July figures were revised upward to 107,000 from 71,000. June was revised upward to 61,000 from 31,000. The revisions reflected smaller losses in construction, temporary help services and non-census government jobs.

Still, hiring has now been weak for four straight months. That deprives consumers of cash and reduces their ability to spend. That is one of the main reasons economic growth is likely to be so weak for the rest of this year that the jobless rate could keep rising and hit 10 percent in the coming months.

Muslim cleric calls for beheading of Dutch politician:

AMSTERDAM – A well-known Australian Muslim cleric has called for the beheading of Dutch anti-Islamic politician Geert Wilders, a newspaper said on Friday.

Wilders' Freedom Party scored the biggest gains in June 9 polls and is currently negotiating to form a new minority government with the Liberals and Christian Democrats. Polls show Wilders would win a new election if one were called now.

Wilders demanded to know why he had learnt about the threat from the newspaper and not from Dutch authorities who are guarding him after a film and remarks he made angered Muslims around the world.

De Telegraaf, the Netherlands' largest newspaper, led its front page on Friday with a story on the speech by Feiz Muhammad.

The Sydney-born Muhammad has gained notoriety for, among other things, calling on young children to be radicalized and blaming rape victims for their own attacks.

The paper posted an English-language audio clip in which he refers to Wilders as "this Satan, this devil, this politician in Holland" and explains that anyone who talks about Islam like Wilders does should be executed by beheading.

De Telegraaf did not say when the speech was given but said it and the Dutch secret service both had copies. According to his website, Muhammad is based in Malaysia.

Wilders told Reuters it was "really terrible news" and that he was taking it seriously.

"I will ask for clarification from the Dutch minister of interior/justice why the secret service and anti-terrorism unit NCTb have not informed me before and what the consequences will be for me," he said in an email.

A spokesman for the Dutch secret service referred inquiries on the threat to the NCTb. A spokeswoman for the NCTb was not available to comment.

Wilders is currently on trial in the Netherlands for inciting hatred and discrimination against Muslims.

The Freedom Party leader made a film in 2008 which accused the Koran of inciting violence and mixed images of terrorist attacks with quotations from the Islamic holy book.

Wilders was also charged because of outspoken remarks in the media, such as an opinion piece in a Dutch daily in which he compared Islam to fascism and the Koran to Adolf Hitler's book "Mein Kampf."

Of late he has been in the news for plans to speak out against a planned mosque in New York City on September 11, the ninth anniversary of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

But his views have also made him extremely popular with a segment of the country uneasy about the Netherlands' commitment to multiculturalism.

Lily Kate Unruh:

2009-2010

Lily Kate Unruh was born Tuesday June 16, 2009, in Williston, N.D. She died Wednesday Aug. 25, 2010, in Aurora, Colo.

In her 14 months of life, she laughed, loved and cried. With her soulful blue eyes, strawberry blond hair and the chubbiest cheeks allowed, she never gave up her fight. A fight that has shaped her family and friends and taught everyone what a true hero is. A little girl who smiled through the pain, learned to walk in a hospital room and died in her mom's arms. She has found peace.

Lily is survived by her mom, Chelsea, and dad, Joey; her big sister, Avery, and her big brother, Ryan; her three grandpas, Steven Cassani, Billings, Russ Unruh, Fairview, and Bob McCartney, Sidney; her grandma Sue McCartney, Sidney; great-grandma Marge Unruh, Glendive; her uncles Jacob (Amanda) Cassani, Fargo, N.D., and Phil (Rachel) Unruh, Dickinson, N.D.; and her aunt Cari (Brian) Eisele, Sidney. Also, a caring and loving extended family stretching from Fargo to Seattle Wash., down to Houston, Texas, and all roads in between.

A celebration of Lily's life will be held Friday, Sept. 3, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in Nutter Park, Sidney.

AD TOUTING HILLARY CLINTON FOR PRESIDENT IN 2012 BEGINS RUNNING:

A new advertisement is backing a presidential run for Hillary Clinton in 2012.

The fairly simple ad initially aired Wednesday in New Orleans, according to CNN, which first reported the story.

"She has more experience working in and with the White House than most living presidents," the text of the ad reads. "She is one of the most admired women in our nation's history. Let's make sure the president we should have elected in

2008 will be on the ballot in 2012."

The conclusion of the ad comes with a slogan: "Hillary 2012: Hillary Clinton for President. Start now. Where there's a Hill there's a way."

William DeJean, a dentist, told CNN on Thursday that he hopes to also air the ad in Washington, New York and Los Angeles.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivers a speech at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington on Wednesday. Clinton is said by her aides to brush off the scuttlebutt about her recent low profile. (Associated Press: Manuel Balce Ceneta)

He also said that he paid \$5,000 to create the ad, though it's not clear how much he will pay to air it.

According to a search of the Federal Election Commission database, DeJean made several contributions to Clinton's run for the 2008 Democratic nomination, though \$2,563 of the total he donated was returned after her campaign ended. In all, only \$737 of more than \$3,000 he tried to donate to Clinton ended up in her presidential coffers.

"I don't think this country is headed in the right direction," DeJean told the network.

Clinton, the secretary of State, has said she will not run for president again.

HEATH HAUSSAMEN'S NM POLITICS <http://www.nmpolitics.net> :

More news reports indicate trouble in Herrera's office
By Heath Haussamen •

Two new media reports indicate trouble in Secretary of State Mary Herrera's office, with one quoting former employees about the issues in her office and the other citing e-mails that indicate that some office employees were being paid by taxpayers while they worked on Herrera's campaign.

The Rio Grande Sun came out with the report about the e-mails. From the article:

"A New Mexico Secretary of State's Office administrator scrutinized fellow employees for campaigning on state time and complained of apparent political favoritism before he turned over information to federal investigators last month, according to documents obtained by the SUN.

"Office email shows Administrator Manny Vildasol caught resistance from other staff in April as he verified Office employees were on the clock while they prepared for Secretary of State Mary Herrera's past campaign events. He also complained in later emails that the Office's formal inquiries into election law violations were handled out of order, giving the appearance that certain cases were given priority for political reasons."

KUNM radio in Albuquerque has the other report. From KUNM's Jim Williams:

"As KUNM has reported previously, some former Secretary's office employees say they left because of mismanagement and a lack of professionalism in the office. In recent weeks, some of those former employees have come forward with specifics. But first: this story is as much about the people who would not speak on the record as those who would. I spent countless hours on the phone and in person with well over a dozen current and former employees of the Secretary of State's office. Each spoke at length of cronyism, incompetence, and humiliation, and each was overwhelmingly certain there would be retaliation if they spoke out. But that didn't stop some of them."

Herrera's problems appear to be turning into an avalanche. In the monthly NMPolitics.net that went out to qualifying donors on Tuesday, I moved the race between Herrera, the Democrat, and Republican Dianna Duran from leaning in Herrera's direction to being a toss-up. I'm considering ranking the race as leaning in Duran's favor when the next newsletter goes out on Sept. 30. What do you think?

NEWS MAKER OF THE DAY:

"We must not only have an efficient and dependable election system, we must have a voting process that New Mexicans believe is sound, fair and honest."

State Senator Dianna J. Duran has unique qualities that will serve New Mexico well as the next Secretary of State. Dianna began her career in the Otero County Clerk's office in 1979 and worked there for 25 years. She served two terms as Otero County Clerk from 1988-1992. She is currently serving Senate District 40, representing Otero and Doña Ana Counties, in the State Senate. First elected in 1992, she is now in her fifth term.

DIANNA DURAN FOR SECRETARY OF STATE • 505.699.8115 • 909 8th street Tularosa, New Mexico 88352 • info@DIANNADURAN2010.com • © 2010

Dianna Duran joined us this afternoon to talk about her run for Secretary of

State and the above article, regarding Mary Herrera. She's a former County Clerk of 26 years and for the past 18 years, she's been a State Senator. She stands for voter ID, says, 'No integrity or trust, no government.' There hasn't been a Republican Secretary of State in NM since 1929. Do you think it's time for a change?

TOMORROW ON KKIM:

Join me and Larry Moss Saturday from 8-9am MT, Marvin Capehart on Ask The Pastor from 11am-12noon MT & Ryan Freeman on Speakeasy at 6:30pm MT, ALL on KKIM, AM 1000 ABQ, FM 94.7 Santa Fe & WORLDWIDE at <http://mykkim.com> + don't forget to watch Open Doors, Saturday at 6pm & Sunday at 7pm on KAZQ-TV32!

Many Blessings,
Rev. Mark F. Tross
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