

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Tuesday August 3, 2010.

Albuquerque Weather: High 92

Rio Rancho Weather: high 92

Espanola Weather: high 88

Santa Fe weather: high 85

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 92

and now the news:

A prominent Jewish group is speaking out against plans to build a mosque two blocks from Ground Zero.

The Anti-Defamation League said more information is needed about funding for the \$100 million project, and that the location is, "counterproductive to the healing process."

The Cordoba Initiative is hoping to build the 13-story Islamic center. The group's Director, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, has not yet released details on how the project was funded.

The ADL said Cordoba does have the legal right to build at the site, but they go onto say that, "Ultimately this is not a question of rights, but a question of what is right. In our judgment, building an Islamic center in the shadow of the World Trade Center will cause some victims more pain - unnecessarily - and that is not right."

Last spring, a city community board voted to allow the project, despite emotional protests from local residents.

Some well-known political figures have also voiced opposition to the mosque's construction, including former Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin and former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, however, supports the new Islamic center.

The Cordoba Initiative maintains that one of its group's goals is to improve relationships between Islam and the West.

>>BP Hopes To Move Forward With Test Today

(New Orleans, LA) -- After a delay, BP is hoping to conduct an injectivity test today in its continuing effort to plug its Gulf of Mexico oil well. The test had been planned for Monday, but a small hydraulic lead was found. In a statement released late Monday, the company said, "it is anticipated that the injectivity test and possibly the static kill will take place Tuesday." The injectivity test is designed to confirm whether it's safe to inject heavy drilling mud into the well shaft to push oil back into the reservoir.

>>Six Teens Drown In Louisiana's Red River

(Undated) -- The bodies of six teenagers who drowned Monday evening in Shreveport, Louisiana's Red River have been recovered. Officials say three of the victims were brothers. A bystander was able to rescue another teen from the river, but there's been no word on his condition. It's believed no one in the group knew how to swim. The teens were apparently wading in shallow water when they ventured into unfamiliar territory and the river bed suddenly dropped to about 20 feet.

>>Tropical Storm Colin Forms

(Undated) -- Tropical Storm Colin is churning in the Atlantic Ocean. Colin formed overnight about 945 miles east of the Lesser Antilles. The National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida says Colin poses no immediate threat to land, but forecasters say it's still too soon to say whether it'll come in contact with the East Coast. Colin is currently packing maximum sustained winds of 40 miles an hour as it moves west-northwest at 23 miles an hour. The official forecast calls for "modest strengthening during the next 36 hours."

>>Countrywide To Pay 600-Million For Mortgage Meltdown

(Los Angeles, CA) -- Countrywide Financial Corporation has agreed to pay 600-million dollars to end class action suits taken up on behalf of investors in the company's stock. Countrywide's outside accounting firm, KPMG, has also agreed to kick in 24-million dollars. The agreements were given preliminary approval yesterday by a U.S. District judge in Los Angeles. At one time, Countrywide was the country's largest mortgage lender. Several lawsuits have claimed that Countrywide hid the gravity of its financial exposure from investors.

>>Missouri To Be First State To Vote On Health Law

(St. Charles, MO) -- Voters in Missouri will be the first in the nation to vote on President Obama's healthcare law when they go to the polls today. Missouri is the first of several states with ballot measures this year aimed at nullifying the federal health care law. The Missouri measure does so by invalidating the requirement that most people obtain insurance or pay a tax penalty. A recent poll in the Show-Me state found overwhelming opposition to what has been dubbed Obamacare.

>>Two Convicted Of Plotting To Blow Up JFK Airport

(New York, NY) -- Two Islamist militants face going to prison for life after a federal jury has convicted them of plotting to bomb JFK Airport. The two men were arrested in 2007 and charged with conspiring to blow up buildings, fuel tanks and pipelines at the airport. One of them, 67-year-old Russell Defreitas, was a former employee of the airport. He's a U.S. citizen who was born in Guyana [[gy-AH-nuh]]. The other suspect, 58-year-old Abdul Kadir, is an engineer. He's also a native of Guyana.

>>Bill Cosby Tweets That He's Still Alive

(Undated) -- Bill Cosby says he's still alive and kicking and tweeting. The 73-year-old comedic legend took to Twitter on Monday to tweet that he is indeed very much alive, contrary to Internet rumors about his death. Cosby wrote, quote, "Again, I'm rebuttaling rumors about my demise." "The Cos" then went on to promote his new iPhone application that features video, audio clips and concert information. The "New York Post" reports Cosby was the subject of another Internet death rumor in February.

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>>Border Sheriff Frustrated At National Guard Delay

(Tucson) -- The August 1st date for National Guard troops to begin patrolling the U.S. border has come and gone with no sign of the troops. Cochise County Sheriff Larry Dever [[DEE-ver]] says time is running out to stop the flow of illegal immigrants. He added that, quote, "every day that they delay in getting necessary resources here is another day of unprecedented danger." Sheriff Dever's deputies have an 80-mile stretch of border near Tucson to cover and he says he's never received adequate help from the federal government. President Obama had promised border states some 12-hundred National Guard troops, with Arizona getting more than 500. The National Guard is still working out logistics for the deployment.

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>>City Council Initially Approves Immigration Status Checks For
>>Construction Work

(Denver, CO) -- Construction contractors would get screened to see if they can legally work in this country before they could work for the city under a new requirement. The Denver City Council in a 9-4 vote Monday gave early approval to the rule that would require firms to provide the immigration status of workers via a federal verification program. If the council passes the rule next week, it would take effect September 1st. The same check is already required to get a service contract in the city.

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>>Man Accused Of Raping Child Let Out On CCP

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A man who is accused of committing sex crimes against a child is at home on the community custody program. Police say Chris Garcia admitted to molesting a girl he was babysitting on four different occasions. Garcia now wears an ankle bracelet and cannot leave his house except for counseling and court-required classes. District Court Judge Kenneth Martinez approved the CCP even though the district attorney's office adamantly opposes it.

>>City Council Rejects Xeriscape Measure

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Homeowners' Associations can keep requiring homeowners plant grass after a xeriscape bill was rejected by the city council. Councilor Isaac Benton proposed the bill, which would have banned homeowners' group from requiring grass be planted over a certain percentage of the yard. Benton says allowing xeriscapes would conserve water in Albuquerque's high desert. The city council voted 7-2 against the bill saying it would be wrong to interfere with the rights of homeowners' associations.

>>APS To Hold Education Debate For Gubernatorial Candidates

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Albuquerque Public Schools will be hosting an education themed debate for the New Mexico gubernatorial candidates later this month. The debate will be held at Eldorado High School and moderated by APS Superintendent Winston Brooks. The questions for Diane Denish and Susana Martinez will be solicited from the APS Board of Education and members of the community. The debate will be on August 19th and will be the first between both candidates.

>>Man Arrested For Calling FBI 200 Times

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A man is accused of calling the Albuquerque FBI over 200 times has been arrested. Freddie Dilworth allegedly told the FBI he was an informant. Dilworth most recently told authorities a truck bomb was on the way to the FBI office and he was going to "blow something away." Police were able to track Dilworth to a pay phone at a 7-Eleven near Lomas and University.

>>Albuquerque Puts Criminals On Facebook

(Albuquerque, NM) -- The city of Albuquerque is now putting criminals on Facebook. The new page, "Albuquerque Public Safety" has pictures of the most wanted property crime offenders and lets followers know when an offender has been caught. The new program does not cost the city any money and was an intern's idea. Soon the city will link the page to Twitter and have links to various city alerts, like fire alerts, traffic alerts and messages from the police chief.

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A court date has been set for the husband of the woman who admitted to stealing millions from the Jemez Mountain School District.

Jerry Archuleta, 49, is scheduled to appear in District Court August 12th to face felony charges that he failed to pay taxes and knowingly took public money.

The indictment accuses Archuleta, an Abiquiú resident, of failing to pay a total of \$5,448 in taxes between 2005 and 2008 and also receiving a payment of \$28,676 from public funds for services not rendered.

The date and amount of the latter payment correspond with a district check his wife, Kathy Borrego, admitted to fraudulently writing Archuleta in her February 2010 plea agreement.

Borrego pleaded guilty to embezzling funds as the business manager for the Jemez Mountain School District. Prosecutors say she stole more than three and a half million dollars.

Borrego killed herself days before she was set to be sentenced.

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>>National Evangelical Group Calls For Cancellation Of Qu'ran Burning

(Undated) -- The National Association of Evangelicals is concerned about the proposed Qu'ran burning by a Florida group. The NAE issued a statement urging the cancellation of the burning scheduled September 11th. The NAE believes the action would work against a just and peaceful society and would increase tensions between Christians and Muslims around the world.

>>Churches Face Wireless Microphone Fines

(Undated) -- Churches using wireless microphones could face hefty fines. Baptist Press says the Federal Communications Commission has set aside a particular spectrum for public safety entities and churches encroaching on these frequencies could realize six-figure fines. A Southern Baptist Church in Odessa, Texas, had to replace 13 microphones at a cost of \$13-thousand to comply with regulations. Churches are advised to determine whether the wireless microphones they use are in violation of the FCC's ban on the 700 megahertz range.

>>Five Christians Shot To Death In Pakistan

(Pakistan) -- Five Christians in Pakistan were shot to death as they came out of church. Compass Direct News reports pastor Aaron John and several church members were leaving the church after a meeting to discuss church security when they were reportedly shot by a dozen masked men. Relatives of those killed claim a banned Islamic extremist group sent a threatening letter to church members. Five other church members were wounded in the attack, including the pastor's son.

>>Environmental Group Claims Jordan River Unsafe For Baptisms

(Israel) -- The Jordan River, known as the river in which Jesus was baptized, is severely polluted. According to Christian Today, Friends of the Earth Middle East claims untreated sewage, agricultural run-off, saline water and fish pond effluent has made the landmark unsafe for

humans. Gidon Bromberg with Friends of the Earth says the problem is that 98 percent of the Jordan's fresh waters is being diverted by Israel, Syria, and Jordan. Eli Dror of Israel's Nature and Parks Authority disagrees with the claim. Dror says there is absolutely no problem with the quality of the water.

>>Fired Professor To Decide Whether To Accept Reinstatement

(Urbana, IL) -- The University of Illinois religion professor fired over a hate-speech complaint has been offered his job back. But lawyers for Dr. Kenneth Howell say they don't know yet whether he wants to continue teaching or not. Howell served as an adjunct professor when a student complained about an e-mail he sent expressing negative views about homosexuality. He was fired, but a faculty review board looked into the case and decided to reverse the decision. Now Howell has until the end of the week to decide if he wants to come back.

>>Poll Finds Active Church-Goers Less Likely To Drink

(Princeton, NJ) -- The U.S. drinking rate is at a 15-year high. The latest Gallup poll shows 67 percent of American adults drink alcohol. That's up slightly from last year but still short of the all-time high of 71 percent from 1976 to 1978. Beer remains the most popular alcoholic beverage of choice, especially among men, young drinkers and people in the Midwest. Wine is the favorite among women and older Americans. Liquor trails in last place. The poll finds that Catholics, non-Christians and people without a religious identity are more likely to drink than Protestants, and people who go to church every week are much less likely to drink than people who don't.

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That's the news, I'm Frank Haley, cjf, for God's glory alone.